

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4556

ANSWERED ON:22.05.2006

DEATH OF TIGERS IN UTTARANCHAL

Khan Shri Mohammad Tahir;Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

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

- (a) whether death of some tigers has been reported during the last three months in the National Parks in Uttaranchal as published in Rashtriya Sahara dated March 24, 2006;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any investigation has been made in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any action plan has been made by the Union Government to prevent such death of tigers; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) Death of three tigresses from Corbett Tiger Reserve and a tigress from Ramnagar Forest Division between January, 2006 to March, 2006 has come to notice.

(c)&(d) Spot appraisal/field visits were done by a team of experts/officials from the Wildlife Institute of India as well as the Ministry of Environment & Forests. Though postmortem reports indicate death on account of wounds no conclusive evidence leading to mortality was found. Since the possibility of man-animal conflicts exist in the area, the State Government has been advised for taking necessary measures to ensure adequate protection of wild animals.

(e)&(f) Action taken by Government of India for conservation of wild animals including tigers is at Annexure-I.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (e)&(f) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4556 REGARDING DEATH OF TIGERS IN UTTARANCHAL DUE FOR REPLY ON 22-05-2006.

Steps taken by the government for protection and conservation of tigers and other wildlife are as under:

- (i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- (ii) Several rare and endangered species of wild animals have been included in the Schedules of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby giving it highest degree of protection.
- (iii) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended and made more stringent. The punishment in cases of offences has been enhanced. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that has been used for committing any wild life offence.
- (iv) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.
- (v) Government of India has set up Regional and Sub-regional Offices for wildlife preservation in major export and trade centers of the country to prevent smuggling of wild animals and their products.
- (vi) Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. Project Tiger, Project Elephant and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.

(vii) A National Wildlife Action Plan 2002-16 was adopted by the Indian Board for Wild Life under the chairmanship of Prime Minister in January 2002. The plan outlines the strategy for conservation and protection of wildlife in the country.

(viii) Government of India is a signatory to many international conventions concerning biodiversity conservation and control of illegal trade in wild flora and fauna.

(ix) Bilateral agreements have been signed with Nepal and Republic of China for controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife.

(x) A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.

(xi) Action has been taken for implementing the urgent recommendation of Tiger Task Force and creation of National Wildlife Crime Control Bureau.