

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4306  
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2011  
CONDUCTING OF WILDLIFE CENSUS  
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**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to conduct wildlife census at certain interval at national level;
- (b) if so, the details of the wildlife census carried out in the country so far/till date;
- (c) whether the number of wild animals has witnessed a fall in some States;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (f) whether the Government proposes to provide additional security and budget for those sanctuaries where number of wild animals is increasing continuously;
- (g) if so, whether the Government has received proposals from the State Governments in this regard; and (h) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b) While census of tiger is done at the National level once in every four years, census of other major flagship species is conducted at the State level by the respective State/Union Territory Governments. The details of census carried out for the flagship species during the last decade, as available in the Ministry of Environment and Forests, are as follows:

Tiger	2006	2010		
Elephant	2002	2007-08		
Lion	2001	2001-02	2005	2010
Rhino	2006	2009		

(c)&(d)

There has been an increase in the population of flagship species like elephant, tiger, lion and rhino. The details are as under:

Name of species	Population/Year	
Tiger	1411 (2006)	1706 (2010)
Elephant	26413 (2002)	27694 (2007-08)
Lion	359+10 (2005)	411 (2010)
Rhino	1855 (2006)	2048 (2009)

(e) Steps taken for protection of endangered species of wild animals includes: 1. Threatened species of wildlife are included in the Schedules of the Wildlife (Protection), Act, 1972, thereby according them the highest degree of protection. 2. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended from time to time and made more stringent against wildlife related offences. 3. A network of Protected Areas has been established to conserve wildlife and their habitats including rare animals. 4. Recovery programmes of certain identified species have been initiated. 5. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to check illegal trade in wildlife and its products. 6. Financial and technical assistance is extended to the State/UT Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz, 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for providing better protection and conservation of wildlife. 7 Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme - 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', a new component has been added for initiating 'Recovery Programme for critically endangered species and their habitats' during the 11th Five Year plan period.

(f) to (h) The release of funds to the State/Union Territory Governments under the Centrally sponsored Schemes is based on the size of wildlife habitats, population of the species, biodiversity richness of the area and other ecological parameters. The State/Union

Territory Governments submit proposals for financial assistance annually for conservation and protection of wildlife and its habitats. Financial assistance is released to the State/Union Territory Governments after scrutiny of the proposals and based on availability of funds and subject to the fulfillment of the procedural requirements.