

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1938
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2014
REVIEW OF TIGER CONSERVATION PROGRAMMES
Jaiswal Dr. Sanjay;Patel Smt. Jayshreeben

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

- (a) whether the Government has reviewed the functioning of the National Tiger Conservation Authority, Project Tiger and other schemes in view of the decreasing number of tigers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to increase the tiger population;
- (c) whether the Government has any mechanism for monitoring of proper utilization of funds granted for the tiger projects; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The Government of India monitors the National Tiger Conservation Authority through its Annual Report and Audit Report, duly audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, vis-à-vis provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which are laid before Parliament. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project tiger is evaluated for management effectiveness by independent teams based on International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) criteria, as adapted to our conditions, besides audit by Comptroller and Auditor General of India. Due to concerted efforts, monitoring and milestone initiatives of the National Tiger Conservation Authority, the country level tiger population, estimated 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 all India estimation (2010), as compared to the last country level estimation of 2006, with an estimate of 1411, lower and upper limits being 1165 and 1657 respectively. The milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India for conservation of tigers are at Annexure-I.

(c) & (d) Central assistance to States for tiger conservation is provided on receipt of a Memorandum of Understanding in a prescribed format from States, indicating commitments to ensure proper use of funds as per guidelines. Further, Utilisation Certificates in prescribed formats are obtained regarding the expenditure, duly countersigned by the Chief Wildlife Warden of respective tiger States. The accounts are also subjected to regular Audit by respective Accountant Generals.