

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3051

ANSWERED ON:10.02.2014

SURVIVAL OF WILD ANIMALS

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

- (a) whether wildlife including tigers has declined in the forest area of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has identified the reasons posing threat to the survival of wild animals including tigers in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government including curbing of poaching of tigers in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (Dr. M. VEERAPPA MOILY)

(a) and (b) No, Sir. The country level tiger population, assessed 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 assessment of 2010, and compared to the last country level assessment of 2006, with an estimate of 1411, lower and upper limits being 1165 and 1657 respectively. The details of tiger estimation for the year 2006 and 2010 are at Annexure-I. Similarly the estimated population of lions has increased from 359+10 in 2005 to 411 in 2010, the population of elephants has increased from 27657-27682 to 29391-30711 in 2012 and the population of rhino has increased from 1817 in 1998-99 to 2414 in 2009.

(c) to (d) Illegal trade of wildlife, lucrative prices for wildlife and its product in the international market, habitat degradation and loss, human-animal conflict are some of the reasons posing threat to the survival of wild animals including tigers in the country.

(e) The Government of India is supporting the States through Centrally Sponsored Schemes like 'Project Elephant' and 'Integrated Development for Wildlife Habitats' for strengthening the protection and conservation of wild animals including tiger. The milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India for protection and conservation of wild animals including tiger is at Annexure-II.