

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5448

ANSWERED ON:02.05.2005

CBI INQUIRY ON STATUS OF TIGERS

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

- (a) the present number of tigers in each wildlife sanctuary/tiger reserve of the country;
- (b) the expenditure incurred per tiger during each of the last three years;
- (c) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has conducted any inquiry on the present status of tigers in different wildlife sanctuaries/tiger reserves;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the present status of tigers as per inquiry report;
- (e) whether the CBI has also found that poachers are freely roaming in the sanctuaries and no proper safety of forest areas exists; and
- (f) if so, the concrete plans to be formulated by the Government to save the forests areas and to book the poachers along with conserving tigers?

Answer

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

(a) The state wise / tiger reserve wise population of tigers as reported by States during the last All India Tiger estimation conducted in 2001-02 are at Annexures-1 and 2. The Sanctuary/National Park wise tiger estimation data are not collated at the Government of India level.

(b) Funding support under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger is provided to States having tiger reserves as per the Annual Plan of Operations received from them, based on reserve specific management plans, within the overall ambit of Project Tiger Guidelines, and not on the number of tigers in a reserve. State wise release of funds under the Project Tiger Scheme, during the last three years are given at Annexure-3.

(c) The Central Bureau of Investigation has conducted a Preliminary Assessment regarding disappearance of tigers only in the Sariska Tiger Reserve of Rajasthan and not in different wildlife Sanctuaries / Tiger Reserves.

(d),(e)&(f) The Central Bureau of Investigation in their preliminary assessment report, has indicated that there is no evidence of the presence of tiger in Sariska and the entire population seems to have become extinct primarily because of poaching. They have also informed that since July, 2002, at least 2-3 organized networks of poachers were involved in poaching of tigers & leopards in the tiger reserve.

The State has been advised by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, to ensure protection for tiger conservation through systemic improvement, while reiterating the earlier directives. The Wildlife Institute of India has been directed to undertake a detailed ecological study in the Sariska Tiger Reserve area for ascertaining the status of wild animals, assessment of resource dependency on the tiger reserve, apart from creating a database including capacity building of staff.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in their preliminary assessment report, has suggested certain short-term & long-term recommendations, which are given at Annexure-4.

ANNEXURE-1

POPULATION OF TIGERS IN THE COUNTRY AS REPORTED BY THE STATES

S.No. NAME OF THE STATE 2001-02##

1 ANDHRA PRADESH 192

2 ARUNACHAL PRADESH 61###

3	ASSAM	354
4	BIHAR	76
5	CHHATTISGARH	227
6	DELHI	NIL
7	GOA	5
8	GUJARAT	NIL
9	HARYANA	NIL
10	HIMACHAL PRADESH	NIL
11	JAMMU & KASHMIR	NIL
12	JHARKHAND	34
13	KARNATAKA	401
14	KERALA	71
15	MADHYA PRADESH	710
16	MAHARASHTRA	238
17	MANIPUR	NIL
18	MEGHALAYA	47
19	MIZORAM	28
20	NAGALAND	23
21	ORISSA	173
22	PUNJAB	NIL
23	RAJASTHAN	58
24	SIKKIM	NR
25	TAMIL NADU	60
26	TRIPURA	NR
27	UTTARANCHAL	251
28	UTTAR PRADESH	284
29	WEST BENGAL	349

TOTAL 3642

N.R. Not reported by State.
 # Tiger census was not carried out.
 ## Under compilation/vetting
 ### Only for Namdapha Tiger Reserve.
 #### Figures included in undivided State.

Entire state not covered.

ANNEXURE-2

POPULATION OF TIGERS IN THE TIGER RESERVES AS REPORTED BY THE STATES

S.NO.	NAME OF RESERVE	2001-02
1.	BANDIPUR (KARNATAKA)	82
2.	BANDHAVGARH (MADHYA PRADESH)	56
3.	BHADRA (KARNATAKA)	35
4.	Bori-SATPURA-PACHMARI (MADHYA PRADESH)	35
5.	BUXA (WEST BENGAL)	31
6.	CORBETT (UTTAR PRADESH)	137
7.	DAMPHA (MIZORAM)	4
8.	DUDHWA (UTTAR PRADESH)	76#
9.	INDRAVATI (MADHYA PRADESH)	29
10.	KANHA (MADHYA PRADESH)	127

11. KALAKAD (TAMIL NADU)	27
12. MANAS (ASSAM)	65#
13. MELGHAT (MAHARASHTRA)	73
14. NAGARJUNASAGAR (ANDHRA PRADESH)	67
15. NAMDHAPA (ARUNACHAL PRADESH)	61
16. NAMERI (ASSAM)	26
17. Pakhui (ARUNACHAL PRADESH)	-
18. PALAMAU (BIHAR)	32
19. PANNA (MADHYA PRADESH)	31
20. PERIYAR (KERALA)	36
21. PENCH (MADHYA PRADESH)	40
22. PENCH (MAHARASHTRA)	14
23. RANTHOMBORE (RAJASTHAN)	35
24. SARISKA (RAJASTHAN)	22
25. SIMILIPAL (ORISSA)	99
26. SUNDERBANS (WEST BENGAL)	245
27. TADOBA (MAHARASHTRA)	38
28. VALMIKI (BIHAR)	53

TOTAL 1576

Under compliation / vetting
N.R. Not reported by the State

ANNEXURE -3

STATEMENT SHOWING THE RELEASE OF CENTRAL ASSISTANCE UNDER PROJECT TIGER DURING 2002-03 TO 2004-2005

STATE-WISE RELEASE (Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No. Name of Tiger Reserve Range State 2002-03 2003-04 2004-05

1. Andhra Pradesh	21.10	22.89	15.00
2. Arunachal Pradesh	35.875	68.75	35.00
3. Assam	65.70	75.00	-
4. Bihar	25.00	50.00	85.00
5. Chattisgarh	32.48	80.25	27.75
6. Karnataka	289.56	269.32	486.292
7 Kerala	63.75	120.68	105.75
8. Jharkhand	18.00	35.9915	72.5005
9. Madhya Pradesh	786.44	1103.414	582.43
10. Maharashtra	621.79	228.45	323.013
11. Mizoram	98.32	67.56	119.69
12. Orissa	32.88	151.91	116.4395
13. Rajasthan	294.92	158.330	75.00
14. Tamil Nadu	125.00	35.00	80.00
15. Uttaranchal	168.00	200.91	200.12
16. Uttar Pradesh	32.75	173.585	175.215
17. West Bengal	168.33	225.17	325.49

ANNEXURE-4

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Short-Term

- (i) With the consent of the State Governments of Rajasthan and Delhi, the CBI should urgently take over investigation of Sariska Tiger Reserve Crime No. 11/91 dated 15.03.2005, 45/91 dated 11.03.2005, 11/92 dated 15.03.2005, 11/93 dated 15.03.2005 and Kamla Market PS, New Delhi FIR No. 82/2005 dated 31.01.2005. Any other case arising out of incidents of poaching shall also be registered and investigated by CBI for which a general consent may be given by the State Governments.
- (ii) Extensive search of all the villages within the Tiger Reserve area should be conducted for recovery of steel traps, guns and other equipments, used for killing wild animals.
- (iii) An alert may be issued to all the Tiger Reserves about the modus operandi of the poachers and for recovery of such steel traps, wherever possible.
- (iv) Searches may be conducted in all possible places where steel traps are being manufactured and supplied to the poachers.
- (v) The local Police should be sensitized and their active participation ensured in anti-poaching enforcement operations, in association with Forest Department staff.
- (vi) Provisions of Section 34 of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 which requires every gun licence holder residing within 10 kms. area of the Sanctuary, to apply to the Chief Wildlife Warden, for registration should be strictly enforced.
- (vii) The incumbency profile of the staff of Sariska Tiger Reserve should be analysed and transfer of those who have stayed long enough or are suspected to have developed vested interests, should be ordered.
- (viii) The forest guards should be supplied proper uniform, lathis and other necessary equipments.
- (ix) Anti-poaching Squads should be constituted in each range, consisting of at least ¼ regular armed Policemen.

Long-Term

- (x) An administrative overhaul of the Sariska Tiger Reserve by recruiting younger field staff and training the staff in enforcement activities.
- (xi) More than 50% staff of the Tiger Reserve are work charge employees who were originally recruited as casual labourers for plantation of trees. There is need to increase the number of regular employees of the Tiger Reserve by recruiting more number of Forest Guards to cover inaccessible areas and to maintain effective watch against continuous human intervention.
- (xii) The inflow of tourists and vehicular traffic needs to be controlled and regulated. As already directed vide letter dated 09.04.2003 of Director, Project Tiger, in place of open jeeps and smaller vehicles, medium sized buses with closed bodies and sliding windows should be used for the pilgrims.
- (xiii) Immediate action should be taken to get a favourable judicial order pertaining to use of by-pass

already constructed, to avoid increased vehicular traffic on State Highway No. 13.

(xiv) A time-bound programme for relocation of villages within the National Park area should be taken up while return of relocated villagers to original settlement areas should be prevented.

(xv) There is no possibility of Tigers relocating to Sariska because of absence of a fringe population and link with any tiger habitat. Hence after implementation of the short-term measures suggested above, there should be a programme for reintroduction of tigers which should be executed under the aegis of a scientific body.

(xvi) The SIT observed that there is no scientific monitoring programme, because of which the park authorities failed to track the dwindling population. Hence, it is recommended that scientific monitoring protocol should be implemented in respect of habitat, prey and predator. The park management should do periodic assessment of all the recorded data atleast on a bimonthly basis.