

Counting of birds and animals

2329. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA:

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

- (a) the procedure adopted by the department to identify the forest cover area and how frequently the survey is conducted and the latest figure;
- (b) whether the counting of birds and animals in the forest is accurate; and
- (c) if so, the latest figure of species of tigers, lions, elephants, leopards and birds in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) The Forest Survey of India is entrusted with the mandate of forest cover mapping of the country and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR) biennially. The assessment of forest cover is done using Digital Image Processing (DIP) technique by interpretation of Indian Remote Sensing satellite data. The forest cover includes all lands having trees with canopy density of more than ten percent (10%) over the areas one hectare and more irrespective of its land use. State/Union Territory-wise details of forest cover as per ISFR 2011 are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) The census of major species like tiger, lion and elephant are undertaken periodically by the concerned State Governments based on scientific protocols available and the possibility of variation in population estimates cannot be ruled out.

(c) As per the information available in the Ministry, the population of Lions, Tigers and Elephants estimated in the last census operation undertaken is as follows:

Species	Population estimate as per the last census	The last Census operation undertaken during the year
Tiger	1706	2010
Lion	411	2010
Elephant	27694	2007-08

The population estimate of leopard and birds are not collected in the Ministry.

Statement*State/Union Territory-wise details of forest cover as per ISFR 2011;*

(Area in sq. km.)

State/UT	Geog. Area	Forest Cover in 2011				Forest cover as percentage of geographical area (%)
		Very Dense Forest	Mod. Dense Forest	Open Forest	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	275069	850	26242	19297	46389	16.86
Arunachal Pradesh	83743	20868	31519	15023	67410	80.50
Assam	78438	1444	11404	14825	27673	35.28
Bihar	94163	231	3280	3334	6845	7.27
Chhattisgarh	135191	4163	34911	16600	55674	41.18
Delhi	1483	7	49	120	176	11.87
Goa	3702	543	585	1091	2219	59.94
Gujarat	196022	376	5231	9012	14619	7.46
Haryana	44212	27	457	1124	1608	3.64
Himachal Pradesh	55673	3224	6381	5074	14679	26.37
Jammu and Kashmir	222236	4140	8760	9639	22539	10.14
Jharkhand	79714	2590	9917	10470	22977	28.82
Karnataka	191791	1777	20179	14238	36194	18.87
Kerala	38863	1442	9394	6464	17300	44.52
Madhya Pradesh	308245	6640	34986	36074	77700	25.21
Maharashtra	307713	8736	20815	21095	50646	16.46
Manipur	22327	730	6151	10209	17090	76.54

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Meghalaya	22429	433	9775	7067	17275	77.02
Mizoram	21081	134	6086	12897	19117	90.68
Nagaland	16579	1293	4931	7094	13318	80.33
Odisha	155707	7060	21366	20477	48903	31.41
Punjab	50362	0	736	1028	1764	3.50
Rajasthan	342239	72	4448	11567	16087	4.70
Sikkim	7096	500	2161	698	3359	47.34
Tamil Nadu	130058	2948	10321	10356	23625	18.16
Tripura	10486	109	4686	3182	7977	76.07
Uttar Pradesh	240928	1626	4559	8153	14338	5.95
Uttarakhand	53483	4762	14167	5567	24496	45.80
West Bengal	88752	2984	4646	5365	12995	14.64
Andman and Nicobar Islands	8249	3761	2416	547	6724	81.51
Chandigarh	114	1	10	6	17	14.91
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	491	0	114	97	211	42.97
Daman and Diu	112	0	0.62	5.53	6	5.36
Lakshadweep	32	0	17.18	9.88	27	84.37
Puducherry	480	0	35.37	14.69	50	10.42
GRAND TOTAL	3287263	83471	320736	287820	692027	21.05