

44. Economic Valuation of some tiger reserves initiated in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Forest Management.
45. Trial of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle for monitoring done in the Panna Tiger Reserve (Madhya Pradesh), in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India.
46. Assessment of Status, Density and Change in Forest Cover in and around tiger reserves of the Shivalik Gangetic Plain Landscape initiated in collaboration with the Forest Survey of India.
47. A Standard Operating Procedure has been issued to deal with orphaned/abandoned tiger cubs and old/injured tigers in the wild.
48. Central assistance (100%) has been provided for installing 24X7 e-surveillance at Kaziranga Tiger Reserve (Assam) and fringe of Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary (Madhya Pradesh).
49. A Rhino Task Force has been created for suggesting measures to strengthen rhino protection in the Kaziranga Tiger Reserve.
50. In-principle approval has been accorded for creation of Rhino Protection Force.
51. Initiative taken for supporting annual 'Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Tiger Reserves' by States.
52. Initiative taken for collaboration with National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) towards evolving an alert system in tiger reserves prone to natural disasters.
53. A joint report with Nepal has been brought out on the assessment of tiger status in the terai arc landscape.
54. Initiative taken for collaboration of National Tiger Conservation Authority and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau towards an online tiger/wildlife crime tracking/reporting system in tiger reserves.

Reason for natural disaster in Jammu and Kashmir

†2867. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether one of the crucial reasons for natural disaster in Jammu and Kashmir is also rapid cutting of forests and silting in the river-beds;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and if so, the full details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the details of Government's schemes to avoid such disasters, through the Department of Forests and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) No report detailing the reasons for natural disaster in Jammu and Kashmir is available with the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. However, as per report received from the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, the State faced floods in the first week of September, 2014. A number of reasons can be attributed to this natural calamity, including high rainfall in the catchment areas over a short period of time, less capacity of drainage system of the area.

As per the India State of Forest Report 2013, there is decrease of only one square kilometre of forest cover with respect to 2011 assessment.

(c) The State/UT Forest Departments are taking number of steps for prevention, conservation and improving the forest cover under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes as well as State funded Schemes.

Relation between India and Pakistan

2868. DR. T.N. SEEMA:

DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's current policy regarding Pakistan has helped Pakistan to 'internationalize' the Kashmir dispute;

(b) if so, the details and the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether a large section of international media has reported that the relations between India and Pakistan have deteriorated sharply in recent weeks;

(d) if so, the reasons and the reaction of Government thereto;

(e) whether various bilateral agreements signed between India and Pakistan in the recent years has been violated from the Pakistani side; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ):

(a) to (f) Government is aware of Pakistan's attempt to spread anti-India propaganda at