

Uttarakhand, women are playing an important role in protection of civil forests, as they are aware about the role of forests in soil and water conservation as well as for providing fuel and fodder, Women self help groups (SHGs) have been formed in the villages, which are raising nurseries and taking other forestry activities. 50% of the Van Panchayat Sarpanch are reserved for women as per Van Panchayat Niyamawali, 2005.

Environmental clearance to projects in three weeks

† 2814. SHRI PRABHAT JHA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has recently given environmental clearance to 74 pending projects within three weeks; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the reasons for giving environmental clearance to so many pending projects simultaneously, and the reasons for keeping these projects pending earlier?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has accorded environment clearance to 49 projects in the month of January, 2014. The environment clearance is granted as per the procedure prescribed under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, as amended. The receipt of proposals for environment clearance, processing of the same as per the prescribed procedure and taking an appropriate view thereupon is a continuing process. During the year 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 (upto January, 2014), environment clearances were given to 496, 466 and 338 projects respectively.

Decreasing number of tigers

† 2815. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR :

DR. VIJAYLAXMI SADHO :

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

(a) whether the number of tigers is decreasing in the country, if so, the reasons therefor;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the situation of tigers in Madhya Pradesh;

(c) the steps taken by Government for conservation of the tiger throughout the country especially in Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) the information available with Government about poaching of tiger and the action being taken by Government thereon and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) and (b) The country level tiger population, assessed 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 assessment of 2010, as compared to the last country level assessment of 2006, with an estimate of 1411, lower and upper limits being 1165 and 1657 respectively. In the said assessment of 2010, the tiger population in Madhya Pradesh was estimated as 257, with lower and upper values being 213 and 301 respectively, which is lower than the 2006 estimation, of the said State with an estimate of 300, the lower and upper values being 236 and 364 respectively. The details of tiger estimation for the years 2006 and 2010, *inter-alia* including Madhya Pradesh, are given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(c) The milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India for conservation and protection of tigers in the country, *inter-alia*, including those for the State of Madhya Pradesh also are given in Statement-II (*See below*).

(d) The National Tiger Conservation Authority treats every case of tiger death as poaching unless proved otherwise. The details of tiger mortality during last and current years, as reported by States, are given in Statement-III (*See below*). Since the day to day management of tiger reserves, including protection, is done by States, details of action taken on individual cases of poaching are not collated at the Government of India level. The steps taken to control poaching are given in Statement-IV (*See below*).

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	Estimate (Number)	Statistical Lower Limit	Statistical Upper Limit	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<i>Shivalik-Gangetic Plain Landscape Complex</i>							
Uttarakhand	1/8	161	195	227	199	256	Increase
Uttar Pradesh	109	91	127	118	113	124	Stable
Bihar	10	7	13	8 (-)***	(-)**	(-)**	Stable
Shivalik-Gangetic landscape	297	259	335	353	320	388	Stable
<i>Central Indian Landscape Complex and Eastern Ghats Landscape Complex</i>							
Andhra Pradesh	95	84	107	72	65	79	Decrease
Chhattisgarh	26	23	28	26	24	27	Stable

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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 assessed	-	-	10	6	14	Could not be compared since it was not assessed in 2006.
Central Indian landscape	601	486	718	601	518	685	Stable
<i>Western Ghats Landscape Complex</i>							
Karnataka	290	241	339	300	280	320	Stable
Kerala	46	39	53	71	67	75	Increase

114 Written Answers to

[RAJYA SABHA]

Unstarred Questions

Tamil Nadu	76	56	95	163	153	173	Increase	Written Answers to [20 FEB., 2014]
Western Ghats landscape	402	336	487	534	500	568	Increase	
<i>North-Eastern Hills and Brahmaputra Flood Plains</i>								
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.	Unstarred Questions

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
North East Hills, and Brahmaputra landscape	100	84	118	148	118	178	Increase
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.

116 Written Answers to

[RAJYA SABHA]

Unstarred Questions

Statement-II

Milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India for conservation and protection of tigers in the country, inter-alia, including for the State of Madhya Pradesh

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 three new tiger reserves, and the sites are: Pilibhit (Uttar Pradesh), Ratapani (Madhya Pradesh) and Sunabeda (Odisha). Final approval has been accorded to Kudremukh (Karnataka) and Rajaji (Uttarakhand) 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) Guru Ghasidas National Park (Chhattisgarh), (iv) Mhadei Sanctuary (Goa) and (v) Srivilliputhur Grizzled Giant Squirrel/ Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuaries/Varushanadu 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 (36988.28 sq. km.), and the buffer/peripheral area (29789.06 sq.km.) of all the 44 tiger reserves 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 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 direction 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 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 Mo. 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 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 44 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 are operational 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.
33. A 'Standard Operating Procedure' for disposing tiger/leopard carcass/body parts has been issued.
34. 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 Eleventh 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
35. Launching of Phase-IV tiger reserve level, continuous monitoring of tigers using camera traps and building up data on photo captures of individual tigers.
36. Launching the creation of a national repository of camera trap photo IDs of individual tigers.
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 tigresses from Ranthambhore to Sariska (Rajasthan), besides one straying sub-adult male tiger from Panna to Satpura (Madhya Pradesh), and one straying tiger from Pilibhit to Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (Uttar 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 deaths, 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.
45. Kawal (Andhra Pradesh), Sathyamangalam (Tamil Nadu), Mukandra Hills (Darrah, Jawahar Sagar and Chambal Wildlife Sanctuaries) (Rajasthan) and Nawegaon-Nagzira (Maharashtra) have been notified by the State Governments as Tiger Reserve.
46. Action has been initiated for the next round (2014) of country level status assessment of tiger, co-predators, prey and habitat, using the refined methodology, in collaboration with tiger States and the Wildlife Institute of India.
47. Action has been initiated for the next round (2014) of Independent Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Tiger Reserves.

Statement-III*Details of tiger mortality during last year and current year, as reported by States*

Sl.No.	State	Inside Tiger Reserve			Total	Outside Tiger Reserve			Total	Grand Total
		Cases under scrutiny	Poaching Including seizure	Natural and other causes		Cases under scrutiny	Poaching Including seizure	Natural and other causes		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1. 2013 (As on 31.12.2013)										
1.	Assam	5	1	0	6	2	0	0	2	8
2.	Karnataka	10	1	0	11	2	2	0	4	15
3.	Kerala	0	0	0	0	4	1	1	6	6
4.	Madhya Pradesh	6	1	2	9	0	1	0	1	10
5.	Maharashtra	0	3	0	3	5	0	3	8	11
6.	Odisha	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
7.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	2

8. Uttarakhand	1	0	0	1	7	1	0	8	9
9. Utttar Pradesh	1	2	0	3	0	1	0	1	4
10. West Bengal	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
11. Rajasthan	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	25	8	3	36	21	6	5	32	68

Written Answers to

Note : 18 Kg. approximately tiger bones were seized in Delhi (07.09.2013) by a team of Forest Department officials from Maharashtra, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau and Delhi Police.

2. 2014 (*As on* 17.02.2014)

1. Andhra Pradesh	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
2. Madhya Pradesh	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
3. Maharashtra	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
4. Tamil Nadu	3	0	0	3	2	0	0	2	4
TOTAL	8	0	0	8	2	0	0	2	10

[20 FEB., 2014]

Unstarred Questions 125

Statement-IV*Steps taken to control poaching*

- Alerting the States as and when required
- Transmitting backward/forward linkages of information relating to poachers
- Advising the States for combing forest floor to check snares/traps
- Performing supervisory field visits through the National Tiger Conservation Authority and its regional offices
- Providing assistance to States for antipoaching operations
- Using information technology for improved surveillance (e-Eye system) using thermal cameras launched in Corbett
- Launching tiger reserve level monitoring using camera trap to keep a photo ID database of individual tigers
- Preparing a national database of individual tiger photo captures to establish linkage with body parts served or dead tigers
- Assisting States to refine protection in some tiger reserves, on a pilot basis, through a customized monitoring system for tiger's intensive protection and ecological status (M-STriPES)
- Providing grant through NTCA for patrolling in tiger rich sensitive forest areas outside some tiger reserves
- Assisting States to deploy local workforce in a big way for protection to complement the efforts of field staff
- Supporting States for raising, arming and deploying the Special Tiger Protection Force