

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:61
ANSWERED ON:22.10.2008
POACHING OF TIGERS
Nayak Shri Ananta

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

- (a) the number of cases of poaching of tigers that have come to the notice of the Government since the creation of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau in 2007 and the action taken thereon;
- (b) the specific steps recommended by the Tiger Task Force to stop the poaching of tigers; and
- (c) the action taken thereon by the Government?

Answer

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

(a), (b) & (c) :- A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b) & (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 61 ON POACHING OF TIGERS DUE FOR REPLY ON 22.10.2008.

(a) In all, 13 tiger deaths reportedly due to poaching have come to light since the creation of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau on 6th June, 2007. The details including the action taken by the Government are at Annexure-I.

(b) The Tiger Task Force constituted by the National Board for Wildlife chaired by the Prime Minister, suggested a set of urgent recommendations for strengthening tiger conservation in the country, which, inter alia, include establishment of the Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau), preparation of database relating to tiger crime, creating the National Tiger Conservation Authority and preparing specific strategy for protection of each reserve, including insurgency/naxalite affected areas.

(c)
(i) The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been constituted with effect from 6th June, 2007, based on enabling provisions provided in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, through an amendment made in 2006. The existing regional/sub-regional wildlife offices at Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Amritsar, Cochin, Guwahati have been brought under the Bureau and their jurisdiction has been defined. A new regional office has also been created at Jabalpur under the said Bureau. The mandate of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau mainly includes networking and tracking of offences having national/international ramifications, collection and dissemination of wildlife crime related data to States and other enforcement agencies, coordination with States and other enforcement authorities, and implementation of obligations under various international conventions and protocols.

(ii) The National Tiger Conservation Authority has been constituted with effect from 4th September, 2006.

(iii) The National Tiger Conservation Authority has obtained recommendations from a Committee constituted by it for suggesting a strategy to deal with tiger reserves affected by extremist engineered disturbances. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006, provides for preparing reserve specific Tiger Conservation Plan to conserve tigers.

(iv) The penalty for committing an offence in a tiger reserve has been made more stringent.