

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:453
ANSWERED ON:05.09.2011
EXPANSION IN TIGER RESERVES
Raghavan Shri M. K.

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

- (a) whether the shrinking wildlife habitats pose a serious threat to the tiger population in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to expand the existing tiger-reserves or declare/open new tiger habitats in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure safe and adequate habitat areas for tigers in the country?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 453 ON EXPANSION IN TIGER RESERVES DUE FOR REPLY ON 05.09.2011.

(a) & (b) Loss of habitat is one of the major threats to tiger. As per the recent country level estimation (2010), the tiger population has registered an increase with the estimate being 1706 (lower limit 1520 and upper limit 1909), when compared to the 2006 estimate of 1411 (lower limit 1165 and upper limit 1657) tigers. However, there is a 12.6% decline in tiger occupancy in peripheral and dispersal areas outside tiger reserves and tiger source populations. The details are at Annexure-I.

(c) & (d) Yes Sir. The "in-principle" approval has been accorded by the National Tiger Conservation Authority for creation of six new tiger reserves, and the sites are: (i) Pilibhit (Uttar Pradesh), (ii) Ratapani (Madhya Pradesh), (iii) Sunabeda (Orissa), (iv) Mukandara Hills (including Darrah, Jawahar Sagar and Chambal Wildlife Sanctuaries) (Rajasthan), (v) Kudremukh (Karnataka) and (vi) Kawal Sanctuary (Andhra Pradesh). Besides, the States have been advised to send proposals for declaring the following areas as Tiger Reserves: (i) Bor (Maharashtra), (ii) Suhelwa (Uttar Pradesh), (iii) Nagzira-Navegaon (Maharashtra) (iv) Satyamangalam (Tamil Nadu), (v) Guru Ghasidas National Park (Chhattisgarh), and (vi) Mhadei Sanctuary (Goa).

(e) The milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India for strengthening tiger conservation are at Annexure-II.