

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 370
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.02.2025

Incidents of tiger deaths in Odisha

370 SHRI MUZIBULLA KHAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of tigers killed in Odisha in the last five years due to poaching and the number of tigers that died due to natural causes;
- (b) the exact current number of tigers in Odisha as per the latest available data; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to curb poaching and ensure the safety and conservation of tigers in Odisha?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a) As reported by the State, the details of tiger deaths in the last five years and the current year, are as under:-

Year	Poaching	Natural	Cause of Death
2020	-	-	-
2021	-	-	-
2022	1	-	Seizure
2023	-	1	Infighting
2024	-	-	-
2025 (as on 28.1.2025)	1	-	Seizure

- (b) As per the All India Tiger Estimation done in 2022, the current number of tigers in Odisha is 20.
- (c) The steps taken by the Government of India through the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for conservation and protection of tigers is as under:-

1. Generic measures

- 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), which is now ongoing as the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger & Elephant

- Providing grant through NTCA for patrolling in tiger rich sensitive forest areas outside tiger reserves besides under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger & Elephant
- Disseminating of real time information of backward / forward linkages relating to poachers / wildlife criminals.
- Performing supervisory field visits through the National Tiger Conservation Authority and its regional offices
- 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 deploy local workforce in a big way for protection to complement the efforts of field staff [In all, approximately 43 lakh mandays are generated annually]
- Sharing of information on seizure of body parts including skin of tigers among tiger range countries to ascertain source area.

2. Security Plan

The National Tiger Conservation Authority has issued generic guidelines for formulating a Security Plan for each tiger reserve which is operationalized in the overarching Tiger Conservation Plan which is legally mandated under section 38 V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

3. Security Audit

The National Tiger Conservation Authority has developed a framework for carrying out the assessment of the security threats and for formulating site specific security plan which has been completed in 25 different tiger reserves in Phase-I and action has been initiated for the remaining tiger reserves.

4. M-STriPES (Monitoring System for Tigers Intensive-Protection & Ecological Status)

This is an android application which has three distinct modules namely Patrol module, Ecological module and Conflict module. The Patrol module *inter-alia* is a mechanism to ensure accountability of front line staff vis-à-vis anti-poaching efforts and useful for the tiger reserve management to strengthen protection measures, based on data that is generated through M-STriPES.

5. Amendment to the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

The Government of India amended the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and enhanced punishment for offence in relation to the core area of a tiger reserve or where the offence relates to hunting in the tiger reserves or altering the boundaries of tiger reserves.

Further, funding assistance is provided under the Project Tiger Component of the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (CSS-IDWH) to tiger range States for conservation of tigers, raising awareness on tiger & other wildlife conservation, habitat management, protection, eco-development, human resource and infrastructure development, voluntary village relocation, as per sanctioned Annual Plan of Operation of the Tiger Reserve, which stems out from a statutory Tiger Conservation Plan.
