

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:230

ANSWERED ON:24.02.2015

CRECHES FOR TIGER CUBS

Sule Smt. Supriya Sadanand

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up a number of creches in specially designed enclosures in National Parks or zoos for tiger cubs estranged from their parks or zoos and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau is also going to monitor tiger reserves using management information system;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether as per 2014 tiger census more than 40 tigers have gone missing across three sanctuaries in the State of Maharashtra as compared to 2010 census and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) whether the Government has any plan to set up special tiger protection force to stop poaching in tiger reserves of Maharashtra and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

- (a) A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been issued by the National Tiger Conservation Authority / Project Tiger to deal with orphaned / abandoned tiger cubs and old / injured tigers in the wild. The said SOP, interalia, includes: (i) rearing the tiger cubs in 'in-situ' enclosure for wilding / re-wilding towards subsequent release in the wild, (ii) 'Hard' release of tiger cubs in the wild, (iii) treatment of tiger cubs for rearing in zoo, and (iv) rehabilitation of the sick / injured / old tiger in zoo.
- (b) & (c) Initiative has been taken for collaboration of National Tiger Conservation Authority and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau towards an online tiger / wildlife crime tracking / reporting system in tiger reserves.
- (d) No Sir. The recent results of countrywide assessment of status of tigers, co-predators and their prey show an increasing trend from 169 to 190 number of tigers in Maharashtra.
- (e) The Special Tiger Protection Force is currently operational in Tadoba-Andhari and Pench Tiger Reserves in Maharashtra, with 100% support under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger. Besides, in-principle approval of the Government of India has been accorded for raising, arming and deploying the Special Tiger Protection Force in Melghat and Nawegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserves of Maharashtra.