

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3763
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2005
PROBLEM OF TIGER RESERVES
Singh Shri Chandra Bhushan

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

- (a) whether the Government had decided to codify the problems of tiger reserves in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

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

(a) Based on the recommendations made in the meeting of the National Board for Wildlife on 17.03.2005 under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister, a Task Force was constituted to review the management of Tiger Reserves in the country, which has submitted its report.

(b) The main recommendations of the Task Force are at Annexure-I.

(c) Actions have already been agreed and initiated on urgent measures as recommended by the Task Force.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3763 REGARDING PROBLEM OF TIGER RESERVES DUE FOR REPLY ON 22-08-2005.

The recommendations of the Task Force are as follows:

1. Request the Prime Minister to head the Steering Committee of Project Tiger for a period of 2-3 years.
2. The Project Tiger Directorate to be converted into a statutory authority under the Ministry of Environment & Forests. This will give it greater autonomy and ability to coordinate with state governments.
3. The Wildlife Crime Bureau to be created immediately under the Ministry of Environment & Forests.
4. The next census (planned for November) of tigers and habitat to be done using the new methodology, suggested by Ministry of Environment & Forests and endorsed by the Tiger Task Force. Independent audit report also be to presented to Parliament in 6 months, which will rate state performance on different criteria.
5. The plan for relocation of villages from key tiger habitats to be finalized within one year, with its financial and logistical implications and completed with 2-3 years.
6. The plan for coexistence to be prepared by each tiger reserve within one year so that benefits of conservation can be shared with local communities.
- 7 The benefits of tourism to be shared with local communities using the recommendations of the Task Force.