

(a) whether a whopping Rs.11000 crore would be spent in the country on afforestation and for that purpose, all the States would set up Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authorities, soon;

(b) whether this amount has been received from the parties who had used forest land throughout the country for non-forest purposes;

(c) whether this is being done on the direction of the Supreme Court; and

(d) if so, what is total allocation made for this purpose to each State and what is the concrete action plan prepared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) As on 30.06.2009, an amount of Rs. 9,932.12 crores, remitted by the State/UT Governments to the *ad-hoc* body of Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPAs) as per the Supreme Court Order dated 05.05.2006, is the amount collected/realized by the State/UT Governments from different user agency for use of forest land for non-forestry purposes towards compensatory afforestation, penal compensatory afforestation, catchment area treatment plan, net present value and protected area management, etc. These monies are to be spent for undertaking the above site specific activities alongwith protection and regeneration of natural forests in the country. The *ad-hoc* CAMPAs was not authorized by the Hon'ble Supreme Court to disburse the monies collected to the State/UT Governments. The Central Government has moved an application before the Supreme Court to allow the *ad-hoc* CAMPAs to release money for undertaking site specific works by different States/UTs by constituting State level CAMPAs as an interim measures till a permanent mechanism is put in place.

Similipal Tiger Reserve

914. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken suitable action after the attack by naxalites in Similipal Tiger Reserve in Orissa and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of action plan being contemplated by Government for safeguarding the Similipal forests;

(c) whether the Wildlife Institute of India had carried out an estimate of tiger population and assessment of the tiger habitat in Similipal; if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government had carried out tiger census in Similipal during 2009, if so, the figures arrived and areas covered; and

(e) the details of Government and non-Government organizations associated with the Forest Department in carrying out the census exercise during this census?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) As informed by the State, a Special Operation Group (SOG) of Police Force was deployed at two places within the Similipal Tiger Reserve after the naxalite attack.

The situation was reviewed with the State officials in the Ministry alongwith officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs, and action has been taken for providing assistance under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger, based on proposals received from the State.

(c) As per the outcome of the All India tiger estimation released in 2008, the occupancy of tiger in the State of Orissa, including Similipal amounts to 9144 sq.km., with a population of 45 (mid value) with the upper and lower limits being 53 and 37 respectively. This is based on the refined methodology approved by the Tiger Task Force, carried out by the National Tiger Conservation Authority in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India, using a sampling method involving camera traps on a statistical framework, which cannot be compared with the earlier total count using pugmarks, due to inherent shortcomings in the latter.

(d) The State has carried out a tiger census in Similipal during 2009 and has estimated a tiger population comprising of 16 males, 31 females and 14 cubs, using the old pugmark method. This cannot be compared with the approved sampling methodology used in the All India tiger estimation as indicated in para (c) above.

(e) The details of Government and Non-Government Organizations associated with the Forest Department in carrying out the census exercise as reported by the State are given in the statement.

Statement

*Details of Government and Non-Government Organizations associated
with the Orissa Forest Department in carrying out the census exercise
in 2009 as reported by the State*

1. Government officials:

- (a) Similipal Tiger Reserve
- (b) Baripada Forest Division
- (c) Karinjia Forest Division
- (d) Rairangpur Forest Division
- (e) Balasore Wildlife Division
- (f) Balasore Afforestation Division

2. Non-Government Organisations/Persons

- (a) Department of Wildlife and Conservation Biology, North Orissa University
- (b) Wild Orissa
- (c) Nature Environment and Wildlife Society-Angul
- (d) WWF-India Orissa Chapter
- (e) Freelance Naturalists from Bhubaneswar
- (f) Retired Forest Officials and Experts.