

(a) whether Government is aware that due to pollution and emission of gases, the climate is changing in, general all over the country;

(b) the steps being taken to stop change in climate and increase in temperature; and

(c) whether it is a fact that different glaciers are melting due to increase in temperature and if so, the details thereof and how it is going to affect the environment, in general?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The concentrations of green house gases in the atmosphere are leading to global warming. The analysis of data for the period 1901-2008 by IMD suggests that annual mean temperature for the country as a whole has risen by 0.52°C over the period. Spatial pattern of trends in the mean annual temperature shows significant positive (increasing) trend over most parts of the country except over parts of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Bihar, where significant negative (decreasing) trends were observed.

(b) India is signatory to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol, and also has various partnerships with other countries under the UNFCCC. While India does not have any Green House Gases (GHG) abatement commitments under the Kyoto Protocol, a range of policies and programs have been followed that include improving energy efficiency & conservation as well setting up of Bureau of Energy Efficiency, power sector reforms, promoting hydro and renewable energy, promotion of clean coal technologies, coal washing & efficient utilization of coal, afforestation and conservation of forests, reduction of gas flaring, use of cleaner and lesser carbon intensive fuel for transport, encouraging mass rapid transport systems and environmental quality management.

These measures help achieve better energy intensity while addressing climate change as co-benefit.

(c) As per Geological Survey of India, majority of the Himalayan glaciers are melting (receding) at varying rates during the twentieth century. Recession of glaciers is a complex phenomenon which may result due to several factors including rise in temperature, amount and time of snowfall in the catchment, higher temperature during summer, less severe winter or a combination of all of them. Thus, it is not possible to specify the role played by the rise in temperature alone in this shrinkage. The recession of glaciers may lead to reduction in the ice reserves of the glaciers, besides changes in the river hydrology, enhanced silt and debris production, ecological disturbances, rise in sea level, etc.

Plan to increase tiger population

1677. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) How Government plans to increase the tiger population in the country; and

(b) the details of steps being taken to save the tigers from the poachers, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Funding support under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger is provided to tiger range States for conservation of tigers. The steps taken by the Government of India to protect wild animals including tigers are given in the Statement.

Statement

Milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India for protection / conservation of tigers and other wild animals

Legal steps

1. Amendment of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for providing enabling provisions for constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau.
2. Enhancement of punishment in cases of offence relating to a tiger reserve or its core area.

Administrative steps

3. Strengthening of antipoaching activities, including special strategy for monsoon patrolling, by providing funding support to Tiger Reserve States, as proposed by them, for deployment of antipoaching squads involving ex-army personnel / home guards, apart from workforce comprising of local people, in addition to strengthening of communication / wireless facilities.
4. Constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority with effect from 4.09.2006, for strengthening tiger conservation by, *inter-alia*, ensuring normative standards in tiger reserve management, preparation of reserve specific tiger conservation plan, laying down annual audit report before Parliament, constituting State level Steering Committees under the Chairmanship of Chief Ministers and establishment of Tiger Conservation Foundation.
5. Constitution of a multidisciplinary Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau) with effect from 6.6.2007 to effectively control illegal trade in wildlife.
6. Declaration of eight new Tiger Reserves and in-principle approval accorded for creation of four new Reserves, namely Sahyadri in Maharashtra, Pilibhit in Uttar Pradesh, Ratapani in M.P. and Sunabeda in Orissa.
7. The revised Project Tiger guidelines have been issued to States for strengthening tiger conservation, which apart from ongoing activities, *inter-alia*, include funding support to States for enhanced village relocation/rehabilitation package for people living in core or critical tiger habitats (from Rs. 1 lakh/family to Rs. 10 lakhs/family), rehabilitation/resettlement of communities involved in traditional hunting, mainstreaming livelihood and wildlife concerns in forests outside tiger reserves and fostering corridor conservation through restorative strategy to arrest habitat fragmentation.

8. A scientific methodology for estimating tiger (including co-predators, prey animals and assessment of habitat status) has been evolved and mainstreamed. The findings of this estimation/assessment are bench marks for future tiger conservation strategy.
9. An area of 29284.762 sq. km. has been notified by 15 Tiger States (out of 17) as core or critical tiger habitat under section 38V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006 (Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal). Two tiger States (Bihar and Uttar Pradesh) have taken a decision for notifying the core or critical tiger habitats (2765.04 sq.km.). The State of Madhya Pradesh has not identified / notified the core / critical tiger habitat in its newly constituted tiger reserve (Sanjay National Park and Sanjay Dubri Wildlife Sanctuary).
10. Memorandum of Understanding developed for better/concerted implementation of conservation inputs through tiger reserve States.

Financial steps

11. Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. Project Tiger and Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.

International Cooperation

12. India has a Memorandum of Understanding with Nepal on controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife and conservation, apart from a protocol on tiger conservation with China.
13. A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.
14. During the 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES, which was held from 3rd to 15th June, 2007 at The Hague, India introduced a resolution along with China, Nepal and the Russian Federation, with directions to Parties with operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale, for restricting such captive populations to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers. The resolution was adopted as a decision with minor amendments. Further, India made an intervention appealing to China to phase out tiger farming, and eliminate stockpiles of Asian big cats body parts and derivatives. The importance of continuing the ban on trade of body parts of tigers was emphasized.

Reintroduction of Tigers

15. As a part of active management to rebuild Sariska and Panna Tiger Reserves where tigers have become locally extinct, reintroduction of tigers /tigresses have been done.

Creation of Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF)

16. The policy initiatives announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech of 29.2.2008, *interalia*, contains action points relating to tiger protection, Based on the one time grant of Rs. 50.00 crore provided to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for raising, arming and deploying a Special Tiger Protection Force, the proposal for the said force has been approved by the competent authority for 13 tiger reserves. Rs. 93 lakhs each has been released to Corbett, Ranthambhore & Dudhwa Tiger Reserve for creation of STPF during 2008-09. Central Assistance will be provided to States for creation of STPF in remaining 10 Tiger Reserves in 2009-10.

Issues at global climate change talks

1678. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state the major issues on which there is a lack of consensus at the global climate change talks and what is our position on those issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the major issues that are currently being discussed in pursuance of the Bali Action Plan relate to shared vision for long-term cooperative action including a global goal for emission reduction, mitigation, adaptation, technology and finance. Under the Kyoto Protocol, the negotiations are taking place with a view to determine the emission reduction targets for Annex I Parties to the Convention during the second commitment period (post 2012). Parties are negotiating on these issues and are expected to reach an agreed outcome at the 15th Conference of Parties scheduled in Copenhagen in December 2009.

India has argued at these negotiations that the developed country Parties must take actions in accordance with the principle of equity and "common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities" in order to achieve the objectives of the Convention. Such actions of the developed (Annex I Parties to the Convention) countries should include deep and ambitious targets for emission reduction in the second commitment period (Post-2012) of the Kyoto Protocol.

Habitat for big cats

1679. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 1,411 big cats are left in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps being taken to give habitat for their sustenance in each State, especially in Andhra Pradesh forest areas?