

Further, this Ministry had published the draft notification to declare Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs) of the Western Ghats region on 10.03.2014 with a contiguous area of 56825 square kilometres spread over six States, namely Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra and Gujarat. The draft notification has provision to prohibit certain projects and activities in eco-sensitive areas of Western Ghats that has maximum interventionist and damaging impacts on the Western Ghats eco-system. Later, addressing the concerns/apprehensions expressed by various stakeholders, the draft notification was re-published on 04.09.2015.

During the meeting of the Members of Parliament of the Western Ghats region held on 11.08.2016, it was acknowledged that different States have problem of different types and those need to be addressed accordingly. The draft notification dated 04.09.2015 would be the basis for further discussion for proceeding forward through a consultative process.

Accordingly, this Ministry has re-published the draft notification on the ESA of the Western Ghats region on 27.02.2017 for seeking stakeholders comments. Also, the States of the Western Ghats have been intimated to provide their final views/recommendation along with necessary maps for consideration and finalisation.

Increase in tiger deaths

4186. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of tiger deaths reported in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the reasons for continuous increase in the number of tiger deaths during the last several years; and

(c) the preventive steps taken by Government to stop rampant poaching of tigers in the country for its skin and bones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE): (a) Details of total number of tiger deaths reported in the country during the last three years, year-wise, as reported by States are given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) Analysis of tiger mortalities taken place in the country during the last three years due to poaching excluding seizures, shows that the average number of tiger deaths due to confirmed poaching is 9 and the confirmed poaching case in 2016 is 12, which is marginally high. Reports of poaching incidences appear to be slightly

high because of more seizures resulting from the concerted efforts of the NTCA/ Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), field formations under the State Governments and other intelligence and enforcement agencies. While in the year 2014 and 2015, 10 and 12 seizures were made respectively, the number of seizures in 2016 went up to 22.

(c) Details of preventive steps taken by Government of India through the National Tiger Conservation Authority, to stop rampant poaching of tigers in the country for its skin and bones, are given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

Details of number of tiger deaths reported in the country during the last three years, year-wise, as reported by States

| Sl. No. | States | 2014 | | | 2015 | | | 2016 | | |
|---------|-------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | | Under Scrutiny | Confirmed poaching including seizure | Natural and other cases | Under Scrutiny | Confirmed poaching including seizure | Natural and other cases | Under Scrutiny | Confirmed poaching including seizure | Natural and other cases |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 3. | Assam | 5 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| 4. | Bihar | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 6. | Delhi | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 7. | Jharkhand | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8. | Karnataka | 2 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 11 | 4 | 3 | 10 |
| 9. | Kerala | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| 10. | Madhya Pradesh | 0 | 3 | 13 | 0 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 18 |
| 11. | Maharashtra | 1 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 8 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
|-------------|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|
| 12. | Mizoram | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 13. | Nagaland | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 14. | Odisha | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 15. | Rajasthan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| 16. | Tamil Nadu | 3 | 4 | 10 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 2 |
| 17. | Uttarakhand | 0 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 3 |
| 18. | Uttar Pradesh | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 19. | West Bengal | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 20. | Goa | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 21. | Telangana | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| TOTAL | | 14 | 19 | 46 | 13 | 21 | 47 | 42 | 31 | 48 |
| GRAND TOTAL | | 79 | | | 81 | | | 121 | | |

Statement-II

Details of preventive steps taken by Government of India through the National Tiger Conservation Authority, to stop rampant poaching of tigers in the country for its skin and bones

- Providing assistance to States under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of “Project Tiger” for protection, infrastructure and antipoaching operations (including deployment of Tiger Protection Force and Special Tiger Protection Force).
- Providing grant through NTCA for patrolling in tiger rich sensitive forest areas outside tiger reserves.
- 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.
- Using information technology for improved surveillance (e-Eye system) using thermal cameras.
- 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 seized or dead tigers.
- Assisting States to refine protection oriented monitoring through Monitoring System for Tigers Intensive Protection and Ecological Status (M-STrIPES).
- Assisting States to deploy local workforce in a big way for protection to complement the efforts of field staff [In all, approximately 25 lakh mandays are generated annually with 50% Central assistance amounting to around ₹ 25 crores (excluding matching 50% share given by States) under Project Tiger. Many local tribes constitute such local workforce (besides non-tribals), eg. Baigas, Gonds in Madhya Pradesh, Gonds in Maharashtra, Chenchus in Andhra Pradesh, Sholigas in Karnataka, Gujjars in Uttarakhand and Irulas in Tamil Nadu to name a few.
- 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 and to coordinate with INTERPOL for checking trans-border trade of wildlife products.

- Raising, arming and deploying of Special Rhino Protection Force in the lines of Special Tiger Protection Force for Kaziranga Tiger Reserve.
- Insurance/Corpus fund for staff of Kaziranga Tiger Reserve.
- Motivating tiger reserve administration/tiger States to ensure conviction of criminals through pursuance of cases in different courts.
- Bilateral co-operation with neighbouring countries like Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan.
- Sharing of information on seizure of body parts including skin of tigers among tiger range countries to ascertain source area. India made a proposal in this regard in CITES CoP-17 in Johannesburg which was agreed by member countries.

Organised mechanism to manage e-waste in the country

4187. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the E-Waste (Management) Rules provide for setting up of organized mechanism to manage e-waste in the country;

(b) if so, the number of producers of electronic goods and the mechanism for recycling of e-waste so far; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for having efficient mechanism for collection and disposal of about two lakh tonnes of e-waste generated annually in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE): (a) and (b) E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016 provides for organised mechanism to manage e-waste which includes revised Extended Producers' Responsibility (EPR) to set up Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs), to start Deposit Refund Scheme (DRS) by producers and to establish e-waste exchange to facilitate collection, storage and recycling of e-waste. CPCB has reported the receipt of 170 applications from producers for authorisation of EPRs. The combined recycling capacity of 178 dismantling and recycling units in the country is 4.38 lakh tons per annum.

(c) The policy framework for environmentally sound management of e-waste is laid down in E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016 which was notified in March, 2016. The provisions of these rules include expanded producers' responsibility, financial incentives through DRS, setting up of e-waste exchange to ensure collection and disposal of e-waste efficiently, specific responsibility upon bulk