

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6448
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2005
PROCEDURE FOR COUNTING TIGERS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the existing procedure for counting the number of tigers in the country;
- (b) whether there are many shortcomings in the procedure; and
- (c) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a),(b)&(c) The methodology in vogue for estimating tiger population through pugmarks yields a total count rather than a statistical estimate. This has been refined with inputs from the Scientists of Wildlife Institute of India, and the refinement now addresses these concerns by mapping tiger distribution at the beat resolution using pugmark as an index for tiger presence and abundance. Total number estimates will be inferred by sampling and intensive research level data collection within the sample block by using scientifically valid and peer reviewed techniques. For the first time, the Government of India has taken steps for overseeing the primary data collection in the field through external as well as internal experts.