

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. \*420**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.03.2018

**Tiger Reserves**

\*420. SHRI C. MAHENDRAN:  
SHRI A. ARUNMOZHITHEVAN:

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

- (a) whether many tiger conservation areas in the country do not meet global standards and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has enough personnel/staff to protect and conserve the big cats among its tiger reserves and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether poaching and limited staff capacity to patrol sites are the major issues in tiger conservation in the country, if so, the details thereof and the corrective action taken/being taken in this regard; and
- (d) whether the Government is planning to merge/expand any of the existing tiger reserves and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

**(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)**

(a), (b), (c) & (d) :- A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c) & (d) OF THE  
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*420 ON TIGER RESERVES DUE FOR  
REPLY ON 23.03.2018**

- (a) 49 out of 50 tiger reserves in India meet the global standards in tiger conservation, as per the Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS) “Light” survey, a questionnaire and expert opinion based exercise, wherein no field assessment is taken into consideration.
- (b) Though there is about 29% frontline staff vacancy against sanctioned posts in tiger reserves, protection and conservation of tigers is supplemented by deploying the Special Tiger Protection Force in sensitive tiger reserves which is operational in 8 tiger reserves as of now. Besides funding assistance under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger (CSS-PT) is provided to the States for various activities, *inter alia*, including deployment of anti-poaching staff in tiger reserves to overcome the shortfall. A total of 4,80,000 mandays is generated under the CSS-PT for this purpose.
- (c) Poaching remains an ever persistent threat to tiger conservation due to demand emanating predominantly from outside the country. Analysis of data for six years indicates that 63% of the tigers died due to natural causes while 22% were poached and 15% were tiger body part seizures. While staff position is relatively robust in tiger reserves, the CSS-PT provides assistance for employing staff for anti-poaching, strengthening intelligence and legal support besides stressing the need to have a security plan which is operationalised through a legally mandated Tiger Conservation Plan and which is cross checked using a security audit framework.
- (d) There is no such proposal.

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