

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 372
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.11.2024

Deaths and disappearance of animals in National Parks

372 SHRI SAKET GOKHALE:
SMT. PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI:

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

- (a) the status of missing tigers in Ranthambore National Park;
- (b) whether the reasons for their absence has been identified, and if so, details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the reasons of deaths of elephants in Bandhavgarh National Park; and
- (d) the measures taken by Government to ensure the safety of wild animals in National Parks?

ANSWER

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

- (a) As reported by the State, out of the initial twenty five tigers that were reportedly missing, presence of ten tigers has been ascertained. As per the latest country level assessment of tiger, co-predators and prey (2022), the estimated tiger population of the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve is 57 ± 0.13 . There is no report of vacant tiger territories in the said reserve.
- (b) Productive areas like the Ranthambhore tiger reserve are characterised by a high turnover of tigers (large number of births and deaths) owing to several intrinsic and natural causes relating to their land tenure dynamics (internecine combats, infanticide movement to new areas etc.) and biological carrying capacity of the habitat for population viability.
- (c) According to the preliminary report received from Chief Wildlife Warden, Madhya Pradesh, the reason for death of ten elephants in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve has been inferred therein due to consuming excessive quantities of fungus infected Kodo millet crops as per the toxicological analysis conducted by the Center for Wildlife Conservation, Management, and Disease Surveillance (ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar, Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh).

- (d) The Government has taken a number of steps for protection and conservation of wildlife. Important measures include:
- i. Creation of Protected Areas (National Parks, Sanctuaries, Community Reserves and Conservation Reserves) under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972, for conservation of wildlife and its habitat.
 - ii. Eco-Sensitive Zones are notified around National Parks and Sanctuaries in order to strengthen conservation of wildlife, under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
 - iii. Rare and endangered species of animals have been listed in the schedules-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, thereby providing them highest degree of protection.
 - iv. Financial assistance to States/UTs including State of Andhra Pradesh under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Project Tiger and Elephant' and 'Development of Wildlife habitats'.
 - v. Species recovery programme for 22 identified critically endangered species is supported under Centrally Sponsored scheme of 'Development of Wildlife Habitats'.
 - vi. Wild Life Crime Control Bureau has been set up to gather intelligence about illegal wildlife trade in wild animals and animal articles and to achieve interstate and trans boundary coordination in enforcement of wildlife laws.
