

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:24

ANSWERED ON:01.08.2011

ECO-TOURISM POLICY

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

- (a) whether the monitoring Committee set up by the National Tiger Conservation Authority has come up with a new eco-tourism policy to restrict movement of tourists and construction activities in and around the tiger reserves;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the tourism activities around tiger reserves have become new source of threat;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the extent to which the eco-tourism policy will protect tiger in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SMT. JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

- (a) & (b) Advisories have been issued to tiger range States for regulating tourist visitation in tiger reserves. Further, guidelines have also been issued to phase out tourism activities from the core/critical tiger habitats, while creating buffer in its peripheral areas to mainstream tiger concerns vis-à-vis the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- (c) & (d) Reports relating to disturbance of wildlife habitat / corridor on account of tourism infrastructure have come to light.
- (e) Action has been initiated for evolving a set of ecotourism guidelines to benefit fringe dwelling local people and relocated villagers, with a view to elicit local public support for tiger conservation.