

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1110

ANSWERED ON:25.11.2009

PROTECTION OF TIGERS

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Saroj Smt. Sushila

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to revise the guidelines for the Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) to deploy forest personnel in place of the local police;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of funds released by the Government to National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for raising, arming and deploying the STPF; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to stop illegal trade in wildlife?

Answer

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

- (a), (b) & (c) The earlier guidelines of the Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) have been revised to provide a second option for constituting the said force, comprising of forest personnel, with 30% of the Special Tiger Guards drawn from forest dwelling people like Van Gujjars, outsourced through an authorized service provider. So far, an amount of Rs. 93 lakhs each has been provided to three tiger reserves (Corbett-Uttarakhand, Dudhwa-Uttar Pradesh and Ranthambhore-Rajasthan) for raising, arming and deploying the Special Tiger Protection Force from the one time grant of Rs. 50 crores provided to the National Tiger Conservation Authority.
- (e) The milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India for protection of tigers and other wild animals are at Annexure-I.