

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3823
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.08.2016

Death of Tigers

3823. SHRI JOSE K. MANI:

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

- (a) whether as many as 74 tigers have died between 1 January and 26 June, 2016;
- (b) if so, whether large scale poaching is responsible for these fatalities and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether as per wildlife experts, intelligence-led enforcement operation is the key to thwart poaching; and
- (d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

- (a) No Sir. The number of tigers died between 1 January and 26 June, 2016, *inter alia* including 15 seizures, is 67 and not 74.
- (b) 77 cases of tiger mortality have been reported by the States till date, which, *inter alia*, includes 21 cases of confirmed poaching including seizure, 7 cases due to natural and other causes while 49 cases are under scrutiny.
- (c) & (d) A number of antipoaching measures have been taken by the Government of India to thwart poaching which *inter alia* includes intelligence based enforcement operation also and the same are at **Annexure-I**.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (c) & (d) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3823 ON DEATH OF TIGERS DUE FOR REPLY ON 09.08.2016

Number of antipoaching measures taken by the Government of India to thwart poaching which *inter alia* includes intelligence based enforcement operation

- 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**)
- Providing grant through NTCA for patrolling in tiger rich sensitive forest areas outside tiger reserves
- Alerting the States as and when required
- Transmitting backward / forward linkages of information relating to poachers
- Advising the States for combing forest floor to check snares / traps
- Performing supervisory field visits through the National Tiger Conservation Authority and its regional offices
- Using information technology for improved surveillance (e-Eye system) using thermal cameras launched in Corbett, Ratapani and Kaziranga
- Launching tiger reserve level monitoring using camera trap to keep a photo ID database of individual tigers
- Preparing a national database of individual tiger photo captures to establish linkage with body parts seized or dead tigers
- Assisting States to refine protection oriented monitoring through monitoring system for tiger's intensive protection and ecological status (M-STrIPES)
- Assisting States to deploy local workforce in a big way for protection to complement the efforts of field staff [In all, approximately 25 lakh mandays are generated annually with 50% central assistance amounting to around Rs. 25 crores (excluding matching 50% share given by States) under Project Tiger. Many local tribes constitute such local workforce (besides non-tribals), eg. Baigas, Gonds in Madhya Pradesh, Gonds in Maharashtra, Chenchus in Andhra Pradesh, Sholigas in Karnataka, Gujjars in Uttarakhand and Irulas in Tamil Nadu to name a few.
- Initiative taken for collaboration of National Tiger Conservation Authority and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau towards an online tiger / wildlife crime tracking / reporting system in tiger reserves.
