

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2732
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.08.2017

Tiger Reserves

2732. SHRIMATI K. MARAGATHAM:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that India has 39 tiger reserves with a population of 2226 tigers as per the 2014 census;
- (b) the extent to which success has been achieved under project tiger since its inception;
- (c) whether there is no emphasis on major issues for many years including these currently threatening the ecosystem;
- (d) whether it is true that a visit by the committee to some of the tiger reserves has revealed that much of the areas are covered with lantana, eupatorium and parthenium like Mudumalai, Bandipur areas of Nilgiris etc.; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

- (a) India has 50 tiger reserves currently and the number of tigers as per the assessment of the Status of Tigers, Co-predators and Prey, 2014, in the entire country within and beyond tiger reserves is 2226.
- (b) Project Tiger / National Tiger Conservation Authority has been successful in fulfilling its mandate and has put the endangered tiger on an assured path of recovery. It is one of the most successful conservation programme for a single species in the entire world. Due to ongoing conservation efforts under the project in designated tiger reserves, India has maximum number of tigers alongwith its source areas amongst 13 tiger range countries in the world.
- (c) All tiger reserves are mandated to have a Tiger Conservation Plan (TCP) as per section 38V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 as amended in 2006 which encompasses all aspects *inter alia*, including habitat management which takes care of the eco-system.
- (d) & (e) The evaluation committee constituted for review of the Twelfth Plan Schemes of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change visited a few area and observed that invasive alien species such as Lantana, Eupatorium and Parthenium has pervaded Mudumalai, Bandipur area of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (NBR), the Gir Forest, Kaziranga and other reserves.

In so far as tiger reserves are concerned, there is provision for weed removal under habitat development which, *inter alia*, is an important part of Tiger Conservation Plan of the concerned tiger reserve. Removal of these unwanted weeds is one of the components which is supported under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger based on demand from tiger reserves in their Annual Plan of Operation and subject to availability of funds.