

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:317
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2000
TIGER POPULATION IN THE COUNTRY
MUDRAGADA PADMANABHAM;SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of tiger population in the country till date, State-wise;
- (b) whether the population of tigers have increased or decreased during the last three years;
- (c) if so, the details alongwith reasons therefor;
- (d) the nature of threat being faced by this wild animal; and
- (e) the impact of steps taken in the past?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a),(b),(c),(d), & (e) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a),(b),(c), (d) & (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO FOR 11.12.2000 REGARDING 'TIGER POPULATION IN THE COUNTRY' .

(a) The estimated number of tigers in various States is given in Annexure I.

(b) The last census of tiger population was done during the year 1997.No fresh census has been done after that . Therefore, it is not possible to precisely state whether the number of tigers has increased or decreased during last three years.

(c) & (d) The main reasons of decline are:-

- i) Fragmentation of tiger habitats due to different developmental activities.
- ii) Man-animal conflict due to straying of cattle inside tiger habitats and straying of tigers outside due to inadequate prey base.
- iii) Increased demand of tiger derivatives in the global market.
- iv) Lack of facilities in terms of staff, protection mechanism to stop poaching of tigers and trade of tiger parts.

(e) The measures taken by Government of India have helped considerably in maintaining viable population of tigers in the wild. The action taken are setout in Annexure II.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN THE STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.317 ANSWERED ON 11-12-2000 REGARDING 'TIGER POPULATION IN THE COUNTRY' .

POPULATION OF TIGERS IN THE COUNTRY AS REPORTED BY THE STATES

S.NO.	NAME OF THE STATE	1972	1979	1984	1989	1993	1997
1	TAMIL NADU	33	65	97	95	97	62
2	MAHARASHTRA	160	174	301	417	276	257
3	WEST BENGAL	73	296	352	353	335	361
4	KARNATAKA	102	156	202	257	305	350
5	BIHAR	85	110	138	157	137	103
6	ASSAM	147	300	376	376	325	458
7	RAJASTHAN	74	79	96	99	64	58
8	MADHYA PRADESH	457	529	786	985	912	927
9	UTTAR PRADESH	262	487	698	735	465	475
10	ANDHRA PRADESH	35	148	164	235	197	171
11	MIZORAM	-	65	33	18	28	12

12 GUJARAT 8 7 9 9 5 1
 13 GOA DAMAN & DIU - - - 2 3 6
 14 ORISSA 142 173 202 243 226 194
 15 KERALA 60 134 89 45 57 73

TOTAL 1638 2732 3543 4026 3432 3508

16 MEGHALYA 32 35 125 34 53 +
 17 MANIPUR 1 10 6 31 - +
 18 TRIPURA 7 6 5 - - +
 19 NAGALAND 80 102 104 104 83 +
 20 ARUNACHAL PRADESH 69 139 219 135 180 +
 21 SIKKIM - - 2 4 2 +
 22 HARYANA - - 1 - - N.R.

TOTAL 189 92 462 308 318

N.R. - Not reported by States

+ - Tiger census was not carried out in North East States in 1997

ANNEXURE-II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN THE STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 17 TO BE ANSWERED ON 11-12-2000 REGARDING 'TIGER POPULATION IN THE COUNTRY'

STEPS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

NATIONAL LEVEL

1. Setting up of a National Coordination Committee to control poaching and illegal trade in wildlife with enforcement agencies like customs, Revenue Intelligence, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Border Security Force, Central Reserves Police, Coast Guards, State Police, Deputy Director, Wildlife Preservation & Scientific Organisation like Zoological and Botanical Survey of India.
2. Training Programs and Workshops have been organised to sensitize the above departments to be proactive in control of trade and smuggling of wildlife products.
3. A special co-ordination committee with Secretary (E&F), Special Secretary (Home), Director, CBI and representative of the Chairman, central Board of Excise & Customs has been created to ensure better co-ordination in the efforts to curb smuggling of wildlife products.
4. Central assistance is being provided to State Governments to strengthen the protection infrastructure including armed squads, vehicles, communication network and co-ordination between the Park Managers.
5. Schemes for awards and rewards for outstanding performance and acts of valor has been introduced to encourage detection and reporting.
6. The State Government have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling.
7. Launching of public awareness programme to involve Non-Governmental Organisations and others for supporting the Government in its efforts towards wildlife conservation.
8. Supporting programmers of Institutions and NGOs in exploring tiger-trade routes and developing a forensic identification reference Manual for tiger parts and products.
9. Funds are being provided to the States Governments for eco-development of the areas to reduce the biotic pressure thereon.
10. Site specific special force in Project Tiger Areas.
11. Special Strike Force all over the Country to control Trade.
12. Creation of wildlife trade control bureau.

INTERNATIONAL LEVEL :

1. Initiated creation of a Forum of Tiger Range Countries, i.e Global Forum for addressing international issues related of tiger conservation.
2. To control transboundary trade and effect mutual cooperation in tiger conservation:-
 - (i) A protocol has been signed with People`s Republic of China.
 - (ii) An MOU with his Majesty`s Government of Nepal has been signed.
 - (iii) Dialogue with Bangladesh has been initiated.
3. Several resolutions at CITES to check illegal trade in Tiger parts and products have been adopted at India`s initiative.
4. The Millennium Tiger Conference was held in March, 1999. The conference declaration suggested several action for conservation of tiger both at national and International level.