

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1276
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2000
DEATH OF LIONS AND TIGERS IN ZOOS
BABUBHAI KHIMABHAI KATARA;CHANDRESH PATEL KORDIA

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

- (a) the number of lions and tigers died/killed in various zoos/wild life sanctuaries/tiger parks during the last five years, till date;
- (b) the names of the persons held responsible for it along with the action taken against them; and
- (c) the concrete steps taken/proposed to be taken to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI)

- (a) The number of lions and tigers died in various zoos/wildlife sanctuaries during 1995-1999 are given below:

Death of Lions and Tigers in Zoos

Year	No. of Lions	No.of Tigers died
died		
1995-96	60	41
1996-97	38	36
1997-98	31	74
1998-99	35	44
1999-2000	11	31

Death of Lions and Tigers in Sanctuaries

Year	No. of Lions	No.of Tigers died
died		
1995-96	12	21
1996-97	13	17
1997-98	05	24
1998-99	09	35
1999-2000	02	27
2000-2001	05	18

Figures given Calendar year-wise.

- (b) Information is not compiled and collated by Government of India.

(c) With regard to zoos, The Government of India on its part, is providing funds to zoos through Central Zoo Authority for improvement of animal housing and upgradation of veterinary facilities. Mandatory standards for animals housing, upkeep, veterinary care etc. have been laid down under the "Recognition of Zoo Rules." Periodic evaluation of zoo is undertaken by the Central Zoo Authority which is a Statutory Body constituted under the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972 by the Government of India. However, it has been found during

the evaluation that most of the zoo are unable to maintain these standards due to non-availability of veterinary and other technical staff and resource crunch at the State Government level. Guidelines have been issue to the State Governments to adhere to routine checkup to keep recurrence of outbreak of diseases among zoo animals to the minimum. The steps taken for conservation of Tigers in the wild are in Annexure-I.

ANNEXURE I

ANNEXURE IN RESPECT OF PART (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NUMBER 12763 FOR 2000 REGARDING DEATH OF LIONS AND TIGERS IN ZOOS.

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.