

Leopard population in country

*258. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the leopard population in the country is witnessing a steady decline for the last several years;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor during the last three years;

(c) the total number of cases of recovery of body parts and bones of leopards from poachers during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the fresh steps taken by Government to stop incidents of human leopard conflicts as well as the poaching of leopards in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR) : (a) and (b) No population census of leopard is organized in the country at national level.

(c) Total Number of cases of recovery of body parts and bones of leopard during the last three years, as informed by the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, is given below:

Year	No. of cases
2012	49
2013	24
2014	31

(d) The Government has taken the following steps to stop poaching of wildlife including leopards and incidents of human-leopard conflict in the country:

(i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals including leopards against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. Leopard is given utmost protection by placing it in the Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

(ii) In addition to provision of stringent punishment for the offenders, the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that is used for committing wildlife offence(s).

(iii) Protected Areas, viz., National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and

Community Reserves covering important wildlife habitats have been created all over the country under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to conserve wild animals including leopards and their habitats.

- (iv) Financial and technical assistance is provided to the State/ Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for providing better protection to wildlife, and improvement of its habitat.
- (v) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.
- (vi) The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to ensure co-ordination among various officers and State Governments in connection with the enforcement of law for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its products.
- (vii) Ministry has been organizing and providing inputs on wildlife forensics in different courses organized for different enforcement agencies viz Forest, Police, CBI, DRI and Customs for implementing Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and for successful conviction.
- (viii) The Forensic Cell of the Wildlife Institute of India is also working towards identifying the major leopard poaching hotspots to prevent such incidences at their sources.
- (ix) Development of necessary infrastructure and support facilities for immobilization of the identified problematic animals through tranquilization, and their relocation to the natural habitat or rehabilitation in rescue centers.
- (x) The Chief Wildlife Wardens of the States/Union Territories are empowered to permit hunting of problematic animals under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- (xi) Ministry has issued a 'Guidelines for human-leopard conflict management' to address the conflict and also to minimize such conflicts through adoption of necessary pro-active measures.
- (xii) Ministry has also issued an advisory to the states on management of human-wildlife conflict. It specifies need of managements for rescue and rehabilitation of wild animals as well as human victims at a top priority.

- (xiii) Involvement of the research and academic institutions and leading voluntary organizations having expertise in managing human-wildlife conflict situations is examined in management of conflict.

Slum rehabilitation schemes

*259. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the slum rehabilitation schemes implemented with physical targets and achievements made during 2014-15;
- (b) whether Government has received suggestions/proposals from Maharashtra for common policy for rehabilitation of slums on the land owned by the Union Government and its Public Undertakings, if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;
- (c) whether Government proposes to give property rights to slum dwellers and if so, the details thereof including the modalities being worked out for the purpose and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether the Ministry has taken up the matter with the Ministries/Departments concerned, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU) : (a) Government of India implemented the Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) & Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) components of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY) including Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP). No year-wise targets were fixed under these Schemes. As on date, a total of 13,83,275 houses have been sanctioned under these Schemes, of which 941885 houses have been completed. A total of 119987 houses have been completed during 2014-15.

(b) Government of Maharashtra has requested the Government of India for a comprehensive policy for rehabilitation of slums on lands belonging to the Government of India. In this context, this Ministry has requested the State/UT Governments to share their policies regarding encroachment and slums on their land.

In the "Housing for All (Urban)" Mission launched on 25.6.2015, which provides assistance to States/UTs including the State of Maharashtra in, "*in-situ*" slum rehabilitation using land as a resource with private participation for providing houses to eligible slum dwellers is an important component the Mission. Central Government land owning