

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:237

ANSWERED ON:10.11.2010

TIGERS IN ZOOLOGICAL PARKS

Ponnam Shri Prabhakar;Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati;Siricilla Shri Rajaiah

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

- (a) the present population of tigers in captivity especially in each zoological parks in the country;
- (b) the number of deaths reported in each of the zoological parks during each of the last three years alongwith reasons; and
- (c) the steps taken/propose to be taken to maintain proper health of tigers in zoological parks?

**Answer**

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

(a) As on 31-03-2010, there are 275 Royal Bengal tigers housed in 54 zoological parks in the country. Details are given in the Annexure.

(b) Number of deaths of Royal Bengal tigers reported in the zoological parks for last three years are as under:

2007-08    22

2008-09    25

2009-10    28

The main reasons of deaths are old age, disease and in-fighting.

(c) The Central Zoo Authority had laid standards under the Recognition of Zoo Rules, 2009, prescribing norms with respect to the proper upkeep and healthcare of animals, veterinary and infrastructure facilities, and acquisition of animals etc. Van Vihar National Park-Zoo, Bhopal has been identified as a coordinating zoo for the planned conservation breeding of tigers along with the zoos at New Delhi, Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar, Chhatbir, Chennai as participating zoos.

The Central Zoo Authority has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Bareilly to act as National Referral Centre (NRC) for providing super specialty services and diagnostic facilities to the zoos and to deal with the emergency situations and other serious problems.