

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:81

ANSWERED ON:25.11.2009

DECLINE IN THE POPULATION OF TIGER

Bhagat Shri Sudarshan;Shankar Alias Kushal Tiwari Shri Bhisma

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

- (a) whether there has been a rapid decline in the population of tigers including Royal Bengal Tiger over the years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the existing population of tigers in the country, State-wise and year-wise and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of tigers died or killed reportedly due to poaching during the last three years and the current year, State-wise and year-wise;
- (d) whether the incidents of poaching by naxalites have been reported in the recent past;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) the number of poachers booked, arrested and sentenced during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (g) whether the Government has taken fresh initiatives to increase the population of tigers in their habitat; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a),(b),(c),(d),(e),(f),(g)&(h):- A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g) & (h) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 81 ON DECLINE IN THE POPULATION OF TIGER DUE FOR REPLY ON 25.11.2009.

(a) & (b) As per the findings of the recent All India tiger estimation in 2008 using the refined methodology, the total country-level population of tiger is 1411 (mid value); the lower and upper limits being 1165 and 1657 respectively. The State-wise tiger population and area of tiger occupied landscapes are indicated in Annexure-I. The new findings are based on spatial occupancy of tigers and sampling such forests using camera traps in a statistical framework, which are not comparable to the earlier total count using pugmarks. The said findings indicate a poor status of tiger population in areas outside tiger reserves and protected areas, due to, inter alia, reasons cited in Annexure-II. The tiger population, by and large, in tiger reserves and protected areas of the 17 tiger States are viable, while requiring ongoing conservation efforts.

(c) The details of tiger mortality due to poaching during the last three years and the current year, as reported by States, are at Annexure-III.

(d) & (e) No incident of poaching by naxalites has been reported by States. However, due to naxal / left wing extremism, disturbances have been reported by States in some tiger reserves like Similipal (Orissa), Palamau (Jharkhand), Indravati (Chhattisgarh), Valmiki (Bihar), Nagarjunasagar Srisailem (Andhra Pradesh) and Udanti-Sitanadi (Chhattisgarh).

(f) The enforcement of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 is done by the States, hence information on poachers booked / arrested / sentenced is not collated at the Government of India level.

(g) & (h) The milestone initiatives (including the recent) taken by the Government of India for protection of tigers and other wild animals are at Annexure-IV.