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Title: Need to strengthen the security in Tiger Reserves to protect the tigers from poachers and declare Nagpur as the World Tiger Capital.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR): I intend to raise a very important matter concerning the security and other arrangements for safeguarding and protecting tigers in the wildlife sanctuaries in the country.

The reports appearing in media and other sources indicate that highly technically trained and organized gang is engaged in poaching resulting in their killings. It is learnt that 337 tigers lost their lives due to the activities of various gangs operating in the wildlife sanctuaries during the last ten years. Despite Rs. 600 crores allocated during 2008-12 for tiger conservation efforts, the basics including patrolling, field monitoring, detection, enforcement etc. are all in a sorry state of affairs. Organized gangs of criminals who have been indulging in poaching and smuggling forest wealth are responsible for killings of 25 tigers.

As per the National Tiger Conservation Authority, only 1411 tigers are remaining in India. A century ago, India had about 40000 tigers.

Vidarbha has 80% of Maharashtra's forest cover which is home to varied flora and fauna. Out of the 40 tiger reserves of India, 13 are near Nagpur. Nagpur today is the Tiger Gateway of India. Therefore, there has been a constant demand to declare Nagpur as the World Tiger Capital.

With a view to check the continued instances of poaching by organized gangs of criminals and smugglers, I would urge upon the Government (i) to ask the CBI and other enforcement agencies to stop the nefarious activities of poachers and smugglers (ii) to release 400 crores to strengthen the security and other measures and (iii) to declare Nagpur as World Tiger Capital.