

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3872
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2012
PROTECTION TO TIGERS
Singh Baba Shri K.C.

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

- (a) whether the Government has noticed that time is running out for the tigers to survive in the wild forests despite the claims that tiger numbers have risen;
- (b) if so, whether roughly half of all its tiger forests lost in the past four decades and with intensified poaching, human encroachment, miners or dam builders whose combined effect has reversed most of Project Tiger's early successes;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a), (b), (c) The country level assessment of the status of tiger, co-predators, prey and its habitat, done once in every four years using the refined methodology, has shown an increasing trend with a population estimate of 1706, lower and upper limits being 1520 and 1909 respectively in the recent all India tiger estimation (2010), as compared to the last such country level estimation of 2006, with an estimate of 1411, lower and upper limits being 1165 and 1657 respectively. The said findings indicate a poor status of tiger population in areas outside tiger reserves and protected areas. The tiger population, by and large, in tiger reserves and protected areas are viable, while requiring ongoing conservation efforts. The Project Tiger has brought endangered tiger on assured path of recovery.

(d) The milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India for protection of tigers are at Annexure-I.