

1	2	3
6.	Himachal Pradesh	2
7.	Jharkhand	3
8.	Karnataka	1
9.	Kerala	1
10.	Madhya Pradesh	2
11.	Maharashtra	5
12.	Meghalaya	1
13.	Rajasthan	2
14.	Sikkim	2
15.	Tamil Nadu	5
16.	Uttar Pradesh	2
17.	Uttarakhand	1
18.	West Bengal	1
TOTAL		42

#### **Tiger conservation policy**

†622. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has framed any policy to save tigers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of tigers killed by hunters or poachers during the last three years; and
- (d) the details of action taken against them so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Government of India has launched 'Project Tiger' since 1973 (ongoing as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme), under which central assistance is provided to tiger

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

range States for protection and conservation of tigers in tiger reserves. Further, with the amendment of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 in 2006, a separate chapter has been included for strengthening tiger conservation *vis-a-vis* the recommendations of the Tiger Task Force. The milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India for tiger conservation, are given in Statement-I (See below)

(c) Details of tiger mortality during the last three years and the current year, as reported by States, are given in Statement-II (See below)

(d) Action against offenders is taken by State Governments under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and other relevant Acts.

***Statement-I***

*Milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India for  
tiger conservation and protection of tigers*

**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 multi disciplinary 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. The "in-principle" approval has been accorded by the National Tiger Conservation Authority for creation of four new tiger reserves, and the sites are: Biligiri Ranganatha Swamy Temple Sanctuary (Karnataka), Pilibhit (Uttar Pradesh), Ratapani (Madhya Pradesh), Sunabeda (Orissa) and Mukundara Hills (including Darrah, Jawahar Sagar and Chambal Wildlife Sanctuaries) (Rajasthan). Besides, the States have been advised to send proposals for declaring the following areas as Tiger Reserves: (i) Bor (Maharashtra), (ii) Suhelwa (Uttar Pradesh), (iii) Nagzira-Navegaon (Maharashtra) (iv) Satyamangalam (Tamil Nadu) and (v) Kudremukh (Karnataka).
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 main-streamed. The findings of this estimation/assessment are bench marks for future tiger conservation strategy.
9. An area of 31407.11 sq. km. has been notified by 16 Tiger States (out of 17) as core or critical tiger habitat under section 38 V 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 has issued a notification to Parties to submit 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.).

#### **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, *inter alia*, 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**

1. Implementing a tripartite MOU with tiger States, linked to fund flows for effective implementation of tiger conservation initiatives.
2. Rapid assessment of tiger reserves done.
3. Special crack teams sent to tiger reserves affected by left wing extremism and low population status of tiger and its prey.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. Steps taken for modernizing the infrastructure and field protection, besides launching 'M-STripes' for effective field patrolling and monitoring.
7. Steps taken for involvement of Non-Governmental Experts in the ongoing all India tiger estimation.
8. Special independent team sent to Simlipal for assessing the status, besides constituting State level Coordination Committee for redressing the administrative problems.

9. 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.
10. Action taken for amending the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to ensure effective conservation.
11. Initiatives taken for improving the field delivery through capacity building of field officials, apart from providing incentives.
12. Steps taken for the independent monitoring and evaluation of tiger reserves.
13. Action initiated for using Information Technology to strengthen surveillance in tiger reserves.
14. Providing special assistance for mitigation of human-tiger conflicts in problematic areas.
15. As an outcome of the fourth Trans-border Consultative Group Meeting held in New Delhi, a joint resolution has been signed with Nepal for bio-diversity/tiger conservation.

***Statement-II***

*Tiger mortality - Year-wise (during the last three years and the current year)*

*(as reported by States)*

Year	Natural & other causes (Animals)	Poaching (Animals)	Total (Animals)
2008	22	9	31
2009	49	17	66
2010	27	23	50
2011 (as on 22.2.2011)	12	2	14

**Tiger conservation through artiger**

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