

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3502  
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2005  
PROCEDURE REGARDING RELEASE OF FUNDS FOR PROJECT TIGER  
Vallabbhaneni Shri Balashowry

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to streamline the procedures for release of funds for Project Tiger and ensure greater accountability in its proper utilization;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the manner in which the proposed changes would revitalize the system?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) A time frame for fund release to States and receipt of their utilization certificates at the Ministry of Environment & Forests has been structured, viz:

(i) Release of first installment of Central Assistance: by four weeks after receipt of Annual Plan of Operations from respective State Governments, which should not be delayed beyond the month of May of the financial year.

(ii) Release of second installment of Central Assistance: by two weeks after receipt of utilization certificate pertaining to previous year from the States, along with 60% utilization report of funding support released as first installment, which should not be delayed beyond the month of December of the financial year. This has the acceptance of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, which in its order dated 21.2.2005 in Writ Petition No 47/1998 has further directed that the States/UTs shall within a period of 15 days release the Central Assistance to field formations. Apart from obtaining Utilisation Certificate from States to ensure accountability that the money was actually utilised for the purpose for which it was sanctioned, the monitoring and evaluation of Tiger Reserves has also been undertaken by a panel of experts, based on the normative guidelines of the Ministry.

(c) The above would revitalize the system by making funds available for use in the field, apart from achieving the purpose for which the Central Government gives assistance.