

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) India and USA have an institutionalized energy dialogue which explores cooperation in clean and efficient energy and development of renewable resources of energy. During the visit of Prime Minister to Washington in November 2009, the two countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance cooperation on Energy Security, Energy Efficiency, Clean Energy and Climate Change, which seeks to strengthen and intensify India-USA collaboration in these areas.

One of the priority initiative of Indo-US MoU is setting up of an Indo-US Clean Energy Research and Deployment initiative, including a Joint Research centre to foster innovation and joint efforts to accelerate deployment of clean energy technologies. The draft protocol regarding setting up of a Joint Clean Energy Research & Development Centre is still at a discussion stage. The priority areas of focus for the initiative is likely to include solar energy, energy efficiency, bio fuels, clean coal technology and integrated gasification combined cycle project. This will help accelerate deployment of clean energy technologies and accelerate the transition to a low carbon economy.

(c) and (d) India & US have been actively participating under the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development & Climate which aim at developing, deploying and transferring cleaner and more efficient technologies. Both countries are associated in a number of projects under various task forces.

The draft protocol regarding Joint Clean Energy Research & Development Centre is still at discussion stage between India and USA.

#### **Buxa tiger reserve**

1512. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that basing on scat samples, there are good number of tigers in the Buxa Tiger Reserve in West Bengal and if so, the details of estimation in this regard; and

(b) whether Government is considering to control mass hunting or akhand shikar in the Similipal Tiger Reserve in Orissa; and

(c) what has been the performance in this regard since 2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) As reported by the State, out of 83 scat samples analysed by the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad, 33 samples are positively of tiger origin. Action has been taken by the said institute for genotyping of the positive samples.

(b) and (c) Under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger, funding assistance is provided to the Similipal Tiger Reserve, which, *inter-alia*, includes protection. The details are given in the Statment-I (See below). The milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India for protection and conservation of tigers and other wild animals are given in the statement-II.

**Statement-I**

*Funding assistance provided for the protection and management of the Similipal Tiger-Reserve*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of Tiger Reserve	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1.	Similipal, Orissa	83.31	126.81	32.88	151.91	116.44	80.00	183.87	43.28	550.99	42.35

**Statement-II**

Milestone initiatives (including the recent) taken by the Government of India for conservation of tiger and other wild animals

**Legal steps**

1. Amendment of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for providing enabling provisions for constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau.
2. Enhancement of punishment in cases of offence relating to a tiger reserve or its core area.

#### **Administrative steps**

3. Strengthening of antipoaching activities, including special strategy for monsoon patrolling, by providing funding support to Tiger Reserve States, as proposed by them, for deployment of antipoaching squads involving ex-army personnel / home guards, apart from workforce comprising of local people, in addition to strengthening of communication / wireless facilities.
4. Constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority with effect from 4.09.2006, for strengthening tiger conservation by, *inter-alia*, ensuring normative standards in tiger reserve management, preparation of reserve specific tiger conservation plan, laying down annual audit report before Parliament, constituting State level Steering Committees under the Chairmanship of Chief Ministers and establishment of Tiger Conservation Foundation.
5. Constitution of a multidisciplinary Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau) with effect from 6.6.2007 to effectively control illegal trade in wildlife.
6. Declaration of nine new Tiger Reserves and in-principle approval accorded for creation of three new Reserves, namely Pilibhit in Uttar Pradesh, Ratapani in M.P. and Sunabeda in Orissa.
7. The revised Project Tiger guidelines have been issued to States for strengthening tiger conservation, which apart from ongoing activities, *inter-alia*, include funding support to States for enhanced village relocation/rehabilitation package for people living in core or critical tiger habitats (from Rs. 1 lakh/family to Rs. 10 lakhs/family), rehabilitation/resettlement of communities involved in traditional hunting, mainstreaming livelihood and wildlife concerns in forests outside tiger reserves and fostering corridor conservation through restorative strategy to arrest habitat fragmentation.
8. A scientific methodology for estimating tiger (including co-predators, prey animals and assessment of habitat status) has been evolved and mainstreamed. The findings of this estimation/assessment are bench marks for future tiger conservation strategy.
9. An area of 31207.11 sq. km. has been notified by 16 Tiger States (out of 17) as core or critical tiger habitat under section 38V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006

(Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal). The State of Bihar has taken a decision for notifying the core or critical tiger habitat (840 sq.km.). The State of Madhya Pradesh has not identified / notified the core / critical tiger habitat in its newly constituted tiger reserve (Sanjay National Park and Sanjay Dubri Wildlife Sanctuary).

#### **Financial steps**

10. Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. Project Tiger and Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.

#### **International Cooperation**

11. India has a Memorandum of Understanding with Nepal on controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife and conservation, apart from a protocol on tiger conservation with China.
12. A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.
13. During the 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES, which was held from 3rd to 15th June, 2007 at The Hague, India introduced a resolution along with China, Nepal and the Russian Federation, with directions to Parties with operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale, for restricting such captive populations to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers. The resolution was adopted as a decision with minor amendments. Further, India made an intervention appealing to China to phase out tiger farming, and eliminate stockpiles of Asian big cats body parts and derivatives. The importance of continuing the ban on trade of body parts of tigers was emphasized.
14. Based on India's strong intervention during the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee of the CITES at Geneva from 6th to 10th July, 2009, the CITES Secretariat issued notification to Parties for submitting reports relating to compliance of Decisions 14.69 and 14.65 within 90

days with effect from 20.10.2009 (Progress made on restricting captive breeding operations of tigers etc.). During the 15th meeting of the Conference of Parties, India intervened for retaining the Decision 14.69 dealing with operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale.

#### **Reintroduction of Tigers**

15. As a part of active management to rebuild Sariska and Panna Tiger Reserves where tigers have become locally extinct, reintroduction of tigers/ tigresses have been done.
16. Special advisories issued for *in-situ* build up of prey base and tiger population through active management in tiger reserves having low population status of tiger and its prey.

#### **Creation of Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF)**

17. The policy initiatives announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech of 29.2.2008, *interalia*, contains action points relating to tiger protection. Based on the one time grant of Rs. 50.00 crore provided to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for raising, arming and deploying a Special Tiger Protection Force, the proposal for the said force has been approved by the competent authority for 13 tiger reserves. Rs. 93 lakhs each has been released to Corbett, Ranthambhore & Dudhwa Tiger Reserve for creation of STPF during 2008-09. Since then, the guidelines of the STPF have been revised for deploying forest personnel in place of Police as an option-II, with scope for involving local people like the Van Gujjars.
18. In collaboration with TRAFFIC-INDIA, an online tiger crime data base has been launched, and Generic Guidelines for preparation of reserve specific Security Plan has been evolved.

#### **Recent initiatives**

19. Implementing a tripartite MoU with tiger States, linked to fund flows for effective implementation of tiger conservation initiatives.
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. 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.
23. 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.
24. Steps taken for modernizing the infrastructure and field protection, besides launching 'M-STRIPEs' for effective field patrolling and monitoring.
25. Steps taken for involvement of Non-Governmental Experts in the ongoing all India tiger estimation.
26. Special independent team sent to Simlipal for assessing the status, besides constituting State level Coordination Committee for redressing the administrative problems.
27. 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.
28. Action taken for amending the Wildlife (Protection) Act to ensure effective conservation.
29. Initiatives taken for improving the field delivery through capacity building of field officials, apart from providing incentives.
30. Steps taken for the independent Monitoring and Evaluation of tiger reserves.
31. Action initiated for using Information Technology to strengthen surveillance in tiger reserves.
32. Providing special assistance for mitigation of human-tiger conflicts in problematic areas.
33. As an outcome of the fourth Trans-border Consultative Group Meeting held in New Delhi, a joint resolution has been signed with Nepal for biodiversity/ tiger conservation.