

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:23

ANSWERED ON:24.07.2006

PROTECTION OF TIGERS .

Barad Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai;Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan

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

- (a) whether the tiger population in Ranthambhore forests has come down drastically;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three censuses and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to create new tiger reserves; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) The All India estimation of tiger is carried out once in four years. The tiger population estimated in Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve, as reported by the State, during the last three censuses is at Annexure-I. However, the State Government, as indicated in its report of the State Empowered Committee on Forests and Wildlife Management, has reported 26 tigers in 2005 in the area. The All India Estimation of tiger using the refined methodology as approved by the Tiger Task Force is ongoing and the latest estimation figures would be known after completion of Phase-III of the process.

(c) The steps taken by Government of India for conservation of wild animals is at Annexure-II.

(d)&(e) The Steering Committee of the Project Tiger, in its 37th meeting held on 23-01-2003, has recommended creation of eight new Tiger Reserves as listed in Annexure-III, on which action has been initiated.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.23 REGARDING POPULATION OF TIGERS DUE FOR REPLY ON 24.07.2006.

POPULATION OF TIGERS IN THE RANTHAMBHORE TIGER RESERVE AS REPORTED BY THE STATE

S. NO.	NAME OF RESERVE	1995	1997	2001-02
--------	-----------------	------	------	---------

1.	RANTHAMBHORE (RAJASTHAN)	38	32	35
----	--------------------------	----	----	----

TOTAL		38	32	35
-------	--	----	----	----

ANNEXURE-II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.23 REGARDING POPULATION OF TIGERS DUE FOR REPLY ON 24.07.2006.

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.

ANNEXURE-III

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) & (e) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.23 REGARDING POPULATION OF TIGERS DUE FOR REPLY ON 24.07.2006.

LIST OF THE PROPOSED NEW TIGER RESERVES

Sl. No. Name of the proposed new Tiger Reserve State

1. Anamalai -Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary Tamil Nadu & Kerala
2. Udanti and Sita Nadi Wildlife Sanctuaries Chattisgarh
3. Satkosia Wildlife Sanctuary Orissa
4. Kaziranga National Park Assam
5. Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary Chattisgarh
6. Dandeli-Anshi Sanctuary Karnataka
7. Sanjay National Park and Sanjay Dubri Wildlife Sanctuary Madhya Pradesh
8. Mudumalai Sanctuary Tamil Nadu