

Decline in tiger population

1140. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has been urged in writing by around 140 tiger experts, non-government organization and prominent citizens about the critical need to act immediately to save the national animals;
- (b) whether Government is aware about the decline in tiger population in the country; and
- (c) if so, the reaction of Government with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The Government has been receiving suggestions from people belonging to various walks of life including tiger experts, citizens and Non-Governmental Organisations for tiger conservation.

(b) and (c) As per the findings of the recent all India Estimation of tiger using refined methodology, the total country- level population of tiger is 1411 (mid value); the lower and upper limits being 1165 and 1657 respectively. The recent assessment of tiger population is based on determining spatial occupancy of tigers throughout potential tiger forests and sampling such forests using camera traps in a statistical framework. This assessment is not comparable to the earlier total count using pugmarks owing to several shortcomings in the later. The new findings indicate a poor status of tiger population in areas outside tiger reserves and protected areas. The tiger population, by and large, in tiger reserves and protected areas of such States are viable, while requiring ongoing conservation efforts.

Polluted rivers

1141. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether large number of rivers in our country have got polluted;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether any steps have been taken/ funds allocated for cleaning of polluted rivers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any task force have been constituted to study and to protect the polluted rivers; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (f) As per an earlier survey, polluted stretches on rivers

have been identified by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The details indicating the State-wise polluted stretches identified is enclosed Statement. (See below)

The launching of the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase I as a centrally funded scheme in 1985 was the beginning of the river cleaning program with the objective of improving the water quality of the Ganga to acceptable standards by intercepting, diverting and treating the sewage. Under this Plan, 260 pollution abatement schemes spread over 25 towns in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal were completed at an expenditure of Rs.452 crore, leading to the creation sewage treatment capacity of 869 million litres per day (mld). GAP Phase I was extended to GAP Phase II, Which was approved in various stages from 1993 onwards. GAP phase II was merged in late 1996 with the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for pollution abatement in rivers. The NRCP presently covers identified polluted stretches of 35 rivers in 164 towns spread over 20 States. Pollution abatement works under NRCP are implemented on a cost sharing basis between Centre and States through Implementing Agencies nominated by the States and functioning under their control. Out of 1052 pollution abatement schemes with a sanctioned cost of Rs.4312.88 crore, 753 schemes have been completed and the balance schemes are in different stages of implementation. A sewage treatment capacity of 2668 million litres per day (mld) has been created and an amount of Rs.2660.83 crore has been released to State Implementing Agencies so far.

River conservation is a mammoth task requiring involvement of all the stakeholders. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments in creation of civic infrastructure for sewage management and disposal by providing grant for capital works in the identified polluted stretches. The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) is another Central programme presently in operation under the Union Ministry of Urban Development for supplementing the efforts of the State Governments and Urban Local Bodies by provision of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for urban infrastructure as per guidelines of the programme. Sewerage and sewage treatment (*i.e.* domestic wastewater treatment) are among the admissible components under this programme. The Government has also initiated an exercise for revamping the river conservation strategy to promote a holistic and integrated approach.

Statement

List of polluted river stretches state-wise.

Sl. No.	River	Polluted Stretch	Critical Parameters (in mg/l)	State
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Godavari	• Polavaram to D/S of Rajamundry	BOD—6-12	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Nagavalli	• Nagavalli along Thotapalli Regulator	BOD—6-10	Andhra Pradesh

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Musi	• D/S of Hyderabad	BOD—16-44	Andhra Pradesh
4.	Kalong	• Elengabeel System	BOD—10-70	Assam
5.	Bharalu	• D/S Guwahati	BOD—38	Assam
6.	Yamuna	• Wazirabad to Okhla	BOD—6-77	Delhi
7.	Subarnreka	• Ranchi to D/S of Jamshedpur	BOD>6	Jharkhand
8.	Sabarmati	• Ahmedabd to D/S of Vautha	BOD—56-504	Gujarat
9.	Amlakhadi	• Along Ankeshwar	BOD—138-920 Ammonia- 117.6-201.60	Gujarat
10.	Shedi	• Along Khada	BOD—8-19	Gujarat
11.	Damanganga	• Vapi D/S to Confl. with sea	BOD—9-10	Gujarat
12.	Ambika	• Billimora D/S	BOD—18	Gujarat
13.	Bhadar	• Jetpur to Ratia (Junagarh)	BOD—33	Gujarat
14.	Khari	• Lali village, Ahemdabad	BOD—92-675	Gujarat
15.	Kolak	• Vapi to Patalia	BOD—11-35	Gujarat
16.	Par	• Vapi to Patalia	BOD—27	Gujarat
17.	Ghaggar	• Interstate border with Punjab to Ottu wier at Sirsa	BOD—8-50	Haryana
18.	Yamuna	• Okhla to Kosi Kalan	BOD—16	Haryana
19.	Markanda	• Kala Amb D/S to Haryana Border	BOD—55	Himachal Pradesh
20.	Bhadra	• Maleshwaram to D/S of Bhadravathi	BOD—7.2 Colour-1009 Haran	Karnataka
21.	Tunga	• D/S of Shimoga	BOD>6	Karnataka
22.	Kali	• Along Dandeli Town	BOD>6	Karnataka
23.	Tungabhadra	• Harihar D/S to Hara eahalli Bridge.	BOD—6-8	Karnataka
24.	Khan river	• Indore city to confluence with Kshipra	BOD—65-120	Madhya Pradesh

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Kshipra	• Ujjain to confluence with Chambal	BOD—8-24]	Madhya Pradesh
26.	Chambal	• D/S of Nagda	BOD—8-24	Madhya Pradesh
27.	Tapi	• D/S of Napanagar to Burhanpur city	BOD>6	Madhya Pradesh
28.	Godavari	• Nasik to (Raheer) Nanded	BOD—6-66	Maharashtra
29.	Kalu	• Atale village to Confl. with Ulhas	BOD—6-10	Maharashtra
30.	Ulhas	• Mohane to Baddapur	BOD—6-8	Maharashtra
31.	Weinganga	• D/S Ashti	BOD—6-7	Maharashtra
32.	Panchganga	• Along Ichalkaranji	BOD—7-25	Maharashtra
33.	Wardha	• Along Rajura village	BOD—6-8	Maharashtra
34.	Bhima	• Pargaon to confluence with river Daund	BOD—6.5	Maharashtra
35.	Mula and Mutha	• D/s Pune city	BOD—6.7	Maharashtra
36.	Bhatsa	• D/S of shahpur Industrial township.	BOD>6	Maharashtra
37.	Patalganga	• Khopoli to Esturanine region	BOD>6	Maharashtra
38.	Kundalika	• Along Roha city	BOD—6-6.5	Maharashtra
39.	Krishna	• Dhomdam to Sangli	BOD—6-8	Maharashtra
40.	Tapi	• M.P. Border to Bhusaval	BOD—6-9	Maharashtra
41.	Girna	• Malegaon to Confl. with Tapi	BOD—6-12	Maharashtra
42.	Nira	• Along Pulgaon	BOD—6-21	Maharashtra
43.	Kharkhala	• Near Sutnga Khlieri, Jaintia Hills	BOD—8-10	Meghalaya
44.	Brahmani	• Panposh D/S to Dharamsala	BOD—6-7	Orissa
45.	Ib	• Sundargarh to Confl. with Mahanadi	BOD—6-9	Orissa

1	2	3	4	5
46.	Mahanadi	• Cuttack D/S	BOD—6-8	Orissa
47.	Kuakhai	• Along Bubhaneshwar	BOD>7	Orissa
48.	Kathjodi	• Along Cuttack	BOD—6-12.3	Orissa
49.	Satluj	• D/S of Ludhiana	BOD—8-14.4	Punjab
50.	Beas	• D/S of Mukorian	BOD—8.4-20	Punjab
51.	Ghaggar	• Mubarkpur to Sardulgarh	BOD—6.4-50	Punjab
52.	Ghaggar	• Ottu weir to Hanumangarh	BOD>6	Rajasthan
53.	Chambal	• D/S Kota city	BOD—6-6.4	Rajasthan
54.	Banas/ Berach river	• Udaipur to Chittorgarh	BOD>6	Rajasthan
55.	Vaigai	• Along Madurai	BOD—7-9	Tamil Nadu
56.	Palar	• Vaniyambadi	BOD>6	Tamil Nadu
57.	Adyar	• Along Chennai	BOD>6	Tamil Nadu
58.	Coovum	• Along Chennai	BOD>6	Tamil Nadu
59.	Tambiraparani	• Papavinasam to Arunuganeri	BOD—6-13	Tamil Nadu
60.	Noyyal	• Along Coimbatore, Tirupur, Palyanakotti	BOD>6	Tamil Nadu
61.	Cauvery	• D/s of Mettur Dam to Erode city	BOD—6.4-7	Tamil Nadu
62.	Ranichu	• Along Ranipur	BOD—24	Sikkim
63.	Yamuna	• Kosi Kalan to confl. with Chambal	BOD—6-37	Uttar Pradesh
64.	Hindon	• Saharanpur to Confl. with Yamuna	BOD—9-36	Uttar Pradesh
65.	Western Kali	• Muzaffar Nagar to Confluence with Hindon	BOD—21-44	Uttar Pradesh
66.	Buri Yamuna	• Pilkhani to Confluence with Yamauna	BOD>6	Uttar Pradesh
67.	Kali Nadi Eastern	• Merrut to Kannauj	BOD—43-135	Uttar Pradesh

1	2	3	4	5
68.	Gomti	• Lucknow to Confluence with Ganga	BOD—6-8.2 BOD—6-7.6	Uttar Pradesh
69.	Ganga	• Kannauj to Kanpur D/S	BOD—6-10	Uttar Pradesh
70.	Ganga	• Varanasi D/S	BOD—6.5-16.5	Uttar Pradesh
71.	Danmodar	• Durgapur to Heldia	BOD—6.4-32	West Bengal

Ban on the field trials of BT rice

1142. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received representations from agricultural experts to put a ban on the field trials of BT rice that are taking place in the country in violation of regulations and conditions laid down for field trials of genetically modified crops;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether several countries have banned genetically modified versions of the crop in view of food security; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has not received any representation from agricultural experts to put a ban on the field trials of Bt rice.

(c) and (d) Except China and Iran, no other country has commercialized Bt rice. For food security, no country has banned genetically modified crops. However, in European Union approval of genetically modified crops has been given for feed and fuel purposes but not for food purpose. Since no food crop is commercialized in India there is no question of banning the same.

Eco-clubs

1143. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of eco-clubs functioning in the country;

(b) the number of such clubs functioning in the State of Goa;

(c) the quantum of financial assistance given to the clubs in Goa, since the inception of the scheme;

(d) the activities conducted by them; and

(e) the details thereof?