

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2927
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2003
REJUVENATION OF TIGER HABITATS
AMBATI BRAHMANIAH

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

- (a) whether the Government propose to rejuvenate tiger habitats all over the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is a demand to introduce tigers in some sanctuaries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether higher forest officials are not inspecting sanctuaries regularly; and
- (f) if so, the steps proposed to energise the programme of protection of wildlife?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

- (a) & (b) The Government of India has launched the focused, holistic scheme of 'Project Tiger' since 1972-73 to protect, conserve, resurrect and develop the habitat of tiger in the country. The scheme started with 9 reserves covering 16,399 sq km. which has now increased to 37,761 sq km. in 27 reserves.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Question does not arise.
- (e) & (f) The Project Tiger Reserves are under the administrative control of respective State Governments which are being regularly inspected by local field officials posted in these reserves, apart from supervisory visits by the senior officials of the State and Central Governments. The steps taken by Government of India for protection of wildlife are:
- i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals including tigers against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act. 1972.
 - ii) Financial and technical help is being extended to the States under Centrally Sponsored Schemes for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure to provide effective protection to wild animals.
 - iii) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders
 - iv) The Ministry of Home Affairs has addressed to all State Governments to lend a helping hand to the field formations to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.
 - v) A Special Coordination and Enforcement Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Secretary (Environment and Forests), Government of India for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.
 - vi) In the last meeting of the Indian Board for Wildlife, it was resolved to declare wildlife and forest as a priority sector and fill up all the vacant posts of the frontline staff, apart from providing basic infrastructure necessary for efficient discharge of their duties.
 - vii) A National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016) has been launched with several action points and priority projects for conservation and protection of wildlife in the country.