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Title: Need take steps for protection of tigers in the country.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (JOYNAGAR): I wish to bring to the notice of the Government the dwindling population of Tigers - our National Animal - in the country.

There are reports in media about the dwindling population of tigers due to poaching. However, it seems that in the absence of proper assessment or census of tigers, it would not be possible to stop such poaching.

It is reported that census of tigers are undertaken from time to time. But the procedure being adopted for these Census are not bearing desired result. Tiger Reserves are of national importance bringing foreign exchange through visiting foreign tourists. Sundarbans is also one of such Tiger Reserves wherein the census of tigers was held recently. It is yet to be informed by the Government the steps it proposes to take protecting the tigers of Sundarbans.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to inform the correct position of Sundarbans tigers and the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by them to protect the tigers in Sundarbans.

* Treated as laid on the Table.