GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO: 103
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 10.02.2022

Data on deaths of tigers in the country

103. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI:

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

(a) details of tiger population in country over the last three years and number of tigers out of their population living in tiger-reserves, State-wise;
(b) measures taken to increase the population of tigers living in protected reserves, details thereof;
(c) number of tiger deaths owing to man made causes during the last three years, State-wise alongwith causes that led to tiger deaths;
(d) whether Government has taken cognisance of rising tiger deaths in country;
(e) if so, details of measures taken to curb tiger deaths; and
(f) arrests made during the last three years in relation to tiger poaching after investigations?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e) & (f) :- A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) & (f) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 103 ON DATA ON DEATHS OF TIGERS IN THE COUNTRY DUE FOR REPLY ON 10.02.2022

(a) & (b) Details of tiger estimation pertaining to tiger landscapes in the country, for the year 2018 is at **Annexure-I.** The quadrennial All India Tiger Estimation Exercise which assesses the Status of Tigers, Co-predators and Prey using robust scientific methodology, has shown that the tiger number has increased as per the latest estimation done in 2018, with an estimated number of 2967 (range 2603-3346) as compared to 2014 estimation of 2226 (range 1945-2491). India is the largest tiger range country in the world and has now more than 75% of the global tiger population.

(c) The average life span of the tigers in the wild is generally 10-12 years and in natural ecosystem factors like old age, diseases, internecine fights, electrocution, snaring, drowning, road, rail hits etc. and a very high infant mortality observed in big cats including tigers accounts for majority of tiger deaths. As reported by States, the details of tiger mortality during last three years is at **Annexure-II.**

(d) & (e) The Government of India, through the National Tiger Conservation Authority, has advocated a three pronged strategy to manage human-tiger negative interactions as follows:-

(i) **Material and logistical support:** Funding support through the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger, is provided to tiger reserves for acquiring capacity in terms of infrastructure and material, to deal with tigers dispersing out of source areas. These are solicited by tiger reserves through an Annual Plan of Operation (APO) every year which stems out from an overarching Tiger Conservation Plan (TCP), mandated under Section 38 V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. *Inter alia,* activities such as payment of ex-gratia and compensation, periodic awareness campaigns to sensitize, guide and advise the general populace on man-animal conflict, dissemination of information through various forms of media, procurement of immobilization equipment, drugs, training and capacity building of forest staff to deal with conflict events are generally solicited.

(ii) **Restricting habitat interventions**: Based on the carrying capacity of tigers in a tiger reserve, habitat interventions are restricted through an overarching TCP. In case tiger numbers are at carrying capacity levels, it is advised that habitat interventions should be limited so that there is no excessive spill over of wildlife including tigers thereby minimizing man-animal conflict. Further, in buffer areas around tiger reserves, habitat interventions are restricted such that they are sub-optimal vis-à-vis the core/critical tiger habitat areas, judicious enough to facilitate dispersal to other rich habitat areas only.

(iii) **Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs):** The National Tiger Conservation Authority has issued following three SOPs to deal with human-animal conflict, which are available in public domain:

i. To deal with emergency arising due to straying of tigers in human dominated landscapes
ii. To deal with tiger depredation on livestock
iii. For active management towards rehabilitation of tigers from source areas at the landscape level.

The three SOPs *inter alia* include the issue of managing dispersing tigers, managing livestock kills so as to reduce conflict as well as relocating tigers from source areas to areas where density of tiger is low, so that conflict in rich source areas does not occur.

Also as per Tiger Conservation Plans need based and site-specific management interventions are done for improving quality of wildlife habitat for which funding is provided under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger.

The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) along with the Wildlife Institute of India has published a document "Eco-Friendly measures to mitigate impacts of Linear infrastructure on wildlife", in letter and spirit of section 38 O (1) (g) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to safeguard wildlife and tigers from road /rail accidents in interlinking / corridor areas.

32 major tiger corridors in the country have been identified and published in a document titled "Connecting Tiger Populations for Long-term Conservation", which are operationalized through prescriptions of Tiger Conservation Plans mandated under section 38V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(f) The day to day management and implementation of the Wildlife (Protection) Act is done by the States. Information on persons arrested on account of tiger poaching is not collated at Project Tiger Division / National Tiger Conservation Authority level.

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Annexure-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 103 ON DATA ON DEATHS OF TIGERS IN THE COUNTRY DUE FOR REPLY ON 10.02.2022

DETAILS OF TIGER ESTIMATION PERTAINING TO TIGER LANDSCAPES IN THE COUNTRY, FOR THE YEAR 2018

State	**2018**
Shivalik-Gangetic Plain Landscape Complex	
Uttarakhand	442 (393-491)
Uttar Pradesh	173 (148-198)
Bihar	31 (26-37)
Shivalik Gangetic	**646 (567-726)**
Central Indian Landscape Complex and Eastern Ghats Landscape Complex	
Andhra Pradesh	48 (40-56) #
Telangana	26 (23-30) #
Chhattisgarh	19 (18-21)
Madhya Pradesh	526 (441-621)
Maharashtra	312 (270-354)
Odisha	28 (26-30)
Rajasthan	69 (62-76)
Jharkhand	5
Central India	**1,033(885-1,193)**
Western Ghats Landscape Complex	
Karnataka	524 (475-573)
Kerala	190 (166-215)
Tamil Nadu	264 (227-302)
Goa	3
Western Ghats	**981 (871-1,093)**
North Eastern Hills and Brahmaputra Flood Plains	
Assam	190 (165-215)
Arunachal Pradesh	29*
Mizoram	0
Nagaland	0
Northern West Bengal	0
North East Hills, and Brahmaputra	**219 (194-244)**
Sunderbans	88 (86-90)
TOTAL	**2,967 (2,603-3,346)**

* : Scat DNA based estimates were also used.

: For comparison with previous estimates of Andhra Pradesh, combine Andhra Pradesh and Telangana population estimate of current year.

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Annexure-II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 103 ON DATA ON DEATHS OF TIGERS IN THE COUNTRY DUE FOR REPLY ON 10.02.2022

Details of tiger mortality during last three years, as reported by States

State	Year 2019	Year 2020	Year 2021
Andhra Pradesh	1	1	1
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
Assam	5	6	6
Bihar	1	1	4
Chhattisgarh	1	1	4
Delhi	0	0	0
Goa	0	4	0
Gujarat	1	0	0
Jharkhand	0	1	0
Karnataka	12	12	15
Kerala	1	10	6
Madhya Pradesh	31	29	42
Maharashtra	18	16	27
Nagaland	0	0	0
Odisha	0	0	0
Rajasthan	3	3	1
Tamil Nadu	7	8	4
Telangana	2	0	4
Uttar Pradesh	4	9	9
Uttarakhand	7	4	3
West Bengal	2	1	1
Total	**96**	**106**	**127**

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