

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

Statement - I*Details of tiger estimation for the years 2006 and 2010*

State	Tiger Population						Increase/ Decrease/ Stable
	2006			2010			
	Estimate (Number)	Statistical Lower Limit	Statistical Upper Limit	Statistical (Number)	Statistical Lower Limit	Statistical UpperLimit	
Shivalik-Gangetic Plain Landscape Complex							
Uttarakhand	178	161	195	227	199	256	Increase
Uttar Pradesh	109	91	127	118	113	124	Stable
Bihar	10	7	13	8(-)***	(-)**	(-)**	Stable
Shivalik	297	259	335	353	320	388	Stable
Gangetic landscape							
Central Indian Landscape Complex and Eastern Ghats Landscape Complex							
Andhra pradesh	95	84	107	72	65	79	Decrease

Chhattisgarh	26	23	28	26	24	27	Stable
Madhya Pradesh	300	236	364	257	213	301	Stable
Maharashtra	103	76	131	169	155	183	Increase
Odisha	45	37	53	32	20	44	Stable
Rajasthan	32	30	35	36	35	37	Stable
Jharkhand	Not			10	6	14	Could not be assessed compared since it was not assessed in 2006.
Central Indian landscape	601	486	718	601	518	685	Stable

Written Answers to

[22 MAY 2012]

Western Ghats Landscape Complex

Karnataka	290	241	339	300	280	320	Stable
Kerala	46	39	53	71	67	751	increase
Tamil Nadu	76	56	95	163	153	173	Increase

Unstarred Questions

Western Ghats landscape	402	336	487	534	500	568	Increase
North Eastern Hills and Brahmaputra Flood Plains							
Assam	70	60	80	143	113	173	Increase
Arunachal Pradesh	14	12	18	Not assessed	Not assessed	Not assessed	Could not be compared since it was not assessed in 2010.
Mizoram	6	4	8	5(-)***	(-)**	(-)**	Stable
Northern West Bengal	10	8	12	Not assessed	Not assessed	Not assessed	Could not be compared since it was not assessed in 2010.
North East Hills, and Brahmaputra	100	84	118	148	118	178	Increase

62 Written Answers to

[RAJYA SABHA]

Unstarred Questions

landscape

Sundarbans

Not assessed

Not assessed

Not assessed

70

64

90

Could not be
compared
since it was not
assessed in 2006

TOTAL

1411

1165

1657

1706

1520

1909

*** Statistical lower / upper limits could not be ascertained owing to small size of the population.

Written Answers to

[22 MAY 2012]

Unstarred Questions

63

Statement - II

Milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India to protect and foster tiger conservation

legal steps

1. Amendment of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for providing enabling provisions towards constituting 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, *interalia*, 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. The in-principle approval has been accorded by the National Tiger Conservation Authority for creation of five new tiger reserves, and the sites are; Pilibhit (Uttar Pradesh), Ratapani (Madhya Pradesh), Sunabeda (Orissa) and Mukundara Hills (including Darrah, Jawahar Sagar and Chambal Wildlife Sanctuaries) (Rajasthan) and Satyamangalam (Tamil Nadu). Final approval has been accorded to Kudremukh

(Karnataka) for declaring as a Tiger Reserve. 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) Guru Ghasidas National park (Chhattisgarh), (v) Mhadei Sanctuary (Goa) and (vi) Srivilliputhur Grizzled Giant Squirrel / Magamalai Wildlife Sanctuaries / Varushanadu Valley (Tamil Nadu).

7. The revised Project Tiger guidelines has 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 benchmarks for future tiger conservation strategy.
9. An area of 33472.01 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 of Valmiki Tiger Reserve.

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 trade of 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 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

and 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. During the year 2011-12, an amount of Rs. 3 crores has been provided to the Similipal Tiger Reserve for raising, arming and deploying the STPF.

18. In collaboration with TRAFFIC-INDIA, an online tiger crime data base has been launched, 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 States having tiger reserves affected by left wing extremism and low population status of tiger and its prey addressed for taking special initiatives.
5. Steps taken for modernizing the infrastructure and field protection, besides launching 'M-STRIPLES' for effective field patrolling and monitoring.
6. Steps taken for involvement of Non-Governmental Experts in the ongoing all India tiger estimation.
7. Initiatives taken for improving the field delivery through capacity building of field officials, apart from providing incentives.
8. Action initiated for using Information Technology to strengthen surveillance in tiger reserve.
9. The second round of country level tiger status assessment completed in 2010, with the findings indicating an increase with a tiger population estimate of 1706, lower and upper limits being 1520 and 1909 respectively, as compared to the last country level estimation of 2006, with an estimate of 1411, lower and upper limits being 1165 and 1657.

respectively.

10. The second round of independent assessment of Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Tiger Reserves done in 2010-11 for 39 tiger reserve based on globally used framework.
11. Increase in the allocation for Project Tiger with additional components.
12. Providing special assistance for mitigation of human-tiger conflicts in problematic areas.
13. 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.
14. Regional Offices of the National Tiger Conservation Authority sanctioned at Nagpur, Bengaluru and Guwahati.
15. Launching of Phase-IV tiger reserve level monitoring.
16. A protocol on conservation of the Royal Bengal Tiger of the Sundarban signed between India and Bangladesh in September, 2011.

Environmental clearance to hydro-power projects in the Country

4984. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of environmental clearance given to various projects particularly hydro-power projects including projects pending for clearance and already rejected in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of criterion fixed and practices being adopted by Government towards issuing environmental clearance particularly to a project, wherein impact assessment are made; and

(c) the details of policies being adopted by Government and criterion fixed for issuing the environmental clearance inspite of their impact on environment and resulting in Global Warming and Climate Change?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) A total of 1878 projects from various sectors including 18 projects from hydropower sector have been given environmental clearance by the Ministry of Environment and Forests during last three years from January, 2009 to December, 2011. A total of 417 projects are pending