

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3962**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.08.2018

**National Tiger Conservation Authority**

3962. SHRI GODSE HEMANT TUKARAM:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that about hundreds of tigers have died across the country upto December, 2017 as per records of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and TRAFFIC India, the wildlife trade monitoring programme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with reasons attributed for their deaths;
- (c) whether many of the tigers have died unnaturally and after being caught in snares or traps laid by poachers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to protect tigers from unnatural death and prevent poaching;
- (e) whether the Government has assessed the impact of such unnatural deaths on the growth of the number of tigers and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether the Government is considering the use of drones to patrol the natural habitats of tigers and other endangered species to prevent poaching and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) 122 tigers died across the country in 2016 while 115 died in 2017.
- (b) & (c) From 2012-17, 55% of tigers have died due to natural causes, 7% have died due to unnatural causes not attributable to poaching, 23% have died due to poaching while 15% have been tiger body part /derivative seizures.
- (d) The Government of India, through Project Tiger / National Tiger Conservation Authority, has taken a number of initiatives towards antipoaching operations, which, *inter alia*, include creation of Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF), formulation of Security Plan guidelines which form part of the overarching Tiger Conservation Plan (TCP), development of a security audit framework, creation of an online wildlife crime database, institutionalizing android application based patrolling using M-STrIPES (Management System for Tigers, Intensive Protection and Ecological Status) for effective area domination and accountability, implementation of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for dealing with tiger deaths, intensification of international

cooperation to control trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife, besides financial assistance for antipoaching initiatives under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger.

- (e) Unnatural deaths have not had an impact on tiger numbers which are growing at the rate of 5.8% per annum.
- (f) The National Tiger Conservation Authority has a collaborative project with the Wildlife Institute of India to customize drones for various tasks *inter alia* including surveillance, in 13 tiger landscapes.

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