

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.6192
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.04.2017

Animal Census

6192. SHRI S.R. VIJAYAKUMAR:
SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:
SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:
KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:
SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:
DR. SUNIL BALIRAM GAIKWAD:
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry had conducted any animal census in the country and if so, the details thereof, animal-wise;
- (b) the details of the criteria adopted by the Government for conducting the animal census;
- (c) the manner in which the population of wild animals is estimated in the absence of specific census data;
- (d) the details of the estimated wild animals of iconic species in the country, State/animal-wise; and
- (e) the details of the steps taken by the Government to conserve the wild animals of iconic species in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

- (a) Census of major flagship species is undertaken at the State-level by the respective State/Union Territory Governments periodically. However census of tiger and elephant is undertaken at the national level once every four and five years respectively. Estimated population of tigers, elephants, rhino and lions, as available with the Ministry is given below:

Name of species	Estimated Population/year
Tiger	2226 (2014)
Elephant	29391-30711 (2012)
Rhinoceros	2913 (2015)
Lion	523 (2015)

- (b) & (c) Main criteria adopted by the Government for conducting the animal census are

as follows:

1. For tigers and nocturnal animals modern camera trap based capture- recapture method is used.
2. For diurnal species line transects, block count, total count and census at water holes are used.
3. For other species synchronized counting all over the state using frontline staff and volunteers are used.
4. For elephant and rhinoceros dung decay method.

The method used by Wildlife Institution of India (WII)-National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is a double sampling approach where in Spatially explicit capture mark recapture using camera traps is used for assessing tiger and other carnivores populations across 18 states in a joint likelihood framework. Prey populations are assessed using Distance sampling in all Tiger reserves. Lion population is censused by total count and elephant population by dung density and decay method.

- (d) State-wise details of the estimated wild animals of iconic species in the country is given in the **Annexure-IA, IB and IC**.
- (e) Steps taken to conserve the endangered species of birds and animals include:
- i. Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
 - ii. Protected Areas, viz., National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves covering important wildlife habitats have been created all over the country under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to conserve wild animals and their habitats.
 - iii. Special programmes like 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' have been launched for conservation of these endangered species and their habitats.
 - iv. A specific component of "Recovery programmes for saving critically endangered species and habitats" is provided in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' for focused conservation action on selected critically endangered species.
 - v. In addition to provision of stringent punishment for the offenders, the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that is used for committing wildlife offence(s).
 - vi. Financial and technical assistance is provided to the State/ Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for providing better protection to wildlife including endangered species and improvement of its habitat.

- vii. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.
- viii. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to ensure co-ordination among various officers and State Governments in connection with the enforcement of law for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its products.

ANNEXURE-IA

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 6192 REGARDING 'ANIMAL CENSUS' BY SHRI S.R. VIJAYAKUMAR AND OTHERS DUE FOR REPLY ON 11.04.2017.

Details of tiger estimation pertaining to tiger landscapes in the country in 2014

State	2014
<i>Shivalik-Gangetic Plain Landscape Complex</i>	
Uttarakhand	340
Uttar Pradesh	117
Bihar	28
Shivalik Gangetic	485 (427-543)
<i>Central Indian Landscape Complex and Eastern Ghats Landscape Complex</i>	
Andhra Pradesh (including Telangana)	68
Chhattisgarh	46
Madhya Pradesh	308
Maharashtra	190
Odisha	28
Rajasthan	45
Jharkhand	3+
Central India	688 (596-780)
<i>Western Ghats Landscape Complex</i>	
Karnataka	406
Kerala	136
Tamil Nadu	229
Goa	5
Western Ghats	776 (685-861)
<i>North Eastern Hills and Brahmaputra Flood Plains</i>	
Assam	167
Arunachal Pradesh	28*
Mizoram	3+
North West Bengal	3
North East Hills, and Brahmaputra	201 (174-212)
<i>Sunderbans</i>	76 (92-96)
TOTAL	2226 (1945-2491)

+ From scat DNA

* From camera trap data and scat DNA

ANNEXURE-I B**Population of wild elephants**

REGION	STATE	2012
North-East	Arunachal Pradesh	890
	Assam	5620
	Meghalaya	1811*
	Nagaland	212
	Mizoram	-
	Tripura	59
	West Bengal (North)	647
Total for North-East		9239
East	West Bengal (South)	#
	Jharkhand	688
	Orissa	1930
	Chhattisgarh	247
Total for East		2865
North	Uttarakhand	1346*
	Uttar Pradesh	291
Total for North		1637
South	Tamil Nadu	4015
	Karnataka	5648-6488
	Kerala	5942-6422
	Andhra Pradesh	41
	Maharashtra	4
Total for South		15650-16970
GRAND TOTAL		29391-30711

* Meghalaya and Uttarakhand has not conducted elephant census after 2007. Therefore, the figure of 2007 has been maintained for 2012 as well.

The figure for North and South Bengals are combined.

ANNEXURE-I C

Population of Rhinoceros as reported by States

Name of state	No. of rhinoceros (Year of Census)	
Assam	2505 (2012)	2624 (2015)
Uttar Pradesh	30	34
West Bengal	229 (2013)	255 (2015)

**Population of lion as reported by State Government
of Gujarat**

Name of state	2015
Gujarat	523
