

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 538
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2025

Tiger deaths at MM Hills Wildlife Sanctuary

538. SHRI JAGGESH:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the death of five tigers at Male Mahadeshwara (MM) Hills Wildlife Sanctuary, Chamarajanagar (Karnataka) on 26 June, 2025, marked as the worst single-day tiger mortality in India's history;
- (b) whether initial investigations indicate that they were killed by consuming a deliberately poisoned cattle carcass;
- (c) whether the Ministry has ensured real-time monitoring in sensitive zones like MM Hills; and
- (d) if so, the details including steps taken by the State and Centre in the investigation and prevention of future incidents?

ANSWER

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

- (a) One female tiger alongwith four cubs were found dead in the Male Mahadeshwara Hills Wildlife Sanctuary in Karnataka.
- (b) As per the findings of the Special Investigation Team constituted by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), the tigers were killed in retaliation by feeding on a cattle carcass laced with pesticide.
- (c) & (d) The Government of India has, in the past, advised the State of Karnataka to notify the Male Mahadeshwara Hills as a Tiger Reserve which ensures real time monitoring through established protocols like the Phase IV annual monitoring of tigers besides using digital tools like M-STriPES (Monitoring system for Tigers, Intensive protection and ecological status). The same has been reiterated by the SIT too. Further, the Government of India has notified the National Tiger Conservation Authority (Normative Standards for Tourism and Project Tiger) Guidelines, 2012 for management of tigers & their habitats along with advisories and Standard Operating Procedures to prevent such incidents.
