

Extinction of wildlife

1328. KUMARI SELJA:

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards World Wildlife Federation's Report-2016 wherein it has been mentioned that during the next four years 50 per cent of wildlife in the country would be extinct;

(b) if so, whether Government has undertaken any study about the threat and about the reasons for such extinction; and

(c) the efforts made by Government to save wildlife?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE): (a) No, Sir. Living Planet Report-2016 of World Wildlife Federation does not specifically mention the State of wildlife in a particular country.

(b) Various scientific institutes like Botanical Survey of India, Zoological Survey of India, Central Marine Fishery Research Institute etc. monitor the status of plants and animals of the country.

(c) Following steps have been taken by the Ministry for the conservation and protection of wildlife and its habitats in the country:

- (i) 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 species of importance and their habitats. Presently there are 733 Protected Areas (103 National Parks, 537 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 26 Community Reserves and 67 Conservation Reserves) covering 4.89% of the total geographical area of the country.
- (ii) Financial 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 improvement of forest and wildlife areas like the national parks and sanctuaries to provide improved habitats to animals and also for undertaking protection measures.
- (iii) A specific component of 'Recovery programmes for saving critically endangered species and habitats' is provided in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme

of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' for focused conservation action on selected critically endangered species.

- (iv) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation through the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. Trade of Schedule-I species of wild animals are prohibited.
- (v) 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).
- (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.

Illegal felling of trees

1329. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of steps taken by Government to tackle illegal felling of trees;
- (b) whether Government has assessed the impact of felling of trees on environment;
- (c) whether there is an established procedure to account for the number of trees felled illegally and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details regarding the number of cases of illegal felling of trees and the total number of trees felled during the last three years State and UT-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE): (a) Protection and Management of Forests is primarily the responsibility of concerned State/UT Government. Action against forest offences including illegal felling of trees is taken under various Acts and Rules such as Indian Forest Act-1927, Forest Conservation Act-1980, Wildlife Protection Act-1972 and State specific Acts and Rules made thereunder. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change provides financial assistance to the State Governments and Union Territories for protection and management of forests under Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as Intensification of Forest Management Scheme (IFMS), Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat (IDWH), Project Tiger etc. The aim is to supplement the efforts of the States and Union Territories towards protection and management of forests.

(b) No such study on impact of felling of trees on environment has been carried out by the Ministry.