

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1304
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2011
DECLINE IN NUMBER OF WILD ANIMALS
Dubey Shri Nishikant ;Mahajan Smt. Sumitra

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

- (a) whether a number of wild animals particularly cat-species has decreased in the current financial year as comparison to the last year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to formulate any new scheme for increasing the number of wild animals in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a) There are no reports to suggest decline in the number of major species of wild animals, particularly the cat species in the country. In fact, the country level tiger population has shown an increasing trend with a population estimate of 1706 in the recent all India estimation (2010), as compared to the last country level estimation of 1411 in 2006.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) to (e) The Government provides financial assistance to the State Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes `Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats`, `Project Elephant`, and `Project Tiger` to augment their resources for protection and conservation of wild animals and development of their habitats in the country.

To ensure better protection and management of wildlife and its habitats in the country, the Ministry has modified the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Assistance for the Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries" by adding two new components, viz., "Protection of wildlife outside protected areas" and "Recovery programme for saving critically endangered species and their habitats" during 11th five Year Plan Period, and renamed it as "Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats`. The Government proposes to continue the existing Centrally Sponsored Schemes, and there is no proposal to formulate any new scheme in this regard.