

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1891
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.12.2017

Increase in Tiger Population

1891. SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN:

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

- (a) whether the overall tiger population in India has really gone up in the past few years and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether fool-proof methods and scientific techniques were adopted for the counting of tiger population in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the population of tigers increased in all the regions and wildlife parks in the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, areas or wildlife parks where the tiger population has actually decreased;
- (d) whether the sub-species of tiger, the Royal Bengal Tiger has increased in population or decreased and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether in the period between 2015-16 poaching claimed the lives of nearly hundreds of tigers and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) The country level tiger estimation using the refined methodology is done once in four years. As per the assessment of the Status of Tigers, Co-predators and Prey, 2014 using the refined methodology, the tiger number has shown 30% increase countrywide with an estimated number of 2226 (range 1945-2491) as compared to 2010 estimation of 1706 (range 1520-1909 tigers).
- (b) The current method used for tiger estimation is a refinement over the 2006 and 2010 exercise, wherein robust spatially explicit capture recapture protocols using joint models have been employed. The method is peer reviewed in both national and international fora and has been published in international scientific journal. This national assessment has been conducted by the National Tiger Conservation Authority in collaboration with the State Forest Departments, Wildlife Institute of India and National level Non Governmental Organisations.
- (c) The details of tiger estimation pertaining to tiger landscapes in the country for the years 2010 and 2014 depicting status viz. increase, decrease or stable number, are at **Annexure-I**. The tiger reserve-wise estimation of population of tigers, done for the first time in year 2014 is at **Annexure-II**.
- (d) The species found in India is Royal Bengal Tiger (*Panthera tigris*) only. Details have been given in reply to above questions.
- (e) During year 2015-16, a total of 100 tiger deaths were reported by the States out of which 23 cases were because of poaching including seizures.

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION
NO. 1891 ON INCREASE IN TIGER POPULATION DUE FOR REPLY ON 29.12.2017**

**Details of tiger estimation pertaining to tiger landscapes in the country,
for the years 2010 and 2014**

| State | Tiger Population | | Increase / Decrease / Stable |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| | 2010 | 2014 | |
| <i>Shivalik-Gangetic Plain Landscape Complex</i> | | | |
| Uttarakhand | 227 (199-256) | 340 | Increase |
| Uttar Pradesh | 118 (113-124) | 117 | Stable |
| Bihar | 8 (-) | 28 | Increase |
| Shivalik Gangetic | 353 (320-388) | 485 (427-543) | Increase |
| <i>Central Indian Landscape Complex and Eastern Ghats Landscape Complex</i> | | | |
| Andhra Pradesh (including Telangana) | 72 (65-79) | 68 | Stable |
| Chhattisgarh | 26 (24-27) | 46 | Increase |
| Madhya Pradesh | 257 (213-301) | 308 | Increase |
| Maharashtra | 169 (155-183) | 190 | Increase |
| Odisha | 32 (20-44) | 28 | Stable |
| Rajasthan | 36 (35-37) | 45 | Increase |
| Jharkhand | 10 (6-14) | 3+ | Decrease* |
| Central India | 601 (518-685) | 688 (596-780) | Increase |
| <i>Western Ghats Landscape Complex</i> | | | |
| Karnataka | 300 (280-320) | 406 | Increase |
| Kerala | 71 (67-75) | 136 | Increase |
| Tamil Nadu | 163 (153-173) | 229 | Increase |
| Goa | - | 5 | Increase |
| Western Ghats | 534 (500-568) | 776 (685-861) | Increase |
| <i>North Eastern Hills and Brahmaputra Flood Plains</i> | | | |
| Assam | 143 (113-173) | 167 | Increase |
| Arunachal Pradesh | - | 28* | Increase |
| Mizoram | 5 | 3+ | Stable |
| North West Bengal | - | 3 | ** |
| North East Hills, and Brahmaputra | 148 (118-178) | 201 (174-212) | Increase |
| <i>Sunderbans</i> | 70 (64-90) | 76 (92-96) | Stable |
| TOTAL | 1706 (1520-1909) | 2226 (1945-2491) | Increase |

+ From scat DNA

* From camera trap data and scat DNA

* Much of the tiger occupied areas could not be surveyed owing to naxal problem

** Tiger estimation was not done in the year 2010

ANNEXURE-II**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1891 ON INCREASE IN TIGER POPULATION DUE FOR REPLY ON 29.12.2017****Population of tigers, reserve-wise, as per Status of Tigers, Co-predators and Prey in India, 2014**

| Tiger Reserve | State | Tiger Population | Lower SE Limit | Upper SE Limit |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Achanakmar | Chhattisgarh | 11 | 10 | 12 |
| Anamalai | Tamil Nadu | 13 | 11 | 14 |
| Bandhavgarh | Madhya Pradesh | 63 | 55 | 71 |
| Bandipur | Karnataka | 120 | 107 | 134 |
| Bhadra | Karnataka | 22 | 20 | 25 |
| Biligiri Ranganatha Temple | Karnataka | 68 | 60 | 75 |
| Bor | Maharashtra | 5 | 3 | 6 |
| Buxa* | West Bengal | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Corbett | Uttarakhand | 215 | 169 | 261 |
| Dampa* | Mizoram | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Dandeli-Anshi | Karnataka | 5 | 3 | 6 |
| Dudhwa | Uttar Pradesh | 58 | 46 | 69 |
| Indravati | Chhattisgarh | 12 | 11 | 13 |
| Kalakad Mundanthurai | Tamil Nadu | 10 | 9 | 11 |
| Kanha | Madhya Pradesh | 80 | 71 | 90 |
| Kaziranga | Assam | 103 | 91 | 115 |
| Manas | Assam | 11 | 9 | 12 |
| Melghat | Maharashtra | 25 | 21 | 30 |
| Mudumalai | Tamil Nadu | 89 | 79 | 99 |
| Nagarahole | Karnataka | 101 | 90 | 113 |
| Nagarjunasagar Srisailam | Andhra Pradesh | 54 | 40 | 67 |
| Namdapha | Arunachal Pradesh | 11 | 5 | 11 |
| Nameri | Assam | 5 | 4 | 5 |
| Nawegoan-Nagzira | Maharashtra | 7 | 4 | 10 |
| Pakke | Arunachal Pradesh | 7 | 6 | 8 |
| Palamau* | Jharkhand | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Panna | Madhya Pradesh | 17 | 17 | 17 |
| Parambikulam | Kerala | 19 | 17 | 21 |
| Pench | Madhya Pradesh | 43 | 36 | 49 |
| Pench | Maharashtra | 35 | 28 | 42 |
| Periyar | Kerala | 20 | 18 | 22 |
| Pilibhit | Uttar Pradesh | 25 | 19 | 30 |
| Ranthambhore | Rajasthan | 37 | 30 | 41 |
| Sahyadri* | Maharashtra | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Sanjay-Dubri | Madhya Pradesh | 8 | 7 | 10 |
| Sariska | Rajasthan | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| Sathyamangalam | Tamil Nadu | 72 | 64 | 80 |

| | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Satkosia | Odisha | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| Satpura | Madhya Pradesh | 26 | 22 | 30 |
| Similipal | Odisha | 17 | 14 | 19 |
| Sunderban | West Bengal | 68 | 57 | 86 |
| Tadoba-Andhari | Maharashtra | 51 | 44 | 58 |
| Udanti-Sitanadi | Chhattisgarh | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| Valmiki | Bihar | 22 | 17 | 26 |
| Total | | 1586 | 1343 | 1820 |

* Minimum number of tigers recorded through scat DNA, in these cases a standard error on their estimate was not possible.
