

Approval Committee (GEAC) have investigated reports of bio-safety violations by Monsanto in its GM corn cultivation plots in Bijapur, as reported by a Kannada TV channel and an environment organisation;

(b) if so, the details of the investigation report and the action taken by the regulators; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, The Ministry had received a representation from M/s Greenpeace informing that M/s Monsanto India has violated the biosafety norms during GM corn experimental seed production in Bijapur District, Karnataka. To examine the above allegation, the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) had constituted a three-member Inspection Committee. The Inspection Committee jointly with the State Government has completed the inspection on 9th /10th March 2012. The Committee on the basis of material evidence collected through direct interaction with farmers and the State Government officials; and examination of experimental seed production sites and other relevant documents has concluded that it was difficult to ascertain that any violation has taken place.

Tiger zone in Adilabad district of andhra pradesh

4982. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY:

SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has recently notified the Forty-first Tiger Zone of the country in Adilabad district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry is aware that nearly 60,000 adivasis are going to be displaced due to the above notification; and

(d) if so, how the Ministry is going to help them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has notified the Kawal Tiger Reserve in April, 2012, which is the 41st Tiger Reserve in the country.

(c) and (d) Under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, enabling provisions exist

for making the core/critical tiger habitat inviolate only through voluntary relocation of people residing therein. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger has a provision for providing 100% central assistance to States in this regard with an enhanced package of Rs. 10 lakhs per family.

Decrease in population of tigers in the country

4983. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

SHRI N.K. SINGH

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the population of tiger have registered a drastic fall in the last few years;
- (b) if so the reasons therefor and the population of tigers during each of the last three Census, State-wise;
- (c) the details of schemes launched for the protection of these animals;
- (d) whether these schemes have achieved their desired goals; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARJAN): (a) and (b) No Sir. The country level tiger population, estimated once in every four years using the refined methodology, has shown an increasing trend with a population estimate of 1706, lower and upper limits being 1520 and 1909 respectively in the recent all India estimation (2010), as compared to the last country level estimation of 2006, with an estimate of 1411, lower and upper limits being 1165 and 1657 respectively. The landscape-wise details of tiger estimation in the country for the year 2006 and 2010 are given in statement - I (*See* below)

(c) 'Project Tiger' was launched in 1973 to conserve tigers in our country. This is ongoing as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for providing funding support and technical guidance to 17 tiger States for tiger conservation in notified tiger reserves.

(d) and (e) Project Tiger has put the endangered tiger on an assured path of recovery, as revealed in the country level assessment of tiger, co-predators, prey and habitat. The recent (2010) findings in this context indicate a poor status of tiger population in areas outside tiger reserves and protected areas. The tiger population, by and large, in tiger reserves and protected areas of such States are viable, while requiring ongoing conservation efforts. The milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India to protect and foster tiger conservation are given in statement