

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:155  
ANSWERED ON:05.07.2004  
MISSING OF TIGER CUBS  
Thakkar Smt. Jayaben B.

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

- (a) whether ten tiger cubs aged between 4 months to 3 years have been missing over the past six months from the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve of Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) if so, whether any enquiry has been constituted in the matter;
- (c) if so, the outcome thereof and
- (d) the steps proposed/being proposed to be taken to protect wild animals in particular from disappearance?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

- (a) & (b) As per information received from the State, no such instances of missing tiger cubs aged between 4 months to 3 years have come to light.
- (c) Question does not arise.
- (d) The following steps are taken to protect wild animals:
  - (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 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) It has been resolved to declare wildlife and forests as a priority sector and fill up all 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.