

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3570
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.08.2025

Poaching of Animals

3570. MR PATHAN YUSUF:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of recent reports confirming the poaching of three tigers and one leopard near Sheopur, Madhya Pradesh, as per the lab analysis of seized bones;
- (b) the details of the steps taken by the Government to prevent tiger and wildlife poaching in the country, especially in tiger habitats;
- (c) the status of tiger population monitoring in tiger habitats in the country and the manner in which the Government is ensuring their safety from poachers;
- (d) whether any arrests have been made in connection with seizure of 225 pieces of bones near Sheopur, Madhya Pradesh; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the current progress in the investigation?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has reported seizure of articles related to big cats near Sheopur, Madhya Pradesh.
- (b) & (c) The steps taken by the Government of India through the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for the conservation and protection of tigers is as under:-

1. Generic measures

- Providing assistance to States under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of “Project Tiger” for protection, infrastructure and antipoaching operations (including deployment of Tiger Protection Force and Special Tiger Protection Force) which is now ongoing as the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger & Elephant
- Disseminating of real time information of backward / forward linkages relating to poachers / wildlife criminals.
- Performing supervisory field visits through the National Tiger Conservation Authority and its regional offices.
- Launching tiger reserve level monitoring using camera trap to keep a photo ID database of individual tiger.

- Preparing a national database of individual tiger photo to establish linkage with body parts seized or dead tigers.
- Assisting States to deploy local workforce in a big way for protection to complement the efforts of field staff.
- Sharing of information on seizure of body parts including skin of tigers among tiger range countries to ascertain source area.

2. Security Plan

The National Tiger Conservation Authority has issued generic guidelines for formulating a Security Plan for each tiger reserve which is operationalized in the overarching Tiger Conservation Plan which is legally mandated under section 38 V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

3. Security Audit

The National Tiger Conservation Authority has developed a framework for carrying out the assessment of the security threats and for formulating site specific security plan which has been completed in 25 different tiger reserves in Phase-I and action has been initiated for the remaining tiger reserves.

4. M-STripES (Monitoring System for Tigers Intensive-Protection & Ecological Status)

This is an android application which has three distinct modules namely Patrol module, Ecological module and Conflict module. The Patrol module *inter-alia* is a mechanism to ensure accountability of front line staff vis-à-vis anti-poaching efforts and useful for the tiger reserve management to strengthen protection measures, based on data that is generated through M-STripES.

5. Amendment to the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

The Government of India amended the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and enhanced 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.

Further, funding assistance is provided under the Project Tiger Component of the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (CSS-IDWH) 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, which stems out from a statutory Tiger Conservation Plan.

The tiger population has increased as per the All India Tiger Estimation done in 2022, with an estimated number of 3682 (range 3167-3925) as compared to the 2018 estimation of 2967 (range 2603-3346) and 2014 estimation of 2226 (range 1945-2491).

(d) & (e)

As reported by the State, a total of 7 accused have been arrested in two registered cases by the State Tiger Strike Force, Madhya Pradesh and action has been taken as per relevant provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
