

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2515**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2023

**Death of Tigers in Nilgiris Biosphere, Tamil Nadu**

2515. SHRI A. RAJA:  
SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that more than 10 tigers have died recently at the Nilgiris biosphere in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, whether any team or committee formed to investigate the deaths after conducting postmortems of the tigers including cubs;
- (c) whether National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) protocols were followed while investigating the deaths of these tigers;
- (d) if so, the reasons for sudden deaths of large number of tigers; and
- (e) the details of follow-up action proposed for the prevention of unnatural deaths and to conserve and protect wild animals in the region?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) As reported by the State, there were ten tiger deaths in the Nilgiris region between 16.08.2023 and 19.09.2023.
- (b) Yes Sir. A committee was constituted by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) to ascertain reasons for the said tiger deaths in the Nilgiris.
- (c) & (d) Yes Sir. The reasons, as reported by the Committee, are given below:
  - (i) Two adult tigers died due to infighting while 6 cubs died due to starvation.
  - (ii) The death of two tigers in Avalanche region was due to poisoning wherein the culprit has already been arrested by the Forest Department.
- (e) The follow-up action proposed for the prevention of unnatural deaths and to conserve and protect wild animals in the region are as under:-
  1. Implement a landscape strategy with focus on potential future conflict considering movement ecology of tiger and land-use changes in the landscape.
  2. Detailed monitoring using M-STrIPES mobile application and intensive camera trapping in the region has been recommended.

3. Investigation into tiger movement in human dominated areas to forecast risk and threat faced by people based on situation analysis has been recommended.
4. Collaborative mitigation strategies with all relevant stakeholders have been visualized and implementation through microplanning at local or panchayat level under guidance of the Forest Department has been initiated.

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