

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5110**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.04.2023

**Tiger Population**

5110. MS. DEBASREE CHAUDHURI:

Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of tiger population in country over the last five years and number of tigers out of their population living in tiger-reserves, State-wise;
- (b) the details of measures taken by the Government to increase the population of tigers living in protected reserves;
- (c) the number of tiger deaths owing to man-made causes during the last five years, State-wise along with causes that led to tiger deaths;
- (d) whether the Government has taken cognizance of rising tiger deaths in country;
- (e) if so, the details of measures taken by the Government to curb tiger deaths; and
- (f) arrests made during the last five years in relation to tiger poaching after investigations?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) The quadrennial All India Tiger Estimation Exercise which assesses the Status of Tigers, Co-predators and Prey using robust scientific methodology, has shown that the tiger number has increased as per the latest estimation done in 2018, with an estimated number of 2967 (range 2603-3346) as compared to 2014 estimation of 2226 (range 1945-2491). As per Report of Status of Tigers, Copredators and Prey in India, 2018, the population estimates of tigers in tiger reserves are at **Annexure-I**.
- (b) Funding assistance is provided under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger to tiger range States for conservation of tigers, raising awareness on tiger & other wildlife conservation, habitat management, protection, eco-development, human resource and infrastructure development, voluntary village relocation, as per sanctioned Annual Plan of Operation of the Tiger Reserve and Utilisation Certificate duly submitted by the State Government.

(c) The average life span of the tigers in the wild is generally 10-12 years and in natural ecosystem factors like old age, diseases, internecine fights, electrocution, snaring, drowning, road, rail hits etc. and a very high infant mortality observed in big cats including tigers accounts for majority of tiger deaths. As reported by States, the details of tiger mortality during last five years (2018-2022) are at **Annexure-II**.

(d) & (e) The Government of India, through the National Tiger Conservation Authority, has advocated a three pronged strategy to manage human-tiger negative interactions as follows:-

- (i) **Material and logistical support:** Funding support through the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger, is provided to tiger reserves for acquiring capacity in terms of infrastructure and material, to deal with tigers dispersing out of source areas. These are solicited by tiger reserves through an Annual Plan of Operation (APO) every year which stems out from an overarching Tiger Conservation Plan (TCP), mandated under Section 38 V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. *Inter alia*, activities such as payment of ex-gratia and compensation, periodic awareness campaigns to sensitize, guide and advise the general populace on man-animal conflict, dissemination of information through various forms of media, procurement of immobilization equipment, drugs, training and capacity building of forest staff to deal with conflict events are generally solicited.
- (ii) **Restricting habitat interventions:** Based on the carrying capacity of tigers in a tiger reserve, habitat interventions are restricted through an overarching TCP. In case tiger numbers are at carrying capacity levels, it is advised that habitat interventions should be limited so that there is no excessive spill over of wildlife including tigers thereby minimizing man-animal conflict. Further, in buffer areas around tiger reserves, habitat interventions are restricted such that they are sub-optimal vis-à-vis the core/critical tiger habitat areas, judicious enough to facilitate dispersal to other rich habitat areas only.
- (iii) **Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs):** The National Tiger Conservation Authority has issued following three SOPs to deal with human-animal conflict, which are available in public domain:
  - i. To deal with emergency arising due to straying of tigers in human dominated landscapes
  - ii. To deal with tiger depredation on livestock
  - iii. For active management towards rehabilitation of tigers from source areas at the landscape level.

The three SOPs *inter alia* include the issue of managing dispersing tigers, managing livestock kills so as to reduce conflict as well as relocating tigers from

source areas to areas where density of tiger is low, so that conflict in rich source areas does not occur.

Also as per Tiger Conservation Plans need based and site-specific management interventions are done for improving quality of wildlife habitat for which funding is provided under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger.

The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) along with the Wildlife Institute of India has published a document “Eco-Friendly measures to mitigate impacts of Linear infrastructure on wildlife”, in letter and spirit of section 38 O (1) (g) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to safeguard wildlife and tigers from road /rail accidents in interlinking / corridor areas.

32 major tiger corridors in the country have been identified and published in a document titled “Connecting Tiger Populations for Long-term Conservation”, which are operationalized through prescriptions of Tiger Conservation Plans mandated under section 38V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

- (f) The day to day management and implementation of the Wildlife (Protection) Act is done by the States. Information on persons arrested on account of tiger poaching is not collated at the Central Government level.

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**Annexure-I**

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5110 ON TIGER POPULATION DUE FOR REPLY ON 03.04.2023**

*As per Report of Status of Tigers, Copredators and Prey in India, 2018,  
Population estimates of tigers in tiger reserves*

Sl. No.	State	Tiger Reserves	Tiger Numbers including tiger utilizing the Tiger Reserve
<b>Shivalik Hills and Gangetic Plains</b>			
1.	Bihar	Valmiki	33
2.	Uttar Pradesh	Dudhwa	107
3.	Uttar Pradesh	Pilibhit	65
4.	Uttarakhand	Corbett	266
5.	Uttarakhand	Rajaji	52
<b>Central India and Eastern Ghats</b>			
6.	Andhra Pradesh	Nagarjunasagar Srisailam	43
7.	Chhattisgarh	Achanakmar	5
8.	Chhattisgarh	Indravati	3
9.	Chhattisgarh	Udanti-Sitanadi	1
10.	Jharkhand	Palamau	-
11.	Madhya Pradesh	Bandhavgarh	124
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Kanha	108
13.	Madhya Pradesh	Panna	31
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Pench	87
15.	Madhya Pradesh	Satpuda	47
16.	Madhya Pradesh	Sanjay-Dubri	6
17.	Maharashtra	Bor	6
18.	Maharashtra	Melghat	49
19.	Maharashtra	Navegaon Nagzira	6
20.	Maharashtra	Pench	82
21.	Maharashtra	Sahyadri	3

22.	Maharashtra	Tadoba	106
23.	Odisha	Satkosia	1
24.	Odisha	Similipal	12
25.	Rajasthan	Mukundra	1
26.	Rajasthan	Ranthambore	55
27.	Rajasthan	Sariska	11
28.	Telangana	Amrabad	9
29.	Telangana	Kawal	1
<b>Western Ghats</b>			
30.	Karnataka	Bandipur	173
31.	Karnataka	Bhadra	38
32.	Karnataka	Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple	86
33.	Karnataka	Anshi Dandeli (Kali)	11
34.	Karnataka	Nagarahole	164
35.	Kerala	Parambikulam	33
36.	Kerala	Periyar	33
37.	Tamil Nadu	Anamalai	25
38.	Tamil Nadu	Kalakad Mundanthurai (KMTR)	8
39.	Tamil Nadu	Mudumalai	162
40.	Tamil Nadu	Sathyamangalam	126
<b>NE Hills and Brahmaputra Plains</b>			
41.	Arunachal Pradesh	Kamlang	4
42.	Arunachal Pradesh	Namdapha	11
43.	Arunachal Pradesh	Pakke	3
44.	Assam	Kaziranga	135
45.	Assam	Manas	31
46.	Assam	Nameri	3
47.	Assam	Orang	21
48.	Mizoram	Dampa	-
49.	West Bengal	Buxa	-
<b>Sundarban</b>			
50.	West Bengal	Sundarban	106
<b>Total</b>			<b>2493</b>
<b>Tigers outside Tiger Reserves</b>			<b>474</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>2967</b>

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**Annexure-II**

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5110 ON TIGER POPULATION DUE FOR REPLY ON 03.04.2023**

**Number of tiger deaths in the country as reported by States, during last 5 years (2018-2022)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Natural and other causes</b>	<b>Confirmed poaching</b>	<b>Unnatural but not poaching</b>
2018	53	44	4
2019	66	27	3
2020	90	15	1
2021	101	18	8
2022	108	10	3

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