

Modernization of tiger protection mechanism in the country

171. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite high tech initiative for modernizing tiger protection mechanism in the country, the cases of tiger poaching have increased more than double since 2011;

(b) if so, the details of cases of tiger poaching for the last three years along with reasons therefor, State-wise; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by Government to stop tiger poaching in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) The details of tiger mortality, as reported by States during the last three years, State-wise with reasons, are given in Statement - I (*See below*).

(c) The milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India for protection of tiger and other wildlife are given Statement - II

Statement - I

Details of tiger mortality, as reported by States, during last three years

Sl. No.	State	2010		2011		2012	
						(as on 31.12.2012)	
		Poaching including seizure	Natural and other causes	Poaching including seizure	Natural and other causes	Poaching/ Under Scrutiny including seizure	Natural and other causes
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	1	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Assam	2	6	3	3	3	3
4.	Bihar	1	0	0	1	0	1
5.	Chhattisgarh	2	0	2	0	1	0
6.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Karnataka	5	2	3	3	10	4
8.	Kerala	2	1	1	3	4	1
9.	Madhya Pradesh	3	5	0	5	10	5
10.	Maharashtra	5	3	4	2	9	4
11.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0
12.	Odisha	0	0	0	1	1	0
13.	Rajasthan	3	1	0	1	1	0
14.	Tamil Nadu	2	2	0	3	6	2
15.	Uttarakhand	1	4	2	0	6	6
16.	Uttar Pradesh	1	1	1	15	5	1
17.	West Bengal	1	0	0	0	1	2
18.	Haryana	0	0	0	3	1	0
19.	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		28	25	16	40	59	29

Statement - II

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

Legal steps

1. Amendment of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 in 2006 to provide enabling provisions for constituting the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau.
2. Enhancement of punishment for offence in relation to the core area of a tiger reserve or where the offence relate to hunting in the tiger reserves or altering the boundaries of tiger reserves, etc.

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 or home guards, apart from workforce comprising of local people, in addition to strengthening of communication and wireless facilities.
 4. Constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority with effect from the 4th September, 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 multidisciplinary Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau) with effect from the 6th June, 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
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sites are:, Pilibhit (Uttar Pradesh), Ratapani (Madhya Pradesh) Sunabeda (Odisha), Mukundara Hills (including Darrah, Jawahar Sagar and Chambai Wildlife Sanctuaries) (Rajasthan) and Satyamangalam (Tamil Nadu). Final approval has been accorded to Kudremukh (Karnataka) for declaring as a tiger reserve. The State Governments 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/ Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuaries/Varushanad Valley (Tamil Nadu).

7. The revised Project Tiger guidelines have been issued to State Governments for strengthening tiger conservation, which apart from ongoing activities, *inter alia*, include financial support to States for enhanced village relocation or rehabilitation package for people living in core or critical tiger habitats (from Rs. 1 lakh per family to Rs. 10 lakhs per family), rehabilitation or 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 and assessment are benchmarks for future tiger conservation strategy.
9. The 17 tiger States have notified the core/critical tiger habitat (35123.9547 sq. km.) and the buffer/peripheral area (28750.73421 sq.km.) of all the 41 tiger reserve in the country, under section 38V of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006.

Financial steps

10. Financial and technical help is provided to the State Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, such as Project Tiger and Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the State Governments for providing effective protection to wild animals.

International Cooperation

11. India has a bilateral understanding with Nepal on controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife and conservation, apart from a protocol on tiger conservation with China.
 12. A protocol has been signed in September, 2011 with Bangladesh for conservation of the Royal Bengal Tiger of the Sunderban.
 13. A sub-group on tiger and leopard conservation has been constituted for cooperation with the Russian Federation.
 14. A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.
 15. During the 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties of 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 direction to Parties with operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale, for restricting such captive populations to a level supportive only a 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.
 16. Based on India's strong intervention during the 62nd meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) at Geneva from 23-27 July, 2012, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora Secretariat has issued a notification No. 2012/054 dated the 3rd September, 2012 to Parties to fully implement Decision 14.69 and report to the Secretariat by 25 September, 2012 (Progress made on restricting captive breeding operations of tigers etc.)
 17. As a part of active management to rebuild Sariska and Panna Tiger Reserves where tigers have become locally extinct, reintroduction of tigers and tigresses have been done. The successful reintroduction of
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wild tigers in Sariska is a unique exercise and is the first of its kind in the world. A reintroduced tigress has recently littered and two cubs have also been camera trapped. The tiger reintroduction initiative at Panna (MP) has also been very successful and reintroduced tigers are breeding.

18. 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)

19. The policy initiatives announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech of the 29th February, 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 (STPF), the proposal for the said force has been approved by the competent authority for 13 tiger reserves. The States of Karnataka and Maharashtra have already created and deployed the STPF.
20. 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

21. Implementing a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with tiger States, linked to fund flows for effective implementation of tiger conservation initiatives.
22. Special crack teams sent to tiger reserves affected by left wing extremism and low population status of tiger and its prey.
23. 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.
24. Steps taken for modernizing the infrastructure and field protection,

besides launching 'Monitoring system for Tigers' Intensive Protection and Ecological Status (M-STrIPES)' for effective field patrolling and monitoring.

25. Steps taken for involvement of Non-Governmental Experts in the ongoing all India tiger estimation.
26. Initiatives taken for improving the field delivery through capacity building of field officials, apart from providing incentives.
27. 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. At present, India has the maximum number of tigers and its source areas amongst the 13 tiger range countries in the world, owing to its long history of conserving the species through Project Tiger (2% of country's geographical area spread out in 41 tiger reserves in 17 States).
28. A report on Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of Tiger Reserves was released on 28th July, 2011, containing the second round of independent assessment based on refined criteria done in 2010-11 for 39 tiger reserves. Out of 39 tiger reserves, 15 were rated as 'very good', 12 as 'good', 8 as 'satisfactory' and 4 as 'poor'.
29. Providing special assistance for mitigation of human-tiger conflicts in problematic areas.
30. Regional Offices of the National Tiger Conservation Authority sanctioned at Nagpur, Bengaluru and Guwahati.
31. A 'Standard Operating Procedure' for dealing with tiger deaths has been issued, based on advisories of Project Tiger/National Tiger Conservation Authority, with inputs from Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, State officials and experts, fine tuned to meet the present challenges.
32. A 'Standard Operating Procedure' for dealing with straying tigers in human dominated landscape has been issued.

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33. The Revised Cost Estimates for Project Tiger was approved on 11.8.2011 for an upward revision of the cost estimates for the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger during the XIth Plan period from 650 crore to Rs. 1216.86 crore of central assistance to support States in village relocation from core areas of tiger reserves. Several new components were added to the Project, viz.:
- (i) Change in the funding pattern in respect of North Eastern States (90:10)
 - (ii) Raising compensation for man-animal conflict to Rs. 2 lakhs
 - (iii) Acquisition of private land for making the core/critical tiger habitat inviolate
 - (iv) Establishment of Tiger Safari, interpretation/awareness centres under the existing component of 'co-existence agenda in buffer/fringe areas', and management of such centres through the respective Panchayati Raj Institutions
 - (v) Re-introduction of Cheetah
34. Launching of Phase-IV tiger reserve level, continuous monitoring of tigers using camera traps and building up data on photo captures of individual tigers.
35. Launching the creation of a national repository of camera trap photo IDs of individual tigers.
36. Notification of the Kawal Tiger Reserve in Andhra Pradesh.
37. In-principle approval for use of CAMPA funds towards village relocation from core areas.
38. Completion of e-surveillance project in Corbett.
39. Comprehensive guidelines under section 380 1 (c) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 issued for Project Tiger and Tourism in Tiger Reserves on 15th October, 2012.
40. Under active management, permission accorded for translocation of two
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tigresses from Ranthambhore to Sariska (Rajasthan), besides on straying sub-adult male tiger from Panna to Satpura (Madhya Pradesh).

41. A bilateral arrangement has been recently formalized with Bangladesh on tiger conservation. Our delegations are interacting with Nepal and China within the framework of existing bilateral arrangements. A sub-group on tiger/leopard conservation has been constituted for cooperation with the Russian Federation, which has met recently.
 42. Field level workshops for capacity building of field officers to deal with straying tigers have been organized at Tadoba and Dudhwa Tiger Reserves (2013).
 43. NTCA teams sent for field appraisal of tiger deals, Project Tiger implementation etc.
 44. Process underway for providing enabling provisions in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, to strengthen our implementation of the CITES and towards enhancement of penalties for contravention of provisions of the Act.
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**Pending proposals of Defence establishments in
Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

172. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of proposals sent by Defence establishments in Andaman and Nicobar (Andaman and Nicobar) islands which are waiting for environmental clearances;
- (b) the details of all such proposals pending for such clearances;
- (c) the details of such proposals which stand rejected along with the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details of steps Government contemplates to ensure early sanctions and review of rejected clearances of this strategic sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) The proposal for