

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2764
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.12.2024

Displacement of tribals in tiger reserves with no tigers

2764 DR. FAUZIA KHAN:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of tribal displacements from these reserves despite the absence of tigers;
- (b) if so, whether it is a fact that no tigers are currently present in Sahyadri (Maharashtra), Satkosia (Odisha), Kamlang (Arunachal Pradesh), Kawal (Telangana), and Dampa (Mizoram) tiger reserves;
- (c) if so, the details including the last recorded presence of tigers and reasons for these displacements;
- (d) whether Government has evaluated the impact of these displacements on affected communities' livelihoods, cultural heritage and social structure; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (e) The Government of India through the National Tiger Conservation Authority has issued protocol / guidelines for incentivized voluntary village relocation programme in notified core/critical tiger habitats of Tiger Reserves under the ambit of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, read with the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, which is purely voluntary in nature and *inter alia* provides for community facilities like access roads, irrigation and drinking water. The program is monitored and implemented by the State level monitoring committee and District level implementing committee.

Low density or absence of tigers is not the only criteria for notifying an area as a tiger reserve as certain tiger reserves operate in a meta-population framework and have proved their utility as a stepping stone for dispersing tigers in a landscape. Tiger being an "umbrella species", the protection offered to it also ensures viable populations of other wild animals (co-predators, prey) and forest, thereby facilitating the ecological viability of the entire forest area / habitat. Therefore, a tiger reserve becomes an ecological imperative for the survival of source populations of tiger and other wild animals.
