

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2133
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.12.2023

Protection of Black Tiger

2133. DR. PRASHANTA NANDA:

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

- (a) whether Black Tigers have been found in Odisha's Similipal and Kandhamal forest area;
- (b) the number of Black Tigers living in different forests in the country, the State-wise details thereof;
- (c) the details of Government's action to protect this rare species; and
- (d) the funds sanctioned and released by the Central Government to protect such rare wild animals?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Melanistic tigers have been recorded only in the Similipal Tiger Reserve in Odisha.
- (b) As per the 2022 cycle of the All India Tiger Estimation, 16 individuals were recorded at Similipal Tiger Reserve, out of which 10 were melanistic.
- (c) A Standard Operating Procedure has been issued by the NTCA for active management towards rehabilitation of tigers from source areas at the landscape level. Based on genetic composition, the Similipal Tiger Reserve has been identified as a distinct genetic cluster for conservation. Funding assistance is provided under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (CSS-IDWH) to the Similipal Tiger Reserve 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 emanates from a statutory Tiger Conservation Plan.
- (d) The details of funds released during last five years to the Similipal Tiger Reserve is as under:-

(Rs. In lakhs)

Sl. No.	Tiger Reserve (State)	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
1.	Similipal (Odisha)	650.88	660.53	539.39	766.06	659.82
