

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 21.12.2009
ANSWERED ON
AMENDMENTS TO WILDLIFE PROTECTION ACT .

3432

Dr. Najma A. Heptulla

Will the Minister of COALCOALENVIROMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :-

(a) whether Government proposes to bring in amendments to the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 to prevent incidents of poaching and poisoning of remaining population of tigers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether most of the tiger reserves in the country are in precarious condition and thereby affecting tigers' and leopards' population;

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether the Central Government has discussed the matter with the State Governments and proposes to provide special assistance for proper maintenance of tiger reserves; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has already been amended in 2006 to strengthen tiger conservation and antipoaching measures. Based on the said enabling provisions, the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau have been operationalised with effect from 4.9.2006 and 6.6.2007 respectively.

(c) to (e) The tiger reserves have been assessed by a panel of independent experts using 45 parameters based on the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources) criteria, as adapted to Indian conditions, which was subjected to peer review by the IUCN. Both the assessment and peer review have been placed in both Houses of the Parliament in the Monsoon Session of 2006. Recently (2009), a rapid assessment of tiger reserves has been done. Out of 38 tiger reserves, 13 are good, 9 are satisfactory and 16 are in a poor status, which include 7 reserves affected by extremist disturbances. A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) linked to fund flows has been executed with tiger States to strengthen tiger conservation. The milestone initiatives taken for conservation of tiger and the central assistance provided to tiger reserves during the last three years and the current year are at Annexures-I & II respectively.