

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1921
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2014
ECO TOURISM
Ray Shri Bishnu Pada

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to promote eco-tourism in the national parks and sanctuaries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to augment surveillance activities in our national parks and sanctuaries;and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a)and (b) Tourism management is a part of the regular management practice of the National Parks and Sanctuaries. A set of comprehensive guidelines has been issued under section 38O-1(c) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for tiger conservation and tourism in Tiger Reserves, which allows regulated tourism in their core areas. The said guidelines (available in public domain at www.projecttiger.nic.in) inter alia, cover ecotourism with a view to benefit local people and wildlife. The tiger States have been advised to implement the said guidelines, while reflecting it in the Tiger Conservation Plan of tiger reserves.

(c) and (d) A pilot initiative of electronic surveillance ("e-Eye"), using long range, intelligent thermal and infra red cameras, has been implemented in the southern part of the Corbett Tiger Reserve, Uttarakhand, for 24x7 surveillance to strengthen protection. The said initiative has been successfully implemented and well received by the State. Funding support under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger to install e-Eye has also been rendered to the Kaziranga Tiger Reserve in the year 2013-14.