

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2744
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2006
METHOD FOR CONDUCTING TIGER CENSUS
Fanthome Shri Francis

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

- (a) whether the Government has introduced a new method to record the number of tigers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and its accuracy in establishing the numbers;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to introduce radio collar marking method for estimation of tigers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to(d) Yes Sir. The refined methodology of estimating tigers involves sampling and estimation of tiger density in different strata using a combination of methods, i.e. camera trap, digital photography of pugmarks to fix identities by a computer based recognition technique based on a mark-capture statistical framework, and correlation with other data, eg. physical signs of tiger presence, prey-base, apart from DNA characterization of scats at places. The methodology has been approved by the Tiger Task Force constituted by National Board for Wildlife. The new methodology would give 95% interval of statistical confidence of tiger population in the country. Radiotelemetry is being used for monitoring tiger demography and dispersal.

(e) Question does not arise.