

Silver Jubilee of Tiger Project*[Translation]*

3542. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
SHRI TEJVEER SINGH :
DR. ASHOK PATEL :

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

(a) whether a Workshop on the Silver Jubilee of Tiger Projects was organised recently and different measures to save the tigers were discussed therein;

(b) if so, whether the Government have formulated any comprehensive scheme in this regard in view of steadily decreasing number of tigers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI) :
(a) Yes, Sir. A national workshop to workout strategies on protection of tigers was organised on the occasion of completion of Twenty-five years of Project Tiger in New Delhi from 19th to 21st November, 1998.

(b) and (c) The Government has decided to create six new Tiger Reserves in addition to existing 23 Tiger Reserves under the purview of Project Tiger during IX Plan. Several other measures have also been taken by the Government which has been given in attached statement.

Statement*Steps taken by the Government of India to Protect Tiger*

1. The State Governments have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling.
2. Training and Workshops of various enforcement agencies for effective intelligence gathering and law enforcement.
3. Setting up of a National Coordination Committee to control poaching and illegal trade in wildlife with enforcement agencies like Customs, Revenue Intelligence, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, Coast Guards, State Police, Deputy Director, Wildlife Preservation & Scientific Organisations like Zoological and Botanical Survey of India.
4. To control transboundary trade, a protocol has been signed with People's Republic of China and a MOU with His Majesty's Government of Nepal.

5. Initiated creation of a Forum of Tiger Range Countries. i.e. Global Tiger Forum for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.
6. Launching of public awareness programme to involve Non-Governmental Organisations and others for supporting the Government in its efforts towards wildlife conservation.
7. Supporting programmes of Institutions and NGOs in exploring tiger-trade routes and developing a forensic identification reference Manual for tiger parts and products.
8. Funds are being provided to the State Governments for the eco-development of the areas to reduce the biotic pressure thereon.
9. Steps have been initiated to set up site specific special force in Project Tiger Areas.

Smuggling of Skins of Rare Animals

3543. SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA :
SHRI M.R. CHAUDHARI :

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

(a) whether skins of rare animals are being smuggled from the country;

(b) if so, whether any arrests have been made in this regard during the last six months;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether any action has been taken against the culprits; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) Cases of attempted smuggling of rare animal skins come to the notice of the Government of India from time to time.

(b) to (d) As per the reports received from the four Regional Deputy Directors for Wildlife Preservation located at Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta & Chennai, four tiger skins and two leopard skins were seized during the last six months and five persons have been arrested in this regard. Action has been initiated against the offenders under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Expansion and Maintenance of National Highways-8*[English]*

3544. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :