

20. Rapid assessment of tiger reserves done.
21. Special crack teams sent to tiger reserves affected by left wing extremism and low population status of tiger and its prey.
22. All India meeting of Field Directors convened on 25 and 26 July, 2009 under the Chairmanship of the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests for reviewing the status of field protection and related issues in tiger reserves.
23. Chief Ministers of tiger States addressed at the level of the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests on urgent issues, viz. implementation of the tripartite MOU, creation of the Tiger Conservation Foundation, stepping up protection etc.
24. Chief Ministers of States having tiger reserves affected by left wing extremism and low population status of tiger and its prey addressed for taking special initiatives.
25. Steps taken for modernizing the infrastructure and field protection.
26. Advisory issued for involvement of Non-Governmental Experts in the forthcoming all India tiger estimation.
27. Report of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted for looking into the local extinction of tiger in the Panna Tiger Reserve sent to the State (Madhya Pradesh) for the needful action.
28. Issue of tiger farming and trafficking of tiger body parts discussed at the level of Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests with the Chinese Authorities.
29. Action taken for amending the Wildlife (Protection) Act to ensure effective conservation.
30. Initiatives taken for improving the field delivery through capacity building of field officials, apart from providing incentives.

Special courts for cases of SCs/STs

*251. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to establish special courts for looking after the cases of SCs/STs, specially in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) In accordance with Section 14 of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities)

Act, 1989, the State Government, for the purpose of providing for speedy trial, with the concurrence of the Chief Justice of the High Court, by Notification in the Official Gazette, specifies for each district, a Court of Session to be Special Court to try the offences under the Act. The State Governments and Union Territory Administrations of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Delhi, Lakshadweep, Puducherry have reportedly designated District Session Courts as Special Courts.

Further for prompt trial of cases under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, 166 exclusive Special Courts have also been reportedly set up by nine States namely, Andhra Pradesh (12), Bihar (11), Chhattisgarh (07), Gujarat (19), Karnataka (07), Madhya Pradesh (49), Rajasthan (17), Tamil Nadu (04) and Uttar Pradesh (40).

Detection of cases of illegal mining

*252. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) has identified States where illegal mining is going on;

(b) if so, the States so identified indicating the action initiated by Government to prevent this illegal enterprise and the outcome thereof, including details of number of prosecutions initiated against the offenders, so far, State-wise;

(c) whether the Ministry of Home Affairs has registered its apprehensions about windfall profit generated illegally from mining of minerals by the Mafia, which may be finding its way into the hands of extremists and becoming a threat to national security; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) Minerals belong to State Government, and mineral concessions are granted by the State Governments in the form of quarry leases, mining leases etc. State Governments are empowered under section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 to take action against illegal mining. In addition the Indian Bureau of Mines also takes action with regard to mining activity carried out in violation of the provisions of the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988.

As per available information details of illegal mining of minerals detected by the State Governments in the last three years upto December, 2009 is given in the Statement (See below).