

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:960  
ANSWERED ON:16.07.2014  
TIGER CENSUS METHOD  
Maragatham Smt. K.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to replace the existing pug mark method of counting tigers, with any other scientific method;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the new method is likely to be adopted?

**Answer**

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

(a), (b) & (c) The country level tiger estimation since 2006 is done using the new, refined methodology, as recommended by the Tiger Task Force, based on spatial occupancy of tigers and sampling such forests using camera traps in a statistical framework, which is not comparable to the earlier total count using pugmarks. Besides, DNA analysis of scat sample is also done to ascertain minimum number of tigers in low tiger density areas.