

As per the last All India tiger estimation done in the year 2008, the population of the tigers in the country (excluding Sunderbans) is 1411 (mid value); the lower and upper limits being 1165 and 1657 respectively. This estimation is not comparable to earlier estimates, as previously different methodology was used for estimation.

(b) Poaching is the main reason for tiger killing because tiger products are in high demand in the international clandestine trade.

(c) and (d) There are several existing Centrally Sponsored Schemes like 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Elephant', and 'Project Tiger' for protection and conservation of wild animals in the country.

The 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' scheme was modified in 2008 to accord better protection and conservation to wildlife in the country by adding following two new components to the existing components:

- (i) Protection of wildlife outside protected areas and
- (ii) Recovery programme for saving critically endangered species and their habitats.

Pollution in industrial clusters

1077. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a nation wide Comprehensive Environmental Assessment has found that a large number of industrial clusters are critically polluted;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to take drastic and tough measures against such industrial clusters which are running units without any clearance from Government; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has developed a Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI). CPCB has done a nation wide environmental assessment of Industrial Clusters based on CEPI and 43 such industrial clusters having CEPI greater than 70, on a scale of 0 to 100, have been identified as critically polluted. The State-wise list of critically polluted areas is given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) The Government has imposed a temporary moratorium on 13.01.2010 on consideration of developmental projects in critically polluted industrial cluster/areas including the projects in pipeline for clearance with immediate effect till August 2010. However, some specific projects relating to public interest and national interest such as pollution control, defence and security and renewal of mining will continue to be appraised and decision will be taken on merits. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has also undertaken the task of preparation of Action Plans to improve the environmental quality in these critically polluted-areas.

Statement

Details of Critically Polluted Industrial clusters/areas (CEPI Scores > 70)

State	No. of clusters	Industrial clusters/areas	CEPI
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	2	Vishakhapatnam	70.82
		Patancheru-Bollaram	70.07
Chhattisgarh	1	Korba	83.00
Delhi	1	Nazafgarh drain basin	79.54
Gujarat	6	Ankaleshwar	88.50
		Vapi	88.09
		Ahmedabad	75.28
		Vatva	74.77
		Bhavnagar	70.99
Haryana	2	Junagarh	70.82
		Faridabad	77.07
		Panipat	71.91
Jharkhand	1	Dhanbad	78.63
Karnataka	2	Mangalore	73.68
		Bhadravati	72.33
Kerala	1	Cochin	75.08
Madhya Pradesh	1	Indore	71.26
Maharashtra	5	Chandrapur	83.88
		Dombivalli	78.41
		Aurangabad	77.44
		Navi Mumbai	73.77
		Tarapur	72.01
Orissa	3	Angul Talchar	82.09
		IB valley	74.00
		Jharsuguda	73.34
Punjab	2	Ludhiana	81.66
		Mandi Gobind Garh	75.08
Rajasthan	3	Bhiwadi	82.91
		Jodhpur	75.19
		Pali	73.73

1	2	3	4
Tamil Nadu	4	Vellore	81.79
		Cuddalore	77.45
		Manali	76.32
		Coimbatore	72.38
Uttar Pradesh	6	Ghaziabad	87.37
		Singrauli	81.73
		Noida	78.90
		Kanpur	78.09
		Agra	76.48
		Varanasi-Mirzapur	73.79
West Bengal	3	Haldia	75.43
		Howrah	74.84
		Asansole	70.20

Commercial production of genetically modified vegetables

1078. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee has given green signal to the commercial production of the genetically modified vegetables in the country;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether some important Brinjal cultivating States have registered their opposition for cultivation of Bt Brinjal;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (e) the details of the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee, the apex body notified under the 'Rules for Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro Organisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells 1989' of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, has accorded approval for conducting genetic engineering tests on Genetically modified (GM) crops namely; cotton, rice, okra, brinjal, potato, groundnut, tomato, corn, cabbage, cauliflower, mustard and sorghum for generation of biosafety data.

(c) and (d) Some of the State Governments, NGOs and some sections of the scientific and farming communities have expressed apprehensions on the safety of Bt brinjal and have called for extreme caution as Bt brinjal is the first GM food crop to be introduced in the country.