

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1840  
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2005  
TASK FORCE ON SARISKA TIGER RESERVES  
Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh

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

- (a) whether a Task Force was set up to find out the causes behind the disappearance of the tigers in the Sariska Tiger Reserve :
- (b) if so, the details of the findings thereof alongwith its recommendations; and
- (c) the steps the Government has taken keeping in view the recommendations of the Tiger Task Force Report ?

**Answer**

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Based on the recommendations made in the meeting of the National Board for Wildlife on 17.3.2005 under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister, a Task Force was constituted to review the management of Tiger Reserves in the country. The key recommendations of the Tiger Task Force Report are as below:

(i) Reinvigorate the institutions of governance.

(ii) Strengthen efforts geared towards protection of the tiger, checking poaching, convicting wildlife criminals and breaking the international trade network,

(iii) Expand the inviolate spaces for the tiger by minimising human pressure in these areas,

(iv) Repair the relationships with the people who share the tiger's habitat by building strategies for coexistence,

(v) Regenerate the forest habitats in the fringes of the tiger's protective enclaves by investing in forest, water and grassland economies of the people.

(c) The urgent actions (including long-term) recommended by Tiger Task Force which have been accepted for implementation are at Annexure-1.

ANNEXURE-1

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1840 REGARDING TASK FORCE ON SARISKA TIGER RESERVES DUE FOR REPLY ON 5-12-2005.

Action has been taken on the following urgent recommendations of the Task Force which were accepted for implementation:

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.

1. Government of India Ministry of Environment and Forests