

Sixteenth Lok Sabha

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Title: Need to provide 100 percent funds for tiger projects in the country.

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE (KALYAN): India has been implementing Project Tiger since 1973 to protect tigers and to increase their numbers. In the last few years, we have seen many success stories, with tiger numbers increasing from mere 1411 in 2006 to 2226 in 2014. However, in the last couple of years, the number of tiger deaths is on rise, with more than 100 deaths in two consecutive years, i.e. 2016 (122) & 2017 (115). Recently, 7 tigers were found dead in a span of just 48 hours in Maharashtra. This is alarming. One of the reasons is the reduction in budget by the Central Government from October 2015. Earlier, Central Government used to fund up to 100% for non-recurring expenditure of project tiger. This has now been reduced to 60%. States are supposed to contribute remaining 40%. This is not happening. The Centre must restore it to 100% since many important steps such as installation of electronic surveillance system and other measures for the conservation of tigers are to be taken up.