

surveyed and documented 91,364 species of fauna, out of which 413 are endangered species. The Botanical Survey of India has documented 45,968 species of flora, out of which 155 are endangered species.

(c) and (d) As per the IUCN Red Data List, Salamander is not on the verge of extinction. The species is distributed in Darjeeling district of West Bengal and some of the North-Eastern States. It is protected under Scheduled II, Part I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which are designated as 'Least Concern' according to IUCN Red Data List.

Coal exploitation in degraded forests

2442. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to allow coal exploitation in degraded forest lands of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government has analyzed the impact of deforestation of forest areas, since 60 per cent of the total forest land are degraded forests; and

(c) the details of actions proposed by Government to protect/forests in the country, in case of coal exploitation in degraded forest land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The coal is extracted from the Coal Bearing Areas irrespective of reserve / protected / degraded forests or non-forest lands as per the requirement of the nation and economic viability of extraction. However, prior approval of the Central Government is required for mining of coal in the forest areas under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The provisions of the Act and the mechanism established there under permits, diversion of forest land only when no alternatives were available. The land use for different purposes is also optimized. Further, the diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes is permitted after stipulating commensurate mitigative measures such as compensatory afforestation to reduce the adverse impact of the mining and other developmental activities on environment and ecology of the area. In addition, phased reclamation of the mined out areas is also stipulated in approval orders.

Death of tigers in Ranthambhor Tiger Reserve

†2443. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tiger deaths in Ranthambhor Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan during the last one year and the reasons for their death; and

(b) the number of tigers relocated to Sariska Wildlife sanctuary from Ranthambhor during the last one year and the future course of action in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) During the last year, mortality of one tigress on 01.09.2008 has been reported by the State in the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve, due to territorial infighting.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.