

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 910
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.02.2021

Census of Wild Animals

910. SHRI P RAVINDHRANATH:

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

- (a) whether census of wild animals had been undertaken by the Government in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of mechanism set up by the Government to ensure accurate census of wild animals along with the measures taken to improve the reliability of the said data?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

- (a), (b) and (c) Census of wild animals like Tiger, Lion, Elephant, Rhinoceros etc. are conducted by the Forest Department of the respective States/ UTs with the assistance of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun. The details of last population estimation/census of some of the species are as follows:

Wild Species	Year of last census/estimation	Population
Asiatic Lion	2020	674
Tiger	2018	2967
Elephant	2017	29964

The country wide estimation of Tiger and co-predators in India uses double sampling approach to estimate the distribution and abundance of tigers, co-predators and prey and *inter-alia* includes sampling units using remote camera trap based capture-recapture technique for estimating tiger and other carnivore abundance.

The estimation of Elephant population is done through various methods such as total count, indirect count method, direct count method, dung count etc. The Asiatic Lion census is conducted by Gujarat Forest Department through

techniques such as direct count, pug mark count estimation, *Poonam Avlokan* (Full Moon Observations) etc. The population estimation of One-horned Rhinoceros is being done through methods such as Line transact, direct count etc.

The above methodologies have evolved through elaborate experimentation and scientific peer review.
