

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 3583
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 20.12.2021

Elite Global Tag

3583. SHRI VIJAYAKUMAR (ALIAS) VIJAY VASANTH:

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

- (a) whether Anamalai and Mudumalai tiger reserves in Tamil Nadu have attained the elite global tag;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of tiger reserves in the country that have attained the tag, State-wise; and
- (c) whether any steps are being taken by the Government to further promote and conserve the tiger population in the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) & (b) Anamalai and Mudumalai Tiger Reserves have recently been accredited with international Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS). Details of other Tiger Reserves accredited with CA|TS are at **Annexure-I**.
- (c) Milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India / National Tiger Conservation Authority for conservation and protection of tigers interalia including other wildlife are at **Annexure-II**.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3583 ON ELITE GLOBAL TAG DUE FOR REPLY ON 20/12/2021

Details of other Tiger Reserves accredited with Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS)

S. No.	Tiger Reserve	State
1.	Dudhwa	Uttar Pradesh
2.	Valmiki	Bihar
3.	Kanha	Madhya Pradesh
4.	Panna	Madhya Pradesh
5.	Satpura	Madhya Pradesh
6.	Pench	Maharashtra
7.	Bandipur	Karnataka
8.	Parambikulam	Kerala
9.	Manas	Assam
10.	Kaziranga	Assam
11.	Orang	Assam
12.	Sunderban	West Bengal

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3583 ON ELITE GLOBAL TAG DUE FOR REPLY ON 20/12/2021

Milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India / National Tiger Conservation Authority for conservation and protection of tigers interalia including other wildlife

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. Comprehensive guidelines under section 38O 1 (c) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 issued for Project Tiger and Tourism in Tiger Reserves on 15th October, 2012.
3. 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.
4. Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve (Tamil Nadu) has been notified as 51st Tiger Reserve in the country on 08.02.2021.
5. In-principle approval has been given to Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary and Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary for declaration as Tiger Reserve.
6. Approval of National Tiger Conservation Authority has been accorded to MM Hills Wildlife Sanctuary, Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary and Guru Ghasidas National Park for declaration as Tiger Reserve.
7. 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.
8. 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).
9. 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.
10. 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.

11. 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.

12. A protocol has been signed in September, 2011 with Bangladesh for conservation of the Royal Bengal Tiger of the Sunderban.

13. 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.

14. India is the founder member of the Global Tiger Forum (an intergovernmental organization) of Tiger Range Countries for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.

15. A 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 27th February, 2020.

16. The 3rd 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.

17. 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.
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. 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.
21. To assess occupancy of tigers in high altitude landscapes, a collaborative project with the Global Tiger Forum is being implemented.
22. 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'.
23. Providing special assistance for mitigation of human-tiger conflicts in problematic areas.
24. 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.
25. 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.
26. A national repository of camera trap photo IDs of individual tigers has been created.
27. 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).

28. 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.
29. Initiated a pilot project on monetizing carbon sequestration to benefit Tiger Conservation Foundations and local in collaboration with TERI.
30. Advice for deployment of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles to aid in field level operations has been issued.
31. 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.
32. National Tiger Conservation Authority and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau have established an online tiger / wildlife crime tracking / reporting system in tiger reserves.
33. 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.
34. To create more inviolate areas and in order to incentivize voluntary village relocation, the package has been increased from Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 15 lakhs.
35. 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.
36. Tiger Conservation Authority Fund has been operationalised.
37. Project Cheetah has been initiated to introduce them in Kuno Palpur National Park.
38. As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) Tiger Rally, synchronized patrolling and awareness programmes have been successfully implemented.
39. Using robust scientific techniques, first time a country level estimation of Mega-herbivores and Leopards was done.
