

**CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF
TIGERS IN TIGER RESERVES**

[Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the
Committee contained in their Seventeenth Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha)]

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
2010-2011**

THIRTY FOURTH REPORT

FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

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MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS



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COMPOSITION OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
(2010-2011)

Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Anandrao Vithoba Adsul
3. Dr. Baliram
4. Shri Ramen Deka
5. Shri Naveen Jindal
6. Shri Satpal Maharaj
7. Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab
8. Dr. K. Sambasiva Rao
9. Shri Yashwant Sinha
10. Shri Jitender Singh (Alwar)
11. Kunwar Rewati Raman Singh
12. Shri K. Sudhakaran
13. Dr. M. Thambidurai
14. Shri D. Venugopal
15. Shri Aruna Kumar Vundavalli

Rajya Sabha

- *16. Vacant
17. Shri N. Balaganga
18. Shri Prasanta Chatterjee
19. Shri Kalraj Mishra
20. Shri N.K. Singh
21. Shri Tiruchi Siva
22. Prof. Saif-ud-Din Soz

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Devender Singh — *Joint Secretary*
2. Smt. A. Jyothirmayi — *Under Secretary*

* Vacancy occurred *vice* Shri Ashwani Kumar has been appointed as Minister of State *w.e.f.* 19th January, 2011.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Public Accounts Committee (2010-11), having been authorised by the Committee, do present this Thirty-fourth Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Seventeenth Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on '**Conservation and Protection of Tigers in Tiger Reserves**' based on C&AG Report No. PA 18 of 2006.

2. The Seventeenth Report was presented to Lok Sabha/laid in Rajya Sabha on 29th April, 2010. Replies of the Government to the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Report were received on 24th February, 2011. The Public Accounts Committee considered and adopted the Thirty-fourth Report at their sitting held on 18th March, 2011. Minutes of the sitting are given at *Appendix-I*.

3. For facility of reference and convenience, the Observations and Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of the Report.

4. The Committee place on record their appreciation of the assistance rendered to them in the matter by the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

5. An analysis of the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Seventeenth Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) is given at *Appendix-II*.

NEW DELHI;
18 March, 2011

29 Phalguna, 1932 (*Saka*)

DR. MURLIMANO HAR JOSHI,
Chairman,
Public Accounts Committee.

CHAPTER I

REPORT

This Report of the Public Accounts Committee deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Seventeenth Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on Report No. 18 of 2006 (Performance Audit) of the C&AG of India relating to '**Conservation and Protection of Tigers in Tiger Reserves**'.

2. The Seventeenth Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha), which was presented to Lok Sabha on 29th April, 2010, contained 7 Observations/Recommendations. The Action Taken Notes in respect of all the Observations/Recommendations have been received from the Ministry of Environment and Forests which are categorized as under:

- (i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government :

Para Nos. 2,3,4,5,6 and 7

Total: 6
Chapter-II

- (ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies received from the Government:

Para No. 1

Total: 1
Chapter-III

- (iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration:

-Nil-

Total: Nil
Chapter-IV

- (iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which Government have furnished interim replies:

-Nil-

Total: Nil
Chapter-V

3. The Public Accounts Committee, having taken cognizance of the inordinate delay on the part of various Ministries/Departments in furnishing the Action Taken Notes on the Non-selected Audit Paragraphs within the stipulated time, selected

Report No. 18 of 2006 — PA on 'Conservation and Protection of Tigers in Tiger Reserves' for detailed examination. A Sub-Committee of the PAC, specially constituted for the purpose, examined the efforts made by the Government in conservation and protection of tigers in tiger reserves. The detailed examination of the subject by the Sub-Committee revealed several deficiencies/shortcomings on the part of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, which *inter-alia* included, inordinate delay in submission of Action Taken Notes, improper rehabilitation of families residing in the core/buffer tiger habitats of Tiger Reserves and usage of outdated methodology for conducting census of tigers. The draft report of the Sub-Committee was considered and adopted by the PAC.

4. The Committee in their 17th Report on the subject had made the following important Observations/Recommendations:

- (i) Finding inordinate delay in furnishing the Action Taken Notes by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, the Committee had urged them to streamline their procedure and strengthen their monitoring system with a view to ensuring that the Remedial/Corrective Action Taken Notes on Audit Paras be invariably submitted within the prescribed time frame.
- (ii) Taking note of the discrepancies about the number of families that were to be relocated from different Tiger Reserves and the amount required for relocation of such families, the Committee had desired that the Ministry arrive at the exact numbers of families to be relocated and work out a realistic and pragmatic financial package for the relocation of families which would aid in expediting the work of relocation of families from core/buffer tiger habitats of different Tiger Reserves. Stress was laid on laying down a clear-cut agenda for co-existence by addressing the needs of the people sharing habitat with tigers and at the same time ensuring that the eco-sensitive areas were protected from human disturbances without diluting the conservation efforts.
- (iii) Regarding severe shortage of forest guards for protecting the tigers from poachers, the Committee had recommended that the Ministry formulate a comprehensive proposal for deploying the physically fit, trained guards/foresters at the places and for activities where they could be suitably utilized. Further, it was also recommended that there be augmentation in the number of Chowkis/Camps for effective patrolling of the tiger reserves with Regional Deputy Directors covering the vulnerable exit points.
- (iv) On the fast dwindling of tiger population in the Tiger Reserves, the Committee had recommended that the 'National Tiger Conservation Authority' explore launching of a National Tiger Breeding Programme for captive breeding of tigers in the country and reintroduce these tigers in designated habitats.

5. The Action Taken Notes furnished by the Ministry of Environment and Forests in respect of all Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in the Report have been reproduced in the relevant Chapters of this Report. In the following paragraphs, the Committee deal with the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations made in the Original Report which need reiteration or merit comments.

**A. Relocation of families from different Tiger Reserves
(Recommendation Sl. No. 3)**

6. In their 17th Report, the Committee had observed that mitigation of human impact was quite essential for revival of natural habitat and eco systems in Tiger Reserves and the success of 'Project Tiger' largely depended on the relocation of persons living in the core and buffer areas of the Tiger Reserves. The Committee had found that there was no clarity on the part of Ministry/National Tiger Conservation Authority with regard to the exact number of families that were required to be relocated as well as the amount required for their relocation. Regretting that due diligence had not been carried out by the Ministry/NTCA in this regard, the Committee had urged the Ministry of Environment and Forests to arrive at the correct statistics relating to the number of families that were to be relocated as well as the amount needed for their relocation/rehabilitation and the most effective/practical manner thereof, in consultation with the concerned State Governments and other agencies. Opining that the Ministry of Environment and Forests ought to be realistic and pragmatic, the Committee had asked the Ministry to work out a credible financial package for relocation of families which could be spread over a period of five years. The Committee had desired that they be apprised of the progress made by the Ministry in this regard within three months from the presentation of the said Report. It was recommended that Government should lay down a clear-cut agenda for co-existence by addressing the needs of the people sharing habitat with tigers and at the same time ensuring that eco-sensitive areas were protected from human disturbances without diluting the conservation efforts. Further, the Committee had recommended that Government should ensure that villagers/tribals were involved in the task of protecting tigers.

7. Elaborating on the Action Taken in this regard, the Ministry of Environment and Forests have stated as under:

"As provided under section 38V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 the core areas of tiger reserves are meant to be kept inviolate to foster a viable population of tiger. Based on the mapping of tiger reserves done in the Geographical Information System (GIS) domain involving the Wildlife Institute of India, and as reported by State, there are 48,549 families in the core/critical tiger habitats of tiger reserves. Considerable due diligence has been ensured in this process, in consultation with the State authorities. An amount of ₹ 5000 crore has been estimated @ ₹ 10 lakhs per family. During the current Plan period approximately ₹ 284.35 crore have been provided to States for village relocation under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger.

The Planning Commission, *vide* their O.M. No. 12074/2-2(1)05-E&F, dated 22.9.2010, has accorded approval for an amount of ₹ 5000 crore for relocation of 48,549 families (762 villages) from the core areas of Tiger Reserves over 11th and 12th Five Year Plans period. Action has been taken for approaching the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance to obtain the fund allocation in this regard. Further, innovative ways of ecologically sustaining the fringe dwellers around the core areas of tiger reserves have also been explored. Action has been taken for initiating a pilot project on

"Payment for eco-system services (PES)" to benefit local people in the fringe areas of tiger reserves. Also, process for taking up a donor driven project, *inter-alia*, facilitating village relocation from the core areas of tiger reserves besides sustainable development of local fringe people has been initiated.

The tiger reserve consists of two units, *viz.* the core/critical tiger habitat (having the status of a National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary) and a buffer (having the status of a regular forest area or a combination of forest and revenue areas). The strategy of Project Tiger is to maintain the core as an inviolate area for the tigers with an 'exclusive' tiger agenda while managing the buffer/peripheral area with an 'inclusive' agenda involving the local people. Detailed guidelines have been issued in this regard and at present an area of 11318.2476 sq. km. of buffer has been notified in 14 tiger reserves by various tiger States.

The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006 has enabling provisions for preparing tiger reserve specific 'Tiger Conservation Plan' which addresses both the core as well as buffer areas. Besides the said Act, also prohibits ecologically unsustainable land uses in a tiger reserve and also in areas linking one tiger reserve to another for protecting the corridor value of such areas. The villagers around tiger reserves are involved in a big way as local workforce in the various protection and other ongoing works of tiger reserves, with Central assistance to States under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger. Almost 25,59,650 mandays are generated per annum in various States with Central assistance under Project Tiger".

8. With regard to the number of families that were to be relocated and the amount required for their relocation, the Committee have been apprised that 48,549 families (762 villages) in the core/critical tiger habitats of tiger reserves were to be relocated and an amount of ~ 5000 crore has been estimated (@ ~ 10 lakh per family) for the same. The Planning Commission had accorded approval for an amount of ~ 5000 crore for relocation of these families from the core areas of Tiger Reserves over the 11th and 12th Five Year Plan periods. The Committee would now like the Ministry to expedite their efforts for relocation of the affected families, fix targets for relocation of families on annual basis and monitor the progress done in this regard so that the target of relocating the families by the 12th Five Year Plan is attained without time overrun. As regards the 'Payment for Eco-system Services (PES)' for the benefit of local people in the fringe areas of tiger reserves, the Committee would like to be apprised of the progress made in this regard. Regretting to note that only 14 tiger reserves in various States have notified buffer areas, the Committee desire that the Ministry chalk out a comprehensive, pragmatic and time bound action plan for those tiger reserves in different States where buffer areas have not been notified and apprise the Committee of the same.

**B. Deployment of adequate number of physically fit and trained forest guards
(Recommendation Sl. No. 4)**

9. While scrutinizing the subject in detail, the Committee had noted that there was a severe shortage of forest guards for protecting the tigers from poachers. In addition to this, the Committee had found that most of the guards were stated to be very old,

unfit and not properly equipped. The Committee had accordingly recommended that Ministry formulate a comprehensive proposal for deploying the guards at places and for the activities where they could be suitably utilized. Further, it was also recommended that for effective patrolling of the reserves, the number of camps/chowkis and forest guards alongwith foresters in the camp were to be augmented. The staff so deployed ought to be physically fit, capable of carrying out patrolling duties and adequately trained. The Committee had desired that vulnerable exit points should invariably be covered by the Regional Deputy Directors (RDDs). In addition to the above, the Committee had stressed that the co-ordination among the various agencies involved in control of illegal wildlife trade be improved.

10. Enumerating the various steps taken in this regard, the Ministry in their Action Taken Notes have *inter-alia* stated as under:

"The States have been addressed at the level of the Prime Minister and the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests to fill up the field staff vacancies. The 2006 amendment in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for staff development and deployment plan (forming part of the Tiger Conservation Plan). Detailed guidelines have been issued to States in this regard for the preparation of Tiger Conservation Plans. Central Assistance under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger is given to tiger States for creation/strengthening of patrolling camps/chowkis, barriers, besides procurement of wireless sets, vehicles for antipoaching operations, arms and ammunitions, rain finders, equipments like binoculars, night vision etc. The tiger reserves are also assisted for capacity building of officers and staff of tiger reserves in intelligence gathering and enforcement. A special monitoring system for tigers towards intensive protection and monitoring the ecological status has been developed (M-STRIPES—Monitoring System for Tigers—Intensive Protection and Ecological Status) in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India and the Zoological Society of London. This system is in the GIS domain and captures information on patrolling intensity v/s. illegal activities, human disturbance mapping and species distribution and trends in a tiger reserve. The Regional Deputy Directors of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau are mandated with the task of monitoring the vulnerable exit points in the country. Initiative have been taken for strengthening the National Tiger Conservation Authority Headquarter setup besides creating three Regional Offices at Nagpur, Guwahati and Bangalore to ensure close coordination with the State authorities in tiger landscapes".

11. The Committee deplore the failure on the part of the Ministry of Environment and Forests in not countlining the follow-up action taken by the States to fill up the field staff staff vacancies inspite of the matter being addressed at the level of the Prime Minister and Minister of State (Independent Charge). Worse, the Committee note with distress that reply is conspicuously silent about the Tiger Conservation Plan prepared by the individual States. The Committee are of the considered view that mere issuance of guidelines would not help protecting the tigers from poachers unless strict monitoring is done of the performance of staff detailed for saving the tigers. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the latest status *inter-alia*

giving details of State-wise data of the extant strength of physically fit guards/foresters in the tiger reserves and the sanctioned staff strength for the purpose. The Committee note with regret that the Ministry have remained silent with regard to pattern of training, duration of training, arms and ammunition used during the training and experts engaged for imparting training to the patrolling staff in the tiger reserves. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation that staff be adequately trained and well equipped for ensuring effective patrolling so as to conserve the tigers apart from controlling illegal wildlife trade.

CHAPTER II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT

Observation/Recommendation No. 2

"Project Tiger" was launched by the Government of India as a centrally sponsored scheme in April, 1973 to protect tigers and to ensure a viable population of tigers in India. Under the Scheme, 28 Tiger Reserves were created in 17 States between 1973-74 and 1999-2000. Presently, "Project Tiger" is being implemented in 38 Tiger Reserves falling in 17 States. The Committee's examination of this Project revealed several deficiencies in its implementation. The Ministry's figure relating to extant population of tigers in wild cannot be said to be reliable and verifiable as census is not conducted annually in many Tiger Reserves, besides census data is not up to date. 15 out of the 28 Tiger Reserves created had area less than half the prescribed area which is not conducive for conservation, protection and sustenance of a viable tiger population. Efforts for relocation of people living within the Tiger Reserves as well as removal and prevention of encroachment which is essential to ease the biotic pressure on the tiger population did not succeed primarily because of lack of resources. Against the requirement of around ₹ 11000 crore to relocate 64951 families living within the Tiger Reserves, the allocation in the Tenth Five Year Plan was a meagre ₹ 10.50 crore. The implementation of the Project Tiger was severely hampered by understaffing at the level of Tiger Reserves and the personnel actually employed were also found to be overaged, undertrained and underequipped in many cases. The intelligence and communication network at the Tiger Reserves' level was also found to be inadequate and the steps for protection of tigers in the Tiger Reserves were weak in the absence of measures to combat poaching, lack of adequate arms and ammunition, deficiencies in creation of strike force, poor intelligence gathering and inadequate patrolling camps etc. As a result, poaching of tigers continued and touched an annual level of 22 over a period of six years. The Committee's examination of some of these deficiencies and their findings are dealt with at length in the succeeding paragraphs.

[Sl. No. 2, Para 2 of 17th Report of PAC (15th Lok Sabha)]

Action Taken by the Government

Based on the recommendations of the Tiger Task Force constituted by the National Board for Wildlife, Chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, several milestone initiatives have been taken for strengthening tiger conservation in the country, which are as below:—

Legal steps

1. Amendment of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for providing enabling provisions for constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau.

2. Enhancement of punishment in cases of offence relating to a tiger reserve or its core area.

Administrative steps

3. Strengthening of antipoaching activities, including special strategy for monsoon patrolling, by providing funding support to Tiger Reserve States, as proposed by them, for deployment of antipoaching squads involving ex-army personnel/home guards, apart from workforce comprising of local people, in addition to strengthening of communication/wireless facilities.

4. Constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority with effect from 4.09.2006 for strengthening tiger conservation by, *inter alia*, ensuring normative standards in tiger reserve management, preparation of reserve specific tiger conservation plan, laying down annual audit report before Parliament, constituting State level Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Ministers and establishment of Tiger Conservation Foundation.

5. Constitution of a multidisciplinary Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau) with effect from 6.6.2007 to effectively control illegal trade in wildlife.

6. Declaration of nine new Tiger Reserves and in-principle approval accorded for creation of four new Reserves, namely Pilibhit in Uttar Pradesh, Ratapani in M.P., Sunabeda in Orissa and Biligiri Ranganatha Temple Tiger Reserve in Karnataka.

7. The revised Project Tiger guidelines have been issued to States for strengthening tiger conservation, which apart from ongoing activities, *inter alia*, include funding support to States for enhanced village relocation/rehabilitation package for people living in core or critical tiger habitats (from ~ 1 lakh/family to ~ 10 lakhs/family), rehabilitation/resettlement of communities involved in traditional hunting, mainstreaming livelihood and wildlife concerns in forests outside tiger reserves and fostering corridor conservation through restorative strategy to arrest habitat fragmentation.

8. A scientific methodology for estimating tiger (including co-predators, prey animals and assessment of habitat status) has been evolved and mainstreamed. The findings of this estimation/assessment are bench marks for future tiger conservation strategy.

9. An area of 31407.11 sq. km. has been notified by 16 Tiger States (out of 17) as core or critical tiger habitat under section 38V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006 (Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal). The State of Bihar has taken a decision for notifying the core or critical tiger habitat (840 sq. km.). The State of Madhya Pradesh has not identified/notified the core/critical tiger habitat in its newly constituted tiger reserve (Sanjay National Park and Sanjay Dubri Wildlife Sanctuary).

Financial steps

10. Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, *viz.* Project Tiger and Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.

Other recent initiatives

1. India has a Memorandum of Understanding with Nepal on controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife and conservation, apart from a protocol on tiger conservation with China.

2. During the 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES, which was held from 3rd to 15th June, 2007 at The Hague, India introduced a resolution along with China, Nepal and the Russian Federation, with directions to Parties with operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale, for restricting such captive populations to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers. The resolution was adopted as a decision with minor amendments. Further, India made an intervention appealing to China to phase out tiger farming, and eliminate stockpiles of Asian big cats body parts and derivatives. The importance of continuing the ban on trade of body parts of tigers was emphasized.

3. Based on India's strong intervention during the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee of the CITES at Geneva from 6th to 10th July, 2009, the CITES Secretariat issued notification to Parties for submitting reports relating to compliance of Decisions 14.69 and 14.65 within 90 days with effect from 20.10.2009 (Progress made on restricting captive breeding operations of tigers etc.). During the 15th meeting of the Conference of Parties, India intervened for retaining the Decision 14.69 dealing with operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale.

Reintroduction of Tigers

4. As a part of active management to rebuild Sariska and Panna Tiger Reserves where tigers have become locally extinct, reintroduction of tigers/tigresses have been done.

5. Special advisories issued for *in-situ* build up of prey base and tiger population through active management in tiger reserves having low population status of tiger and its prey.

Creation of Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF)

6. The policy initiatives announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech of 29.2.2008, *inter alia*, contains action points relating to tiger protection. Based on the one time grant of ₹ 50.00 crore provided to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for raising, arming and deploying a Special Tiger Protection Force, the proposal for the said force has been approved by the competent authority for 13 tiger reserves. ₹ 93 lakhs each has been released to Corbett, Ranthambhore and Dudhwa Tiger Reserve for creation of STPF during 2008-09. Since then, the guidelines of the STPF have been revised for deploying forest personnel in place of Police as an option-II, with scope for involving local people like the Van Gujjars.

7. In collaboration with TRAFFIC-INDIA, an online tiger crime data base has been launched, and Generic Guidelines for preparation of reserve specific Security Plan has been evolved.

8. Implementing a tripartite MoU with tiger States, linked to fund flows for effective implementation of tiger conservation initiatives.

9. Rapid assessment of tiger reserves done.

10. Special crack teams sent to tiger reserves affected by left wing extremism and low population status of tiger and its prey.

11. Chief Ministers of tiger States addressed at the level of the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests on urgent issues, *viz.* implementation of the tripartite MoU, creation of the Tiger Conservation Foundation, stepping up protection etc.

12. Chief Ministers of States having tiger reserves affected by left wing extremism and low population status of tiger and its prey addressed for taking special initiatives.

13. Steps taken for modernizing the infrastructure and field protection, besides launching 'M-STRIPES' for effective field patrolling and monitoring.

14. Steps taken for involvement of Non-Governmental Experts in the ongoing all India tiger estimation.

15. Special independent team sent to Similipal for assessing the status, besides constituting State level Coordination Committee for redressing the administrative problems.

16. Issue of tiger farming and trafficking of tiger body parts discussed at the level of Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests with the Chinese Authorities.

17. Action taken for amending the Wildlife (Protection) Act to ensure effective conservation.

18. Initiatives taken for improving the field delivery through capacity building of field officials, apart from providing incentives.

19. Steps taken for the independent Monitoring and Evaluation of tiger reserves.

20. Action initiated for using Information Technology to strengthen surveillance in tiger reserves.

21. Providing special assistance for mitigation of human-tiger conflicts in problematic areas.

22. As an outcome of the fourth Trans-border Consultative Group Meeting held in New Delhi, a joint resolution has been signed with Nepal for biodiversity/tiger conservation.

The all India tiger estimation methodology has been refined based on the recommendations of the Tiger Task Force. As per the findings of the recent (2008) all

India estimation of tiger 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 recent assessment of tiger population is based on determining spatial occupancy of tigers throughout potential tiger forests and sampling such forests using camera traps in a statistical framework. This assessment is not comparable to the earlier total count using pugmarks owing to several shortcomings in the latter. The new 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 of such States are viable, while requiring ongoing conservation efforts.

Both external and internal peers were involved in the all India tiger estimation process. The 2nd round of the all India tiger estimation using the refined methodology is underway, besides the Wildlife Institute of India and the State agencies, outside expertise is also involved in a big way to ensure transparency in the process. The refined methodology of tiger estimation is very reliable and is being published in an international journal of repute. The country level tiger estimation is done once in four years. However, the day to day monitoring of tigers and local estimation are done by the States each year. Efforts have been made to streamline and refine the day to day tiger monitoring protocol in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India and the Zoological Society of London by launching the M-STRIPES (Monitoring System for Tigers — Intensive Protection and Ecological Status). The tiger deaths have been put in public domain in a customized online system (www.tigernet.nic.in).

The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended in 2006, with enabling provisions for 'core' and 'buffer' areas. The core areas are meant to be kept inviolate for fostering a viable population of tiger, while the outer buffer/fringe areas are to be managed for addressing dispersal of tiger while promoting co-existence between wildlife management and human activity. As of now, an area of 31407.11 sq.km. has been notified by 16 out of 17 tiger States (except Bihar) as the core/critical tiger habitat. An area of 11318.2476 sq.km. has also been notified by various States in 14 tiger reserves as the buffer. Detailed revised guidelines have been issued for implementing Project Tiger, and a minimum area of 800-1000 sq.km. has been prescribed for fostering a viable population of tigers. The package for relocating human settlements from tiger reserves has been enhanced from ~ 1 lakh per family to ~ 10 lakhs and the Planning Commission has accorded approval for granting ~ 5000 crores in this regard covering the present and the next Five Year Plan periods. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has enabling provisions for State Authorities to deal with encroachments. The States have been addressed at the level of the Prime Minister as well as the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests for filling up the fields staff vacancies. The States are supported under Project Tiger through central assistance for equipments and capacity building. Special emphasis is given to develop intelligence based enforcement and guidelines have been issued for security plan in tiger reserves besides support for antipoaching operations involving local workforce. 100% central assistance is also provided for raising, arming and deploying the Special Tiger Protection Force in sensitive tiger reserves.

Audit Comments

1. The Wildlife (Protection) Act has been amended in 2006.
2. In WLP Act 2006, punishment in cases of offence has been enhanced.
3. Progress in this regard may be shown to next audit.

4. NTCA has been constituted in September, 2006, however, Tiger Conservation Plan has not been received from 29 out of 39 TRs and none of the Plans have been approved. State level Steering Committees were constituted only in 5 States and Tiger Conservation Foundation (TCF) has been established in 17 Tiger Reserve only. Further progress may be intimated.

5. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau was constituted in June, 2007.

6. Nine new TRs were set up (one new TR during 2009-10 and in-principle four new TRs were created). Hence, no comments.

7. The extent of implementation of the revised guidelines may be intimated to audit.

8. The findings of Tiger estimation by using this scientific methodology may be intimated to audit.

9. An area of 31407.11 sq.km. (core area of 29284.476 sq.km. was notified as on Feb., 2010) has been notified as Core area on Oct., 2010. Bihar and Madhya Pradesh have not yet notified the core/critical tiger habitat. Further progress may be intimated.

10. Details of activities undertaken under C.S.S. Scheme 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' along with Project Tiger Scheme may be shown to next audit.

Other Initiatives

1. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Nepal on controlling transboundary illegal trade has been signed only in July, 2010. Results of implementation of MoU may be intimated.

2. No comment.

3. No comment.

4. As on Oct. 2010, 4 tigers (1 was introduced in July, 2010) were re-introduced in Sariska and 3 tigers in Panna (TR). Hence, no comments.

5. Effectiveness of advisories may be shown to next audit.

6. Apart from ₹ 93 lakh each released to Corbett, Ranthambhore and Dudhwa TRs for creation of STPF, ₹ 30 lakh has been approved and obtained from Centrally Sponsored Plan (CSP) scheme towards STPF for Similipal TR in Orissa and released during 2010-11. However, no STPF has been formed till Oct., 2010. Further Progress may be intimated.

7. No comment.

8. Results of Actual implementation of MoU may be shown to next audit.
9. Has been done so no comment.
10. Three special crack teams were constituted and sent to 8 Tiger Reserves (in 8 States). However, reports and progress may be shown to next audit.
11. No comment.
12. Results of initiatives may be intimated.
13. Bi-monthly journal of NTCA (STRIPES) has been launched since Nov.-Dec., 2009 Results of modernizing may be intimated.
14. Outcome may be intimated.
15. Report of Special independent team may be shown to Audit.
16. Further action taken may be intimated.
17. No comment.
18. Result will be awaited in audit.
19. Result will be awaited in audit.
20. Action for using information technology to strengthen surveillance in TR was under process but not yet completed. Further progress may be intimated.
21. Outcome of action taken may be intimated.
22. MoU with Nepal has been signed only in July, 2010.
 - Tiger estimation was 1411 (mid value) as on Oct., 2010 (The figure was same in Feb. 2010).
 - Results of action taken to streamline and refine the day to day monitoring may be intimated.
 - No comments.
 - No comments.
 - Action taken by State Authorities for encroachments may shown to next audit.
 - No comments.
 - NTCA has issued guidelines and advisories. Results of actual implementation of it may be shown to audit.
 - Rs. 93 lakhs were released each to Corbett, Ranthambhore and Dudhwa Tiger Reserves for this purpose. However, no STPF has formed till October, 2010.

[Ministry of Environment and Forests, National Tiger Conservation Authority,
O.M. No. 3(1)/2000-PT (Part-III), dated 23rd May, 2011]

Observation/Recommendation No. 3

Mitigation of negative human impacts is quite essential for revival of natural habitat and eco systems in Tiger Reserves. The success of Project Tiger, therefore, to a great extent, depends on the relocation of persons living in the core and buffer area of the Tiger Reserves. During evidence held on 23.2.2010 the Member-Secretary, National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has informed the Committee that 80,000 families are residing in the core/buffer tiger habitats of 26 Tiger Reserves and the relocation of these families would require ₹ 8000 crore. However, during further evidence on the subject held on 5.3.2010 the witness clarified that the Ministry of Environment and Forests/NTCA have identified 46,000 odd families, which are to be relocated. This clearly indicates that there is no clarity on the part of Ministry/NTCA with regard to the exact number of families that are required to be relocated as well as the amount required for their relocation. Obviously, due diligence has not been carried out by the Ministry/NTC in this regard, which is anything but regrettable. The Committee expect the Ministry of Environment and Forests to arrive at the correct figure relating to the number of families that are to be relocated as well as the amount needed for their relocation/rehabilitation and the most effective/practical manner thereof, in consultation with the concerned State Governments and other agencies. The Ministry informed that since inception of Project Tiger till June 2005, a total of 80 villages (2904 families) have been relocated from different Tiger Reserves. An amount of ₹ 17 crores as provided to Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Orissa and Karnataka during the period 2002-03 to 2006-08 for relocation of 2123 families from 9 Tiger Reserves. During the XI Plan, under the enhanced package, an amount of ₹ 236.79 crores has been provided to States towards resettlement/acquisition of rights of 7782 families. Proposals amounting to ₹ 302.45 crores have already been received in this regard. The Committee regret to note that the relocation of families is going on at a snail's pace and at this rate it will take more than a decade to relocate all the families from the core/buffer areas. The Committee feel that the Planning Commission may be unable to grant ₹ 8000 crore in one go in which case the target of relocation of families would be like chasing a mirage. The Ministry, however, expressed the optimism that they would be able to generate the resources for relocation by undertaking a special project *i.e.* Donor Driven Project and link this to the benefits which will accrue to the community by not cutting trees. The Committee are of the considered view that the Ministry of Environment and Forests ought to be realistic and pragmatic and work out a credible financial package for relocation of families which could be spread over a period of five years. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress made by the Ministry in this regard within three months from the presentation of this Report to the Parliament. The Committee also recommend that Government should lay down a clear-cut agenda for co-existence by addressing the needs of the people sharing habitat with tigers and at the same time ensuring that eco-sensitive areas are protected from human disturbances, without diluting the conservation efforts. The Committee further recommend that Government should ensure that villagers/tribals are involved in the task of protecting tigers.

[Sl. No. 3, Para 3 of 17th Report of PAC (15th Lok Sabha)]

Action Taken by the Government

As provided under section 38V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, the core areas of tiger reserves are meant to be kept inviolate to foster a viable population of tiger. Based on the mapping, of tiger reserves done in the Geographical Information System (GIS) domain involving the Wildlife Institute of India, and as reported by State, there are 48,549 families in the core/critical tiger habitats of tiger reserves. Considerable due diligence has been ensured in this process, in consultation with the State authorities. An amount of ₹ 5000 crore has been estimated (₹ 10 lakhs per family). During the current Plan period approximately ₹ 284.35 crores have been provided to States for village relocation under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger.

The Planning Commission, *vide* their O.M. No. 12074/2-2(1)/05-E&F, dated 22.9.2010, has accorded approval for an amount of ₹ 5000 crore for relocation of 48,549 families (762 villages) from the core areas of Tiger Reserves over 11th and 12th Five Year Plans period. Action has been taken for approaching the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance to obtain the fund allocation in this regard. Further, innovative ways of ecologically sustaining the fringe dwellers around the core areas of tiger reserves have also been explored. Action has been taken for initiating a pilot project on "payment for eco-system services" (PES) to benefit local people in the fringe areas of tiger reserves. Also, process for taking up a donor driven project, *inter-alia*, facilitating village relocation from the core areas of tiger reserves besides sustainable development of local fringe people has been initiated.

The tiger reserve consists of two units, *viz.* the core/critical tiger habitat (having the status of a National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary) and a buffer (having the status of a regular forest area or a combination of forest and revenue areas). The strategy of Project Tiger is to maintain the core as an inviolate area for the tigers with an 'exclusive' tiger agenda while managing the buffer/peripheral area with an 'inclusive' agenda involving the local people. Detailed guidelines have been issued in this regard and at present an area of 11318.2476 sq.km. of buffer has been notified in 14 tiger reserves by various tiger States. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006 has enabling provisions for preparing tiger reserve specific 'Tiger Conservation Plan' which addresses both the core as well as buffer areas. Besides the said Act, also prohibits ecologically unsustainable land uses in a tiger reserve and also in areas linking one tiger reserve to another for protecting the corridor value of such areas. The villagers around a tiger reserves are involved in a big way as local workforce in the various protection and other ongoing works of tiger reserves, with central assistance to States under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger. Almost, 25,59,650 mandays are generated per annum in various States with central assistance under Project Tiger.

Audit Comments

Results of implementation of Wildlife (Protection) Act and Guidelines issued by NTCA by the Tiger Reserves may be shown to next audit.

The Planning Commission has approved proposed amount of ₹ 5000 crore for relocation of 48549 families (762 villages) during 11th & 12th Five Year Plan with certain conditions. The funds have yet to be allocated by the Department of Expenditure.

NTCA has initiated two projects *i.e.* Payment for Eco-system Services (PES) and a donor driven project for village relocation. Further progress in this regard may be intimated.

[Ministry of Environment and Forests, National Tiger Conservation Authority
O.M. No. 3(1)/2000-PT (Part-III) dated 23rd May, 2011]

Observation/Recommendation No. 4

The Committee are constrained to note that there is a severe shortage of forest guards for protecting the tigers from poachers. Most of the guards are stated to be very old, unfit and not properly equipped. The Committee recommend that Ministry should come out with a comprehensive proposal for deploying the guards at places and for the activities where they can be suitably utilized. The Committee also recommend that for effective patrolling of the reserves, the number of camps/chowkis and forest guards and foresters in the camp should be augmented. The staff deployed should be physically fit, capable of carrying out patrolling duties and adequately trained. Vulnerable exist points should invariably be covered by the Regional Deputy Directors (RDDs). Further, the co-ordination among the various agencies involved in control of illegal wildlife trade also needs to be improved.

[Sl. No. 4, Para 4 of 17th Report of PAC (15th Lok Sabha)]

Action Taken by the Government

The States have been addressed at the level of the Prime Minister and the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests to fill up the field staff vacancies. The 2006 amendment in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for staff development and deployment plan (forming part of the Tiger Conservation Plan). Detailed guidelines have been issued to States in this regard for the preparation of tiger reserve Tiger Conservation Plans. Central assistance under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger is given to tiger States for creation/strengthening of patrolling camps/chowkis, barriers, besides procurement of wireless sets, vehicles for antipoaching operations, arms and ammunitions, rain finders, equipments like binoculars, night vision etc. The tiger reserves are also assisted for capacity building of officers and staff of tiger reserves in intelligence gathering and enforcement. A special monitoring system for tigers towards intensive protection and monitoring the ecological status has been developed (M-STRIPES) in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India and the Zoological Society of London. This system is in the GIS domain and captures information on patrolling intensity v/s illegal activities, human disturbance mapping and species distribution and trends in a tiger reserve. The Regional Deputy Directors of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau are mandated with the task of monitoring the vulnerable exit points in the country. Initiative have been taken for strengthening the NTCA Headquarter setup besides creating three Regional Offices at Nagpur, Guwahati and Bangalore to ensure close coordination with the State authorities in tiger landscapes.

Audit Comments

Implementation of W.P. Act and guidelines issued by NTCA by the Tiger Reserves will be watched in future audits. Bi-monthly journal of NTCA (STRIPES) has been launched since Nov.-Dec., 2009. Three regional offices at Nagpur, Guwahati and Bangalore have been set up by NTCA (HQ). The activities undertaken by office of the Regional Deputy Directors of WCCB will be seen during audit of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (Hdqrs.).

[Ministry of Environment and Forests, National Tiger Conservation Authority, O.M. No. 3(1)/2000-PT (Part-III), dated 23rd May, 2011]

Observation/Recommendation No. 5

The Committee note with concern that census was not conducted annually in most of the Tiger Reserves and it was also not upto date. In the 15 Tiger Reserves created up to 1984, the total number of tigers increased from 1121 in 1984 to 1141 in 2001-02. Stagnation in their population indicates the ineffectiveness of the measures taken, if any, under the Project Tiger to attain a viable tiger population. During the same period, the overall tiger population in the country declined from 3623 to 2906. Further, the census of tigers was generally carried out by counting pugmarks which is not considered to be a foolproof method in this regard, the Ministry have informed the Committee that National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) in collaboration with Wildlife Institute of India has evolved a new methodology for estimating tiger population based on determining spatial occupancy of tigers throughout potential tiger forests and sampling such forests using camera traps in a statistical framework. This methodology has been approved by Tiger Task Force. The Committee hope that with the adoption of this new methodology, the figures related to tiger population would be reliable and accurate. The Committee would like to be apprised of the outcome of the new methodology evolved by NTCA.

[Sl. No. 5, Para 5 of 17th Report of PAC (15th Lok Sabha)]

Action Taken by the Government

The all India tiger estimation methodology has been refined based on the recommendations of the Tiger Task Force. As per the findings of the recent (2008) all India estimation of tiger 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 recent assessment of tiger population is based on determining spatial occupancy of tigers throughout potential tiger forests and sampling such forests using camera traps in a statistical framework. This assessment is not comparable to the earlier total count using pugmarks owing to several shortcomings in the latter. The new 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 of such States are viable, while requiring ongoing conservation efforts.

Both external and internal peers were involved in the all India tiger estimation process. The 2nd round of the all India tiger estimation using the refined methodology

is underway, besides the Wildlife Institute of India and the State agencies, outside expertise is also involved in a big way to ensure transparency in the process. The refined methodology of tiger estimation is very reliable and is being published in an international journal of repute. The country level tiger estimation is done once in four years. However, the day to day monitoring of tigers and local estimation are done by the States each year. Efforts have been made to streamline and refine the day to day tiger monitoring protocol in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India and the Zoological Society of London by launching the M-STRIPES monitoring. The tiger deaths have been put in public domain in a customized online system (www.tigernet.nic.in).

Audit Comments

The 2nd round of the all India tiger estimation by using the refined methodology is still under process hence, no comments.

[Ministry of Environment and Forests, National Tiger Conservation Authority, O.M. No. 3(1)/2000-PT (Part-III), dated 23rd May, 2011]

Observation/Recommendation No. 6

The Committee note that India has 60 per cent population of its tiger living in the wild forests. Unlike China, USA, France and Russia where tigers are bred in captivity there is no such captive breeding of tigers in the country. According to the Ministry of Environment and Forests tigers bred in captivity look different and behave differently from those in the wild. Notwithstanding the difference in the characteristics of the tigers that are bred in captivity and that are born in the wild, the Committee are of the considered view that in light of the fast dwindling of tiger population in the tigers reserves, the NTCA may explore launching a National Tiger Breeding Programme and reintroduce these tigers in designated habitats.

[Sl. No. 6, para 6 of 17th Report of PAC (15th Lok Sabha)]

Action Taken by the Government

Tigers bred in captivity cannot be reintroduced in the wild for want of the innate predatory/stalking habits in such animals, leading to their elimination on account of man-tiger conflicts. Tigers breed very well in captivity and the Indian Zoos have the technical expertise to foster such breeding.

India holds more than 60% of the world's wild tiger population.

In places like Sariska and Panna where tigers became locally extinct, active managerial interventions have been made and tigers have been successfully reintroduced. The reintroduced tigers at Panna have also breed recently. Further, the States have been advised to foster *in-situ* build up of prey and predator populations. Also, initiatives are being taken to reintroduced orphaned wild tiger cubs (reared in wild *in-situ* enclosure) in wild conditions with continuous radio telemetry monitoring.

Audit Comments

No comments.

[Ministry of Environment and Forests, National Tiger Conservation Authority,
O.M. No. 3(1)/2000-PT (Part-III), dated 23rd May, 2011]

Observation/Recommendation No. 7

The Committee believes that many informed commentators have, in the columns of the press and in different journals suggested various steps to achieve the objectives of 'Project Tiger'. The suggested measures need to be carefully factored in and where possible included in the action programme by the Government to achieve the mandate of 'Project Tiger'. The Project's success is critical to larger environmental concerns and all steps should be taken to address the gaps and deficiencies witnessed thus far in the implementation and/or conceptualization of 'Project Tiger'.

[Sl. No. 7, para 7 of 17th Report of PAC (15th Lok Sabha)]

Action Taken by the Government

The National Tiger Conservation Authority has eight non-official outside experts. Besides, non-official outside experts are also sent as 'crack teams' to different tiger reserves for getting their valuable suggestions. Also Coordination Committees comprising of outside experts are created to closely liaison with States in collaboration with officials of the NTCA. Further, non-governmental expertise is involved in a big way in the ongoing all India country level tiger estimation work.

Project Tiger has been a great successful venture, and has put the endangered tiger on an assured path of recovery. At the time of the launching of the Project in the early 70's there were hardly 250 tigers in the first formed nine tiger reserves. Today, the tiger population ranges from 1165 to 1657 and most of them are concentrated in the 39 tiger reserves of the country, as revealed in the recent country level assessment (2008) using the re-find method. These are important 'source sites', and the status of tigers outside such areas in regular forest areas is very low. Because of Project Tiger, India is having the maximum number of wild tigers in the world, besides viable tiger source areas in the form of tiger reserves, when compared to the other 12 tiger range countries.

Audit Comments

No comments.

[Ministry of Environment and Forests, National Tiger Conservation Authority,
O.M. No. 3(1)/2000-PT (Part-III), dated 23rd May, 2011]

CHAPTER III

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENT

Observation/Recommendation No. 1

The Committee's examination of the subject has revealed that as of 28th February, 2010 Remedial/Corrective Action Taken Notes on a total number of 3450 Audit Paragraphs were pending with various Ministries/Departments. Out of these 12 Paragraphs relate to the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The scrutiny of the pending Action Taken Notes of the Ministry revealed that in respect of 5 Audit Paras Action Taken Notes were not received in the Audit even for the first time. In regard to one Audit para, though Audit had given their comments the revised reply is awaited from the Ministry. Action Taken Notes in respect of five paras are under examination in the Audit. The Committee express their displeasure over the inordinate delays in furnishing the Action Taken Notes by the Ministry. The Committee are not inclined to accept the plea taken by the Ministry that the delays in furnishing Action Taken Notes were due to delay in vetting by the Office of C&AG. Though, it is understandable that in certain cases there may be delays from the side of the Audit, nevertheless it is not correct to make such a sweeping statement and put the blame on the Audit. The Ministry's statement does not hold water for the simple reason that in respect of five paras, ATN were not furnished to Audit even for the first time. The Committee, urge upon the Ministry of Environment and Forests to streamline their procedures and strengthen their monitoring system with a view to ensuring that the Remedial/Corrective Action Taken Notes on Audit Paras are invariably submitted within the prescribed time frame. The Committee further desire that responsibility should be fixed, for the inordinate delays in the submission of Action Taken Notes on the Audit Paras. The Committee express the hope that the Remedial/Corrective Action Taken Notes on the pending Audit Paras are obtained from the Nodal Officers expeditiously and furnished to the Committee, duly vetted by Audit, within a month from the presentation of this report.

[Sl. No. 1, para 1 of 17th Report of PAC (15th Lok Sabha)]

Action Taken by the Government

In response to questionnaire relating to Most Important Points on Performance Audit on 'Conservation and Protection of Tigers in Tiger Reserves' received from Lok Sabha Secretariat (PAC Branch), an advance copy of the reply was sent to the Lok Sabha Secretariat (PAC Branch) on 4.12.2006. Subsequently, on 20.3.2007, the vetting comments on the replies as received from the C&AGs Office, alongwith the comments on the vetting were sent to the Lok Sabha Secretariat (PAC Branch). It was therefore, presumed that no further Action Taken Note is required to be furnished.

However, subsequently, the Action Taken Note in the prescribed format on the Report of C&AG of India for the year ending 31st March (18 of 2006) on 'Conservation and Protection of Tigers in Tiger Reserves', was sent to the approval of the competent authority to the PAC, Lok Sabha Secretariat on 14.1.2010. This was followed by the Hindi/English versions of the ATN duly vetted by the C&AG, which was sent on 15.4.2010 under intimation to the office of the Principal Director of Audit, Ministry of Finance and the Controller of Accounts, Ministry of Environment and Forests with the approval of the competent authority.

Audit Comments

Audit comments are in the proceeding paragraphs. Further progress made in regard to all the actions taken by the NTCA may kindly be watched by the Ministry and outcome in this regard may be intimated to audit.

[Ministry of Environment and Forests, National Tiger Conservation Authority,
O.M. No. 3(1)/2000-PT (Part-III), dated 23rd May, 2011]

CHAPTER IV

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF
GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE
AND WHICH REQUIRE REITERATION

-NIL-

CHAPTER V

**OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH GOVERNMENT
HAVE FURNISHED INTERIM REPLIES**

-NIL-

NEW DELHI;
18 March, 2011
29 Phalguna, 1932 (Saka)

DR. MURLIMANO HAR JOSHI,
Chairman,
Public Accounts Committee.

APPENDIX I

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SITTING OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE (2010-2011) HELD ON 18TH MARCH, 2011

The Committee sat on Friday, the 18th March, 2011 from 1000 hrs. to 1040 hrs. in Room No. '51', (Chairman's Chamber), First Floor, Parliament House, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi — *Chairman*

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Anandrao Vithoba Adsul
3. Shri Naveen Jindal
4. Shri Satpal Maharaj
5. Dr. K. Sambasiva Rao
6. Shri Aruna Kumar Vundavalli

Rajya Sabha

7. Shri Kalraj Mishra
8. Shri N.K. Singh
9. Prof. Saif-ud-Din Soz

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Devender Singh — *Joint Secretary*
2. Shri M.K. Madhusudhan — *Additional Director*
3. Smt. A. Jyothirmayi — *Under Secretary*

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA

1. Shri R.S. Mathrani — Director General of Audit
(Central Expenditure)
2. Shri Subir Mallick — Principal Director (Indirect Taxes)
3. Smt. A. Panda — Director of Audit (AMG-II)

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members and the representatives of the Office of the C&AG of India to the sitting. The Chairman, then apprised the Members that the meeting has been convened to consider and adopt three Draft Reports viz. one Original Report and two Action Taken Reports.

3. The Committee, then took up the following Draft Reports for consideration:

- (i) *** *** ***
- (ii) *** *** ***
- (iii) Draft Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/
 Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Seventeenth Report
 (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on **‘Conservation and Protection of Tigers in Tiger
 Reserves’**.

4. After some deliberation, the Committee adopted the aforementioned Draft Reports with some modifications/amendments and authorized the Chairman to finalise the Reports, in the light of factual verification done by the Audit and present the same to both the Houses.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX II

(Vide para 5 of Introduction)

ANALYSIS OF THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE CONTAINED IN THEIR SEVENTEENTH REPORT (FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)

(i)	Total No. of Observations/Recommendations :	—	7	
(ii)	Observations/Recommendations of the Committee which have been accepted by the Government :	—	Total: 6 Percentage-85.71%	
	Para Nos. 2-7			
(iii)	Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies received from the Government:	—	Total: 1 Percentage-14.29%	
	Para No. 1			
(iv)	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration:	—	Total: 0 Percentage-0%	
	Nil			
(v)	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which Government have furnished interim replies:	—	Total: 0 Percentage-0%	
	Nil			