

**Conversion of wetlands of Maharashtra into Ramsar sites**

339. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Maharashtra has send any proposal to the Ministry for converting many important wetlands of Maharashtra into Ramsar sites; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) The State Government of Maharashtra had sent proposals to this Ministry in February, 2014 for declaring two wetlands in the State, namely Nandur Madhmeshwar Bird Sanctuary and Jaikwadi Bird Sanctuary as Ramsar sites. The proposals, not in conformity with the guidelines of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and also not having approval of the State Level Steering Committee on wetlands, have been returned to the State Government.

**Success of Tiger Conservation Project**

340. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tiger conservation project is success;

(b) if so, the present tiger population and the percentage of increase, State-wise;

(c) the forest corridors available to enable free movement of tigers in the forest the details thereof, State-wise;

(d) in view of increase in tiger population the State-wise details of actual forest area under effective protection required for tiger conservation; and

(e) the action taken to increase the forest area under effective protection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The assessment of the status of tigers, co-predators and their prey 2014 using the refined methodology has shown a countrywide 30% increase in tiger numbers with an estimated number of 2226 (range 1945-2491) as compared to 2010 estimation [1706 (1520-1909 tigers)]. The details of tiger estimation pertaining to tiger landscapes in the country, for the years 2010 and 2014 are given in the Statement-I (See below).

(c) The forest corridors have been identified based on All India Tiger Estimation 2006, 2010 and 2014 in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India