

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3058**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 06.08.2021

**Decline in Population of Tigers**

3058. SHRI ARVIND GANPAT SAWANT:  
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:  
DR. SANJAY JAISWAL:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of declining tiger population in the country including Satkosia Tiger Reserve (STR) in Odisha;
- (b) if so, the details and the reasons thereof along with the number of tigers in the country at present State/UT-wise including Chhattisgarh;
- (c) the steps taken and schemes being implemented by the Government for tiger conservation and to check poaching in the country along with the funds provided to various States for the purpose, State/UT-wise including Odisha; and
- (d) the steps being taken to increase funds for tiger conservation scheme in accordance with the requirements of the States for the said purpose?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) & (b) The tiger population in India has shown an increase since the first cycle of the All India Tiger Estimation using the refined methodology in 2006, which was subsequently carried out quadrennially in 2010, 2014 and 2018, details of which are at **Annexure-I**. The Satkosia is a low density Tiger Reserve with potential to sustain more tigers.
- (c) The milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India for conservation and protection of tigers are at **Annexure-II**. The funding assistance is provided under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger to States for conservation and protection of tiger. The details are at **Annexure-III**.
- (d) The budget allocation is prioritized in order to maximize protection, monitoring and eco-development activities while dovetailing with resources available with other schemes and State Governments.

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**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF THE LOK SABHA  
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FOR REPLY ON 06/08/2021**

Details of tiger estimation pertaining to tiger landscapes in the country,  
for the years 2006, 2010, 2014 and 2018

State	Tiger Population			
	2006	2010	2014	2018
<i>Shivalik-Gangetic Plain Landscape Complex</i>				
Uttarakhand	178	227	340	442
Uttar Pradesh	109	118	117	173
Bihar	10	8	28	31
<b>Shivalik Gangetic</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>646</b>
<i>Central Indian Landscape Complex and Eastern Ghats Landscape Complex</i>				
Andhra Pradesh	95	72	68	48
Telangana	-	-	-	26
Chhattisgarh	26	26	46	19
Madhya Pradesh	300	257	308	526
Maharashtra	103	169	190	312
Odisha	45	32	28	28
Rajasthan	32	36	45	69
Jharkhand	-	10	3*	5
<b>Central India</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>1033</b>
<i>Western Ghats Landscape Complex</i>				
Karnataka	290	300	406	524
Kerala	46	71	136	190
Tamil Nadu	76	163	229	264
Goa	-	-	5	3
<b>Western Ghats</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>981</b>
<i>North Eastern Hills and Brahmaputra Flood Plains</i>				
Assam	70	143	167	190
Arunachal Pradesh	14	-	28**	29
Mizoram	6	5	3*	0
Nagaland	-	-	-	0
Northern West Bengal	10	-	3*	0
<b>North East Hills, and Brahmaputra</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>219</b>
<i>Sunderbans</i>	-	70	76	88
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1411</b>	<b>1706</b>	<b>2226</b>	<b>2967</b>

\* From scat DNA

\*\* From camera trap data and scat DNA

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**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3058 ON DECLINE IN POPULATION OF TIGERS DUE FOR REPLY ON 06/08/2021**

**Milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India for conservation and protection of tigers**

1. Amendment of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 in 2006 to provide enabling provisions for constituting the National Tiger Conservation Authority under section 38 IV B and the Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau under section 38 IV C.
2. Enhancement of punishment for offence in relation to the core area of a tiger reserve or where the offence relates to hunting in the tiger reserves or altering the boundaries of tiger reserves, etc.
3. Comprehensive guidelines under section 38O 1 (c) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 issued for Project Tiger and Tourism in Tiger Reserves on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2012.
4. Strengthening of antipoaching activities, including special strategy for monsoon patrolling, by providing funding support to tiger reserve States, as proposed by them, for deployment of antipoaching squads involving ex-army personnel or home guards, apart from workforce comprising of local people, in addition to strengthening of communication and wireless facilities.
5. Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve (Tamil Nadu) has been notified as 51<sup>st</sup> Tiger Reserve in the country on 08.02.2021.
6. A scientific methodology for estimating tiger (including co-predators, prey animals and assessment of habitat status) has been evolved and mainstreamed. The findings of this estimation and assessment are bench marks for future tiger conservation strategy.
7. The 18 tiger States have notified the core/critical tiger habitat (40787.16 sq. km.), and the buffer/peripheral area (32978.43 sq.km.) of all the 51 tiger reserves in the country, under section 38V of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006.
8. Financial and technical help is provided to the State Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, such as "Project Tiger" and "Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats" for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the State Governments for providing effective protection to wild animals.
9. India has a bilateral understanding with Nepal on controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife and conservation, apart from a protocol on tiger conservation with China.
10. A protocol has been signed in September, 2011 with Bangladesh for conservation of the Royal Bengal Tiger of the Sunderban.
11. A sub-group on tiger and leopard conservation has been constituted for cooperation with the Russian Federation. A tripartite MOU between the National Tiger Conservation Authority, Wildlife Institute of India and A.N. Severstov Institute of Ecology & Evaluation was signed on 4.12.2018 for cooperation in scientific research on tigers.

12. India is the founder member of the Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.

13. An Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for Cooperation on Combating Timber Trafficking, and Conservation of Tigers and other Wildlife has been signed on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2020.

14. During the 18<sup>th</sup> CoP held at Geneva in August 2019, based on an intervention from India, a slew of decisions were adopted to intervene in territories which had facilities for keeping big cats as a reinforcement of decision 14.69.

15. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia Ministerial Conference (3 AMC) was organized in New Delhi from 12-14 April 2016. Inspired by the statement of Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, during this conference that “conservation of tigers is not a choice, it is an imperative”, to achieve the concrete results of ensuring the conservation of tigers in the wild and their habitats by 2022, the representatives of the Governments of the Tiger Range Countries resolved to:

- **Accelerate implementation** of the Global Tiger Recovery Programme (GTRP)/National Tiger Recovery Programme (NTRP) and agreed actions from the above-mentioned declarations, review and update priority and differentiated action plans, and track progress through mutual and systematic reporting and evaluation.
- **Align development and tiger conservation** in a mutually complementary manner by re-orienting development strategies to mainstream the concerns of tiger conservation, such as by integrating tiger and wildlife safeguards in infrastructure at the landscape level, developing partnerships with business groups, and strong engagement with local stakeholders.
- **Leverage funding and technical support** from international organisations, bilateral and multilateral financial institutions, foundations, civil society organisations, private sector, and climate funds, in addition to TRC governments.
- Recognise and enhance the importance of tiger habitats by promoting them as **providing ecosystem services, as engines of economic growth and helping to address climate change.**
- **Emphasize recovery of tiger populations in areas with low tiger densities** and restoration in areas from which they have been extirpated by using successful programs of tiger reintroduction and rehabilitation of their habitats and prey.
- **Strengthen co-operation at the highest levels of government** to combat wildlife crime, address the demand for tiger products, and increase formal and informal transboundary coordination.
- **Enhance knowledge sharing and capacity development for all stakeholders and increase the use of technology**, including smart tools, monitoring protocols, and information systems, to improve management effectiveness.

16. The Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) has been made operational in the States of Karnataka (Bandipur), Maharashtra (Pench, Tadoba-Andhari, Nawegaon-Nagzira, Melghat), Rajasthan (Ranthambhore) and Odisha (Similipal), out of 13 initially selected tiger reserves, with 60% central assistance under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger, Kaziranga (Assam) with 90% central assistance.

17. Generic Guidelines for preparation of reserve specific Security Plan have been prepared which form a basis for antipoaching strategies in the overarching Tiger Conservation Plan.

18. Implementing a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with tiger States, linked to fund flows for effective implementation of tiger conservation initiatives.
19. Steps taken for modernizing the infrastructure and field protection, besides launching 'Monitoring system for Tigers' Intensive Protection and Ecological Status (M-STriPES)' for effective field patrolling and monitoring. The M-STriPES application has been made android based with three distinct modules, viz. patrol, ecological and conflict.
20. Initiatives taken for improving the field delivery through capacity building of field officials, apart from providing incentives.
21. As a part of active management to rebuild Sariska and Panna Tiger Reserves where tigers had become locally extinct, reintroduction of tigers have been done. The successful reintroduction of wild tigers in Panna is a unique example and one of a kind in the world as the rewilded and reintroduced tigresses are breeding. On the same lines, tigers have also been reintroduced in the western part of the Rajaji Tiger Reserve, Uttarakhand also.
22. The fourth round of country level tiger status assessment completed in 2018, with findings indicating an increase with a tiger population estimate of 2967 (lower and upper limits being 2603 and 3346 respectively), as compared to the last country level estimation of 2014, with an estimate of 2226 (lower and upper limits being 1945-2491 tigers), 2010 estimation with an estimation of 1706 (lower and upper limits being 1507-1896) and 2006 estimation, with an estimate of 1411 (lower and upper limits being 1165 and 1657). At present, India has around 75% of tiger population and its source areas amongst the 13 tiger range countries in the world, owing to its long history of conserving the species through Project Tiger (2.24% of country's geographical area spread out in 51 tiger reserves in 18 States).
23. To assess occupancy of tigers in high altitude landscapes, a collaborative project with the Global Tiger Forum has been initiated.
24. A report on Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of Tiger Reserves was released in July, 2019, containing the fourth round of independent assessment based on refined criteria done in 2018 for 50 tiger reserves. Out of 50 tiger reserves, 21 were rated as 'very good', 17 as 'good' and 12 as 'fair'.
25. Providing special assistance for mitigation of human-tiger conflicts in problematic areas.
26. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been issued in 8 thematic areas as below with inputs from officials and experts, fine tuned to meet the present challenges in the field:-
  - (i) for dealing with tiger death.
  - (ii) to deal with emergency arising due to straying of tigers in human dominated landscape.
  - (iii) for disposing the tiger/leopard carcass/body.
  - (iv) to deal with orphaned / abandoned tiger cubs and old / injured tigers in the wild.
  - (v) to deal with tiger depredation on livestock.
  - (vi) for Interstate Co-ordination amongst tiger reserves that share boundary.
  - (vii) for active management towards rehabilitation of tigers from source areas at landscape level.
  - (viii) to deal with stray/feral dogs in tiger reserves.
27. Phase-IV tiger reserve level, continuous monitoring of tigers using camera traps and building up data on photo captures of individual tigers, has been institutionalized.

28. A national repository of camera trap photo IDs of individual tigers has been created.
29. Supporting field level workshops for capacity building of field officers to deal with straying tigers.
30. On completion of pilot e-surveillance project in Corbett Tiger Reserve (Uttarakhand), central assistance has been provided for installing 24X7 e-surveillance at Kaziranga Tiger Reserve (Assam) and fringes of Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary (Madhya Pradesh).
31. Economic Valuation of sixteen tiger reserves done in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Forest Management to assess value of the ecosystem services they provide and their potential role in climate change mitigation.
32. Initiated a pilot project on monetizing carbon sequestration to benefit Tiger Conservation Foundations and local in collaboration with TERI.
33. Advice for deployment of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles to aid in field level operations has been issued.
34. Assessment of Status, Density and Change in Forest Cover in and around tiger reserves of the Shivalik Gangetic Plain Landscape done in collaboration with the Forest Survey of India.
35. A joint report of Bangladesh has been brought out on the assessment of tiger status in the Sundarbans.
36. National Tiger Conservation Authority and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau have established an online tiger / wildlife crime tracking / reporting system in tiger reserves.
37. Based on International standards, security audit framework of the NTCA has been validated for implementing across all tiger reserves. 25 tiger reserves have been assessed for their security protocols through this framework.
38. To assess status of tiger bearing areas outside tiger reserves, the CA|TS (Conservation Assured|Tiger Standards) framework –an international accreditation. 3 sites accredited with CA|TS certification are in India, namely the Ramnagar, Lansdowne, Forest Divisions in Uttarakhand and 24 South Parganas in West Bengal. CA|TS has now been extended to tiger reserves and 14 sites namely Manas, Kaziranga, Orang, Satpura, Pench (Maharashtra), Kanha, Panna, Valmiki, Dudhwa, Parambikulam, Mudumalai, Bandipur, Anamalai and Sundarbans Tiger Reserves have been accredited with CA|TS recently.

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**Details of funding assistance provided under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger to States**

Sl. No.	State	2018-19 (Rs. in lakhs)	2019-20 (Rs. in lakhs)	2020-21 (Rs. in lakhs)
1	Andhra Pradesh	217.99	114.48	266.51
2	Arunachal Pradesh	929.76	846.31	803.76
3	Assam	1919.62	2198.76	2513.90
4	Bihar	570.90	562.84	628.89
5	Chhattisgarh	536.14	358.53	471.16
6	Jharkhand	367.00	1432.07	128.45
7	Karnataka	2267.43	2252.03	2118.01
8	Kerala	653.03	607.07	402.88
9	Madhya Pradesh	5343.89	3501.91	2551.26
10	Maharashtra	11049.59	7220.39	3098.03
11	Mizoram	318.84	337.70	161.53
12	Odisha	1022.32	1303.32	680.07
13	Rajasthan	791.83	1203.19	1008.89
14	Tamil Nadu	2366.82	1586.91	1336.14
15	Telangana	1115.65	359.91	351.97
16	Uttarakhand	685.34	1242.49	1671.30
17	Uttar Pradesh	1417.26	2289.18	923.29
18	West Bengal	719.01	758.47	333.96
19	Nagaland (IVth All India Tiger Estimation)	24.86	0.00	0.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>32317.28</b>	<b>28175.56</b>	<b>19450.00</b>

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