

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2425
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2010
DECREASING ROYAL BENGAL TIGERS
Sidhu Shri Navjot Singh;Viswanathan Shri P.

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

- (a) whether the number of Royal Bengal Tigers has come down drastically;
- (b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps being taken to protect such tigers and increase their numbers;
- (d) whether the World Bank and other foreign agencies had offered any assistance to conserve the tiger population in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

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

(a), (b) & (c) As per the findings of the recent (2008) all India estimation of tiger using the refined methodology, the total country-level population of tiger is 1411 (mid value); the lower and upper limits being 1165 and 1657 respectively. The details are at Annexure-I. The recent assessment of tiger population is based on determining spatial occupancy of tigers throughout potential tiger forests and sampling such forests using camera traps in a statistical framework. This assessment is not comparable to the earlier total count using pugmarks owing to several shortcomings in the latter. The new findings indicate a poor status of tiger population in areas outside tiger reserves and protected areas. The tiger population, by and large, in tiger reserves and protected areas of such States are viable, while requiring ongoing conservation efforts. The reasons for the present status of tiger and other wild animals, in general, are at Annexure-II. The milestone initiatives taken for strengthening tiger conservation in the country are at Annexure-III.

(d) & (e) At present, India is participating in the "Global Tiger Initiative" of the World Bank to the extent of building up the capacity of knowledge institutions involved in the field of wildlife management and forestry, apart from participating in events like the pre-summit tiger workshop and the Global Tiger Summit. The platform of Global Tiger Initiative may be used for disseminating / exchange of good practices amongst the tiger range countries, apart from addressing cross border illegal wildlife trade issues. However, the said initiative would not be used as a field project for tiger conservation in States.