

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4820
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.03.2018

Global Standard in Tiger Conservation Areas

4820. SHRI J.J.T. NATTERJEE:

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

- (a) whether only a small percentage of tiger conservation areas that are of Conservation Assured/Tiger Standards (CA/TS) partnership, meet global standards;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of such tiger reserves;
- (c) whether the survey was conducted over hundred tiger conservation areas by leading conservation organisations and countries with tiger ranges that are part of CA/TS partnership and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether despite poaching being one of the greatest threats faced by big cats, 85 per cent of the areas surveyed do not have the staff capacity to patrol sites effectively; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) & (b) No, 49 out of 50 tiger reserves in the country, meet global standards in tiger conservation as per the Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS) 'Light' survey, which is a questionnaire and expert opinion based exercise wherein field assessment is not factored. Only Indravati Tiger Reserve did not meet management standards as it is plagued by left wing extremism which hampers day to day administration and management.
- (c) The survey was conducted over 112 sites in 11 countries which included 72 sites in India comprising 50 tiger reserves and 22 sites outside tiger reserves.
- (d) & (e) No. The CA|TS light survey presented a generalized result for all the 112 sites surveyed. In context of India, no specific observation vis-à-vis staff capacity have been made. However, information made available by the States indicates that tiger reserves have a staff vacancy of about 29% in India, which is being addressed by deploying extra workforce in the form of antipoaching squads, Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) / Tiger Protection Force (TPF) comprising of ex-servicemen and watchers from nearby villages.
