

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 108
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.07.2025

Death of Tigers in Male Mahadeshwara Hills Wildlife Sanctuary, Karnataka

108. SHRI RAJA A:
PROF. SOUGATA RAY:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that recently five tigers including cubs were found dead in the Male Mahadeshwara Hills Wildlife Sanctuary in Karnataka;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any Special Investigation Team (SIT) was constituted to probe the death of tigers;
- (d) if so, whether any Report has been prepared and submitted by such team;
- (e) if so, the findings thereof and if not, the time by which said Report is likely to be prepared/submitted; and
- (f) the details of action plan drawn to check such incidents in future along with the action taken against the persons responsible for the same?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a) & (b) One female tiger alongwith four cubs was found dead in the Male Mahadeshwara Hills Wildlife Sanctuary in Karnataka.
- (c) & (d) A Special Investigation Team (SIT) was constituted by the National Tiger Conservation Authority to investigate the issues related to tiger death in Karnataka which has submitted its report.
- (e) The SIT, based on evidence collected during investigation concluded that the tigers were killed in retaliation by lacing a cattle carcass with the pesticide Carbofuran, by a group of three who were arrested within 48 hours.

The SIT has suggested notifying the Male Mahadeshwara Hills Wildlife Sanctuary as a tiger reserve for additional protection and financial assistance, which has already been approved by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) under relevant provisions of Wildlife Protection Act (WLPA), 1972. *Inter-alia* the SIT recommended welfare measures for frontline staff, filling up staff vacancies, conflict management strategies with local communities,

educational outreach, improving habitat and prey-base besides developing monitoring protocols.

- (f) The Government of India has notified the National Tiger Conservation Authority (Normative Standards for Tourism and Project Tiger) Guidelines, 2012 for management of tigers & their habitats along with advisories and Standard Operating Procedures to prevent such incidents. Legal action in the said matter has been initiated against the offenders in the instant matter as per relevant provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
