

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1187
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.08.2024

Dwindling tiger population

1187. SHRI C. VE. SHANMUGAM:

Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the tiger population is dwindling in the country since the last five years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that in the National Parks across the country, many deaths of these big cats have been reported;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government to protect and save them to maintain the ecological balance?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a) & (b) The tiger number has increased as per All India Tiger Estimation done in 2022, with an estimated number of 3682 (range 3167-3925) as compared to 2018 estimation of 2967 (range 2603-3346). The tiger population is increasing at a rate of 6% per annum in India when consistently sampled areas are compared.
- (c), (d) & (e) The details of deaths of tigers are reported to National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) by the States as per standard protocol. The average life span of the tigers in the wild is generally 10-12 years. In natural ecosystem, factors like old age, diseases, internecine fights, electrocution, snaring, drowning, road, rail hits and a high infant mortality accounts for majority of tiger deaths.

Funding support is provided under the Project Tiger component of the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (CSS-IDWH) to tiger range States for conservation of tigers, raising awareness on tiger & other wildlife conservation, habitat management, protection, eco-development, human resource and infrastructure development, voluntary village relocation, as per sanctioned Annual Plan of Operation of the Tiger Reserve.
