

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4791

ANSWERED ON:08.12.2010

MERGING OF SOUTHERN AND NORTHERN CIRCLES

Ray Shri Bishnu Pada

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

- (a) the reasons of merging Southern and Northern Circles of Forest Department in Andaman and Nicobar Islands with its headquarter at Port Blair;
- (b) the reasons for creation of the Southern and Northern Circle of Forest Department in A&N Islands and filling up of post and creation of infrastructure;
- (c) the monitoring system of earlier Southern and Northern Circle of forest department and present proposed monitoring system;
- (d) the total numbers of forest beat/National Parks/Wildlife sanctuaries under Southern and Northern Circle of Forest Department in A&N Islands; and
- (e) the total number of inspections conducted during the last three years by IFS/PCCF in Southern and Northern Circles, the shortcomings pointed out and the remedial measures suggested in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) The question of creation/merger etc. of Forest Circles, their monitoring, and day to day administration falls under the domain of the UT administration of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. However, as per the information provided by them in pursuance of the Cadre review in March 2009, 5 posts of Chief Conservator of Forests including 1 post for Territorial Circle were notified. Accordingly the existing two Territorial Circles were merged with effect from 01.10.2010.

The bifurcation of the then existing Andaman Territorial Circle into the Northern and Southern Territorial Circles was done in pursuance of the notification of 5 posts of Conservator of Forests for Andaman & Nicobar segment, which includes two Territorial Circles, as a result of the Indian Forest Service, AGMUT Cadre Review in October 1995.

The monitoring of the former Southern and Northern Circles was done through the Territorial Divisions under the respective Circles. The Southern Circle with its headquarters at Port Blair comprised South Andaman, Baratang, Little Andaman and Nicobar Divisions, and the Northern Circle with its headquarters at Port Blair comprised Middle Andaman, Mayabunder and Diglipur Divisions. They are under the administrative control of Deputy Conservators of Forests. After merging of the two Circles into one Territorial Circle with its headquarters at Port Blair, the monitoring is continued to be done through the Territorial Divisions, with the exception of the Nicobar Division which at present is under the supervisory control of the Principal Chief Conservator & Forest (PCCF) (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden.

d) There are 99 beats in the Northern Circle and 72 beats in southern circle. There are 9 National Parks and 96 Sanctuaries in A&N Islands. They are under the control of the PCCF (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden.

e) 27 tours/inspections were conducted by the PCCF in Southern, Northern and Wildlife Circles during the last three years. Implementing Officers (DFOs) were asked to take appropriate remedial measures wherever shortcomings were noticed at the time of field inspections as well as through tour notes.