

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2317
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2007
MEETING OF FIELD DIRECTORS OF TIGER RESERVES
Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

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

- (a) whether a meeting of Field Directors of Tiger Reserves was held in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details of the discussions held and decisions taken thereon; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the tiger reserves in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) to (b) Yes Sir. A meeting of Field Directors of Tiger Reserves was held on 27th and 28th June, 2007 at Sawai Madhopur (Ranthambhore), Rajasthan. Apart from discussion on reserve specific issues, the agenda focused on protection, special protection strategy for monsoon, day to day monitoring, compliance issues, strategy for co-existence, buffer zoning, ecotourism and implementation of the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2006.

(c) The Government of India has taken several initiatives for conservation of tigers which are summarized at Annexure-I.

ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2317 ON MEETING OF FIELD DIRECTORS OF TIGER RESERVES DUE FOR REPLY ON 29.08.2007.

The steps taken by the Government to protect wild tiger are as below:-

Legal steps

1. Amendment of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for providing enabling provisions for constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau. The punishment in cases of offence within a tiger reserve 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.

Administrative steps

2. Strengthening of antipoaching activities, including special strategy for monsoon patrolling, by providing funding support to Tiger Reserve States, as proposed by them, for deployment of antipoaching squads involving ex-army personnel / home guards, apart from workforce comprising of local people, in addition to strengthening of communication / wireless facilities.

3. Constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority with effect from 4.09.2006, for strengthening tiger conservation by, interalia, ensuring normative standards in tiger reserve management, preparation of reserve specific tiger conservation plan, laying down annual / audit report before Parliament, constituting State level Steering Committees under the Chairmanship of Chief Ministers and establishment of Tiger Conservation Foundation.

4. Constitution of a multidisciplinary Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau) with effect from 6.6.2007 comprising of officers from Police, Forest, Customs and other enforcement agencies to effectively control illegal trade in wildlife.

5. In principle approval accorded for declaring eight new Tiger Reserves.

Financial steps

6. Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. Project Tiger and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.

International Cooperation

7. India has a Memorandum of Understanding with Nepal on controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife and conservation, apart from a protocol on tiger conservation with China.

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

9. During the 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES, which was held from 3rd to 15th June, 2007 at The Hague, India introduced a resolution along with China, Nepal and the Russian Federation, which contains directions to Parties with operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale, for restricting such captive populations to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers. The resolution was adopted with minor amendments. Further, India made an intervention appealing to China to phase out tiger farming, and eliminate stockpiles of Asian big cats body parts and derivatives. The importance of continuing the ban on trade of body parts of tigers was emphasized.