

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:256

ANSWERED ON:11.08.2010

TIGER POPULATION

Bundela Shri Jeetendra Singh;Dhurve Jyoti

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

- (a) whether population of tigers, lions, elephants and other wildlife have registered a drastic fall in the recently conducted wildlife census;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the population of these animals in each of the last three census, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the details of schemes launched for the protection of these animals;
- (d) whether these schemes have achieved their desired goals; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c), (d) & (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 256 ON TIGER POPULATION DUE FOR REPLY ON 11.08.2010.

(a) & (b) The tiger population, by and large, in tiger reserves and protected areas of tiger States are viable, while requiring ongoing conservation efforts, as revealed in the recent (2008) All India Tiger Estimation using the refined methodology. As per the findings of this assessment, the total country-level population of tiger is 1411 (mid value); the lower and upper limits being 1165 and 1657 respectively. The new findings, which are based on statistical methods are not comparable with the earlier estimates based on pugmark counts for drawing an inference on the population trend. A poor status of tiger population is indicated outside tiger reserves and protected areas in the 17 tiger States as provided at Annexures-I(a) & I(b). As informed by the State of Gujarat, the population of lion is 411 based on the estimation done during 2010, which has increased over the years, as provided at Annexure-II. The population of wild elephants has been estimated between 27669 to 27719 during 2007, which has shown an upward trend during the last three estimations. The State-wise details of wild elephant population are at Annexure-III. As a part of the recent all India tiger estimation (2008), only the spatial occupancy of leopard and other wild animals within the 17 tiger States has been ascertained as at Annexure-IV. The reasons for the present status of tiger and other wild animals, in general, are at Annexure-V.

(c) Under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored of Project Tiger, Project Elephant and Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats, funding assistance is provided to States for conservation of tigers, elephants and other wild animals.

(d) & (e) The ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger has put the endangered tiger on an assured path of recovery in the designated tiger reserves, as seen in the All India Tiger Estimation of 2008. Further, the status of other wild animals like elephant, lion and others has been secured through conservation initiatives under the other ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Government of India.