

and not “Special Rhino Protection Force (SRPF)”. However, in September 2014, the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, during his visit to the Kaziranga Tiger Reserve, took six decisions which *inter alia* included constitution of a Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) comprising of 112 personnel (One Assistant Conservator of Forests, three Range Officers, and 108 Forest Guards), with 100% Central Assistance of ₹ 3.72 crores, at that point of time. This included a one-time assistance of ₹ 1.85 crores for raising new establishment including infrastructure and vehicles, and a perpetual assistance of ₹ 1.87 crores for salaries of the said personnel and recurring maintenance costs. The said decision was followed by a letter to the Chief Minister, Assam by the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, in November 2014. Subsequently, the National Tiger Conservation Authority has sent several reminders to the State Authorities, despite which, the State is yet to constitute the said force.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. A revolving fund with a corpus of ₹ 20.00 lakhs has been approved by the Government of India which shall be recouped on a case to case basis and has been institutionalized as a health insurance mechanism for forest guards of the Kaziranga Tiger Reserve.

Guidelines for protection of tiger corridors

1642. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is working on guidelines to protect tiger corridors;

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

(c) whether there are any tiger corridors identified that fall within Tamil Nadu;

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

(e) what are the steps being taken by Government to conserve the existing tiger corridors;

(f) whether Government intends to take any steps to acquire land to increase these tiger corridors; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has identified 32 vital tiger corridors at the macro (landscape) level which are further delineated at a finer (tiger reserve)

level by concerned State authorities, in spirit of Section 380(1) (g) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The Tiger Conservation Plan, a legally mandated document under Section 38 V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, *inter alia* has three parts—core, buffer and corridor/adjoining area plan, wherein management prescriptions are proposed to conserve the said areas.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Corridors falling in Tamil Nadu are as follows:

- (i) Nagarahole-Bandipur-Mudumalai-Wayanad (Erode and Nilgiris district).
- (ii) Mudumalai-Mukurthi-Silent valley (Nilgiris district)
- (iii) Periyar-Mathikettan corridor (Theni district)
- (iv) Mathikettan Shola National Park-Pambadum Shola National Park-Anamudi Shola National Park corridor (Dindigul and Theni district)
- (v) Kalakkad-Mudanthurai-Periyar corridor (Tirunelveli district)

(e) As at (a) and (b) above.

(f) and (g) If the situation demands, States may propose acquisition of such lands through funding support either from their own budget or through demand from centre.

Remote earth sensing for measuring climate change

1643. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to have remote earth sensing for establishing a strong database for measuring climate change; and

(b) whether any study has been carried out by Government to assess the impact of such database for prevention and control of global warming in Indian region and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), Department of Space has formulated a programme, namely, National Information System for Climate and Environment Studies (NICES) at National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Hyderabad in September 2012 to build information base on geophysical variables derived from earth observation satellites and ground based measurements pertaining to land, ocean and atmosphere. Under NICES programme, various land, ocean and atmosphere related variables are generated at regular intervals.

The Government has taken several steps to meet the challenges arising from climate change. The Government launched National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) in 2008 with eight missions in specific areas of energy efficiency, solar