

Indian Wildlife Business Council

1757. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:.

(a) whether the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and the World Bank have signed an MoU to establish the Indian Wildlife Business Council to promote tiger and biodiversity conservation for sustainable development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the initiative comes against the backdrop of dwindling tiger population as there are just about 3000 tigers in the wild now;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether bringing private sector into this effort will infuse new ideas and new resources will serve as a powerful instrument of change?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (e) It is learnt that the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and the Global Tiger Initiative have signed a MoU to establish the Indian Wildlife Business Council to promote tiger and biodiversity conservation for sustainable development. Details are not available as the Government of India is not a signatory of the said MoU.

Conservation of House Sparrows

1758. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that population of House Sparrows (*passer domesticus*) is fast dwindling, disappearing and facing extinction globally including India since last few years;

(b) whether any effort have been made to list this bird in the schedule of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972; and

(c) the details of the action taken by Government to protect House Sparrow and to increase its population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) Studies carried out by Research Organizations and NGO's including Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology, Coimbatore and Bombay Natural History Society, indicate a decline in population of house sparrows in India.