

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1553
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007
STUDY TO DETERMINE TIGER POPULATION
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of methods of capture-recapture studies in Tiger Reserves and scat-based indices in other protected areas;
- (b) whether the Government has undertaken any study to check the accuracy of above methods;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the total population of Tigers in India calculated by these methods; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to bring back semblance of normalcy and give Tigers a chance to survive and multiply?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) The Project Tiger Directorate (now the National Tiger Conservation Authority) in the Ministry of Environment & Forests has developed an enhanced methodology for conducting the All India estimation of tiger, large carnivores, ungulates, habitat status evaluation and monitoring, in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India. The methodology involves forest beat level primary data collection by forest staff and data collectors, for computing indices of relative abundance of tiger and other wild animals apart from evaluation of habitat status, followed by density computation using camera traps on a mark-recapture statistical sampling framework in the GIS domain. The process of primary data collection has been overseen by a panel of national and international, independent experts. Standardized, robust scientific methodology, in vogue world wide for estimating carnivore population, has been used, which gives unbiased estimates of tiger numbers within the desired statistical levels of precision and accuracy.

(d) At present tiger estimation figures pertaining to only four States (Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhatisgarh) have been finalized which are at Annexure-I.

(e) Steps taken by the Government for fostering tiger conservation are at Annexure-II.