

breeding programme of wild buffalo in Udanti Wildlife Sanctuary has been taken up under the wild buffalo recovery plan as recommended by the Wild Buffalo Task Force constituted by the State Government in compliance of the direction given by the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) of Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Statement

*Estimated population of wildlife including wild buffaloes
in Udanti Wildlife Sanctuary*

Sl. No.	Species	Number (over the years)				
		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
1.	Tiger	26	17	12	11	12
2.	Panther	109	36	24	26	23
3.	Cheetal	5352	509	370	385	716
4.	Sambhar	541	262	185	205	256
5.	Barking Deer	590	256	128	142	450
6.	Neelgai	301	160	150	145	126
7.	Gour	564	40	40	44	40
8.	Wild Buffalo **	72	72	77	67	61
9.	Wild Boar	170	497	-	-	998
10.	Wild Dog	25	-	20	30	36

**As per the information received from the State Government, at present, there are 7 wild buffaloes in the Sanctuary.

Forest clearance to Kerala

1669.SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government had requested for Kuttiadi Augmentation Forest Clearance Scheme during June, 2005 along with compliance report and the clarifications regarding this had been done subsequently;

(b) if so, the details of action taken for the above stage-2 forest clearance;

(c) whether positive steps would be taken, to grant the above clearance;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. However, the compliance report submitted by the Kerala

Government was incomplete and accordingly, the State Government was requested to submit complete compliance report which is still awaited.

National Green Tribunal

1670. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has mooted a proposal to set up a National Green Tribunal, to deal with civil issues related to environment and forests;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the exact number of cases pertaining to environmental and forest disputes pending in courts; and

(d) to what extent the creation of the Tribunal is likely to assist in disposing of cases relating to environment and forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Bill for establishment of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) is under finalization.

(c) As environmental cases are inter-sectoral and cross-cutting in nature it is difficult to exactly quantify the same.

(d) The NGT intends to reduce the load of environmental cases, of civil nature, pending in higher courts and to help in speedy disposal of such cases. Since the NGT is proposed to have Judicial Members as well as Expert Members, it is likely to result in effective disposal of environmental cases which involve multi-disciplinary issues.

Van Gujjars in Tiger Reserves

1671. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

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

(a) whether Government has decided to depute trained Van Gujjars¹ and 'Villagers', instead of police personnel, in various tiger reserves and other wildlife sanctuaries all over the country to protect tigers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has held consultations with State Governments/Senior Forest Officers in providing security and safety to tigers; and

(d) if so, the outcome of such consultations and the manner in which tiger reserves and wildlife sanctuaries would be protected?

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 States for antipoaching operations, *inter alia*, involving local people