

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4407  
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2015  
DEVELOPMENT OF NEW SANCTUARIES  
Chavda Shri Vinod

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

- (a) whether there is any scheme for developing new sanctuaries for conservation and development of wild life and forests in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of sanctuaries in the country as on date along with the number of animals inhabiting them category-wise; and
- (d) the extent of rise and fall in the number of rare species of animals therein?

**Answer**

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

(a) and (b) Under the provision of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, the State /UT Governments are empowered to declare any area considered to be of adequate ecological, fauna, geomorphological, natural or zoological significance, as Sanctuary for the purpose of protecting, propagating for developing wildlife or its environment.

The Central Government provides financial assistance for the conservation and protection of wildlife and its habitats in the notified Protected Areas including Sanctuaries under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

(c) and (d) As per information available with the Ministry, as on date, there are 517 Wildlife Sanctuaries in the country. Sanctuary-wise details of number of wild animals are not collated in the Ministry. However, census of tiger is undertaken at the national level once every four years and census of few major species like elephant, lion and rhinoceros is undertaken at the State-level by the respective State/Union Territory governments. The extent of rise and fall in the number of animals of these species, as available in the Ministry is given below:

Name of the Species	Estimated population (Census year)
Tiger	1706 (2010) 1945-2491 (2014)
Elephant	27657-27682 (2007) 29391-30711 (2012)
Lion	359+10 (2005) 411 (2010)
Rhinoceros	1855 (2006) 2810 (2013)