

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2243
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2007
ACHIEVEMENTS OF PROJECT TIGER
Singh Baba Shri K.C.

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

(c) whether the Project Tiger which had been launched to protect the endangered species like the Tigers has failed to check the decreasing population of Tigers;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) if not, the details of achievements made by Project Tigers in protecting and increasing the population of Tigers during the last three years?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) No Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Project Tiger has put the endangered tiger on a course of recovery. Tiger estimation figures relating to four States (Rajasthan, Chattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra) as per the refined methodology indicate a decline in tiger population in areas outside tiger reserves and protected areas. The achievements of Project Tiger are given at Annexure-I.

ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2243 ON ACHIEVEMENTS OF PROJECT TIGER DUE FOR REPLY ON 29.08.2007.

The achievements of Project Tiger are as below:

(Impact related)

1) Project Tiger has saved the endangered tiger from extinction, and has put the species on an assured path of recovery by improving the protection and status of its habitat in designated tiger reserves.

2) The project coverage has been increased from 9 Tiger Reserves in 1973 to 28 Tiger Reserves at present. Further, "in-principle" approval has been accorded for designating 8 more Protected Areas as Tiger Reserves, based on proposals received from States.

3) The "core-buffer" strategy of Project Tiger has provided scope for eliciting local public support through site specific ecodevelopment in the buffer/fringe areas.

4) The project has contributed towards several intangible environmental benefits to society, e.g. absorption of carbon dioxide, improvement of micro climate, rainfall and river flow.

5) The project has generated considerable wages for the benefit of fringe dwelling communities, who are deployed as local work force for protection and other labour oriented works.

6) While conserving the flagship species (tiger), the project has saved several other species of plants and animals from extinction.

7) The local communities are also benefiting from eco-tourism in tiger reserves apart from ecodevelopmental inputs in fringe areas.

(Process related)

1) The Project Tiger has served as a role model for wildlife management planning, habitat restoration, protection and ecodevelopment in our country.

2) States have been provided funding support for enhancing site-specific protection through deployment of local work force, ex-army

personnel.

- 3) The field staff working in Tiger Reserves have been provided project allowance as an incentive for working in difficult conditions.
- 4) Independent monitoring of tiger reserves has been undertaken by a panel of experts, based on the framework of the World Commission of Protected Areas of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). The assessment reports have been peer reviewed by the IUCN, which has commended the effort. The assessment and the peer review have been placed in the Parliament.
- 5) The All India Estimation of tiger, copredators and prey animals has been refined by Project Tiger (now the National Tiger Conservation Authority) in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India, with a peer review mechanism comprising of independent experts, both national and international. This has been approved by the Tiger Task Force constituted by the National Board for Wildlife.
- 6) The tiger habitat of the country has been evaluated in the GIS (Geographical Information System) domain at the Tehsil level.
- 7) The status and changes of forest cover within Tiger Reserves upto an outer surround of 10 km. radius distance has been assessed in collaboration with the Forest Survey of India, for facilitating restorative action.
- 8) The Zoological Survey of India and the Botanical Survey of India have been co-opted for bringing out compendia on their faunistic and floristic surveys in Tiger Reserves.
- 9) Steps have been taken for implementing the urgent recommendations of the Tiger Task Force which, interalia, include setting up of the 'National Tiger Conservation Authority' and the 'Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau' (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau).