

**Steps taken to protect sea-cucumbers and horses from poaching**

3090. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that large scale poaching and illegal trade of sea-cucumbers and horses has wiped out these species in most stretches of coastal waters of the country;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the preventive steps taken by Government for protection of these species from poaching?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) There is no specific report indicating wiping out of sea-cucumber and sea horses in most stretches of coastal waters of the country. However, cases of poaching and illegal trade of sea-cucumber and sea horses have been reported to this Ministry from time to time by different States / Union Territories. The details of such offences are as below:

State	No. of cases, year-wise		
	2011	2012	2013
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	0	4
Karnataka	1	1	0
Tamil Nadu	10	13	11
Uttar Pradesh	1	0	0
West Bengal	0	0	1
TOTAL	13	16	16

(c) The Ministry is taking following steps to prevent poaching and illegal trade of wild animals including sea-cucumbers and sea horses:

- (i) Coordination of inter-agency enforcement efforts in combating organised wildlife crimes through Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB).
- (ii) Conduct of capacity building programmes for wildlife enforcement officers in detection and investigation of wildlife offences involving sea-cucumber and sea horse.
- (iii) Collection of intelligence through Wildlife Crime Control Bureau on organized criminal networks and dissemination of the same to the enforcement agencies for further necessary action.

- (iv) Running awareness campaigns and sensitization programmes on wildlife and wildlife crime to various stakeholders.
- (v) Joint operations are carried out with navy, coastguard and local enforcement officials to apprehend criminals indulging in poaching and illegal trade of sea-cucumber and sea horse.
- (vi) Sharing at international Forums the Trans-border linkages detected within the country to sensitize the foreign authorities concerned.
- (vii) Issuance of Alerts and Advisories to enforcement agencies on latest *modus operandi*, trade routes, concealment techniques etc.
- (viii) The Ministry through the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has brought out the following publications for the capacity building of the field officers:
  - (a) Handbook for wildlife crime investigation officers on wildlife crime investigation.
  - (b) X-Ray Manual of wildlife products in illegal trade.
  - (c) Identification Manual on Wildlife Species in trade.

#### **Extracting of metals from fly ash**

3091. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that fly ash contains metals like lead, zinc, chromium, arsenic, nickel and mercury ;
- (b) if so, why cannot we extract these metals from fly ash; and
- (c) whether any efforts have been made to extract these metals from fly ash, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (c) Fly ash contains trace metals like lead, zinc, chromium, arsenic, nickel and mercury. Extraction of metals from fly ash is not techno-economically feasible. This Ministry has notified Fly Ash Utilisation Notification, 1999, as amended, to promote more economical and environmental friendly uses of fly ash viz. in construction of buildings, roads, manufacture of cement, bricks, blocks, tiles, etc.

#### **Prescribed safe limit of particulate matter**

3092. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any systems have been put in place to issue health advisories when particulate matter in cities is higher than the prescribed safe limit; and