

#### **Vehicular movement in Satkosia Tiger Reserve**

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

(a) whether Government proposes to take steps to curtail vehicular movement inside the Satkosia Tiger Reserve during night;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the deleterious fall outs of permitting vehicular movements inside protected areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. As reported by the State, tourist vehicles are not allowed to enter or move inside the Satkosia Tiger Reserve from 6.00 PM to 6.00 AM. However, villagers residing inside the tiger reserve are allowed to travel during night hours during urgency.

(c) Advisories have been issued to tiger range States for regulating tourist visitation/vehicular movement inside tiger reserves as per the carrying capacity, to avoid disturbance to wild animals.

#### **Performance of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau**

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

(a) what is the present staffing position of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau and from which organizations they have been deputed and at what levels; and

(b) what has been the performance of the Bureau during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The present staff position with details of deputation in the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau is functioning smoothly during the last one year. The Bureau has conducted 174 joint operations and was instrumental in detecting 205 violations of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972/CITES/EXIM Policy. It has also conducted 60 training programmes and 384 coordination meetings with various agencies.