

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1337**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.12.2023

**Death of tigers in Nilgiris Biosphere**

1337 SHRI VAIKO:  
SHRI M. SHANMUGAM:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that more than 10 tigers died recently at the Nilgiris Biosphere in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, whether any team or committee has been formed to investigate the deaths after conducting post-mortems on the tigers, including cubs;
- (c) whether NTCA protocols were followed while investigating the deaths of these tigers;
- (d) if so, the reasons for sudden deaths of large number of tigers; and
- (e) the follow-up action proposed for the prevention of unnatural deaths and to conserve and protect wild animals in the region, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) As reported by the State, there were ten tiger deaths in Nilgiris region from 16.08.2023 to 19.09.2023.
- (b) Yes Sir. A committee was constituted by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) to ascertain the reasons of said tiger deaths in Nilgiris.
- (c) & (d) Yes Sir. The reasons, as reported by the Committee, are given below:
  - (i) 6 tiger cubs and two adult tigers died (cubs due to starvation and adult tigers due to infighting).
  - (ii) The death of two tigers in Avalanche region was due to poisoning, the culprit has already been arrested by the Forest Department.
- (e) The follow-up action proposed for the prevention of unnatural deaths and to conserve and protect wild animals in the region are as under:-
  1. Implement a landscape strategy with focus on potential future conflict considering movement ecology of tiger and land-use changes in the landscape.

2. Recommended for a detailed monitoring involving M-STrIPES modules and intensive camera trapping of the region.
3. Recommended to investigate further on the recent tiger sightings across the human dominated area, getting deeper into the situation analyses in terms of since when the tiger sightings occur, frequency and level of threat/risk perception by the people.
4. Recommended to initiate consultation with concerned stakeholders to develop micro-plan either at local level or panchayat level, so that the conflict mitigation strategies can be visualized and implemented collaboratively by the stakeholders with the guidance of forest department.

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