

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1476
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2009
CYCLONE AILA
Deora Shri Milind Murlu

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

- (a) whether Cyclone Aila has hit the mangrove forests and wildlife including Bengal Tiger of Sunderbans;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the losses incurred to mangrove forests and wildlife;
- (c) whether any forecast was made by the Meteorological Department about the cyclone;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

- (a) As informed by the State, the cyclone 'AILA' struck Sunderbans Tiger Reserve on 25.05.2009, causing damage to field camps and fringe villages bordering the said reserve due to large scale flooding and breaches in the nearby village embankments. There is a report of a tiger straying incident on 25.05.2009, which was tranquilized and trapped on 26.05.2009 and subsequently released. Further, mortality of two deers has been reported, besides rescue of eight from nearby villages.
- (b) Based on the advise from the National Tiger Conservation Authority, the State has assessed the damage through a Committee, which amounts to Rs.111.50 lakhs. Besides, an amount of Rs. 2.075 crores has also been projected for Eco-development /Forest Development Committees of the Sunderbans Tiger Reserve towards rebuilding the damaged houses, supplying saline resistant paddy seeds, construction of ponds and related works.
- (c) & (d) As reported by the India Meteorological Department, a forecast was made which, interalia, contained 21 warning bulletins to different agencies at the National level and to the Government of West Bengal.
- (e) The State has proposed to rebuild the damages caused to infrastructure in the Sunderbans Tiger Reserve and the houses in the affected villages nearby, besides providing assistance for eco-development initiatives towards welfare of the people. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has announced an assistance of Rs. 1 crore in this regard under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger.