

2020" of Forest Department, Gujarat, there are 674 Asiatic Lions in the landscape, which includes population of Asiatic Lions in Gir National Park.

(b) The details of lions accidentally killed on the railway tracks during the last two financial years are as follows:—

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Nos. of Lions killed accidentally on railway tracks
1.	2018-19	3
2.	2019-20	0

(c) As per the information provided by the Chief Wild Life Warden, Gujarat, no resort has carried out construction and lion sighting work illegally in the restricted area of lion sanctuary.

#### **Illegal trafficking of endangered animals**

830. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases involving illegal trafficking of endangered animals during the last three years;

(b) the number of endangered animals killed during the last three years;

(c) the number of people with cases registered against them for the killing or trafficking of endangered animals during the last three years; and

(d) the steps the Ministry is taking to prevent the illegal trafficking of endangered animals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) and (b) The management of forests and wildlife is primarily the responsibility of the State/UT Governments. The information related to illegal trafficking and killing of the endangered species is not collated in the Ministry. As per the data available with Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) provided by State Forest and Police authorities, the total number of wildlife cases (illegal trafficking as well as poaching) during last three years is as follows:—

Year	Number of wildlife cases
2017	478
2018	492
2019	286

(c) As per the data available with WCCB provided by State Forest and Police authorities, the total number of accused arrested in wildlife poaching and illegal trafficking of wild animals during last three years is as follows:—

Years	Number of wildlife offenders arrested
2017	880
2018	858
2019	575

(d) The steps taken by the Ministry including WCCB to prevent the illegal trafficking of endangered animals are as follows:—

- (i) Financial assistance is provided to the State/Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats, for providing better protection to wildlife including endangered species of wild animals, improvement of their habitat and to ensure harmonious existence of human settlements with wild animals.
- (ii) The local communities are involved in conservation measures through eco-development activities who help the forest department in protection of wildlife.
- (iii) Rare and endangered species found in India, like Tiger, Snow Leopard, Great Indian Bustard, Gangetic Dolphin, Dugong, etc. have been listed in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby providing them highest degree of protection.
- (iv) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for stringent punishment for violation of its provisions. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that is used for committing wildlife offence(s).

- (v) WCCB coordinates with State/UTs and other enforcement agencies to gather intelligence about poaching and unlawful trade in wild animals and animal articles.
- (vi) WCCB conducted 109 and 153 joint operations in 2018-19 and 2019-20 respectively to apprehend criminals involved in smuggling.
- (vii) WCCB conducted capacity building programs for Forests & Police Officials on investigation of Wildlife cases under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 as follows:—

Year	No of programs	Officials trained
2017-28	20	1092
2018-19	26	1081
2019-20	24	1102

- (viii) WCCB conducted sensitization programs for the officials of Border Guarding Forces, Customs, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Judicial officers and other stake holders as follows:—

Year	No. of programs	No. of officials sensitized
2017-18	77	4097
2018-19	69	4939
2019-20	97	7692

- (ix) WCCB conducted sensitization of representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions and awareness programs for students and members of public on the importance of wildlife and their role to combat wildlife crime as follows:—

Year	No of programs	No. of representatives of PRIs/students/members of public sensitized
2017-18	36	2452
2018-19	31	2323
2019-20	33	1906

- (x) WCCB issued alerts and advisories on poaching and illegal trade of wildlife to the concerned State and Central agencies for preventive action as follows:—

Year	Alerts and advisories issued
2017-18	86
2018-19	124
2019-20	103

- (xi) Advisory on prevention of hunting of Pangolin and the illegal trade of Pangolin Scales was issued by WCCB in 2018.
- (xii) Organized Inter-Agency meetings for coordination of inter-agency enforcement efforts in combating wildlife crime. 10 IAC meetings were organized in 2017-18, 9 in 2018-19 and 7 have been conducted in 2019-20.
- (xiii) The Ministry has issued "Advisory for Dealing with Import of Exotic Live Species in India and Declaration of Stock".

#### **Compliance of the Forest Rights Act**

831. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the area of forest land diverted since 2008 under Forest Conservation Act, 1980, for non forest activities, year-wise, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Ministry's guidelines requiring completion of the recognition of forest land to obtain free prior informed consent of the Gram Sabhas prior to the diversion of the forest land were not followed; and
- (c) whether compensation for extinguishing of recorded forest rights of dwellers, including rights recognised under Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 has been provided to the right holders, if so, amount in each State, if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) The requisite information is given in the Statement (*See* below).