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State government is taking special steps to protect Similipal

: Forest Minister Shri Singkhuntia

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State Government is taking special steps to protect the rich biodiversity and wildlife of Similipal, which has been included in the Tiger Project since 1973.

Continuous financial support is being provided through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme-Project Tiger (CSS-PT scheme) for strengthening its infrastructure. A new Tiger Conservation Plan has been approved for the next 10 years from 2023-24 to 2032-33 to fortify the wildlife conservation in Similipal Tiger Reserve. AI cameras, infrared cameras and trap cameras have been installed to monitor poachers and wildlife. Similipal Special Tiger Protection Force (SSTPF) has been deployed to protect the rich diversity of trees and wildlife. In addition, permanent forest officials (forest officers, sub-forest officers, forest guards, forest guards), Security assistants and retired army personnel have been deployed for their protection.

Steps are being taken towards the protection of Similipal through the Forest Protection Force and Eco-Development Committee at the foot of Similpal (Buffer Area). Special vehicles have been provided for the officers to receive news regarding hunting and permanent wireless centers have been set up for data transmission. S-WIN (Similpal Wildlife Intelligence Network) has been specially formed to collect data on the poaching of prohibited wildlife. 135 anti-poaching camps and temporary platforms have been set up in Similipal South Wildlife Sanctuary and 79 anti-poaching camps in Similipal North Wildlife Sanctuary for prevention of poaching and other illegal encroachments. Modern weapons like INSAS, X-caliber rifles and automatic pistols have been provided to the forest officials to enhance security. Fire lines are being created during the summer season to protect against fire. A special firefighting squad is being formed. M-Stripes and Phase-IV arrangements have been made to track the movement of tigers and other wild animals. Extensive public awareness is being created among the people. Grassland management, salt lick management and construction of water reservoirs etc. have been done to meet the food and drinking needs of the wildlife. A Rapid Response Team has been formed to rescue wildlife. All the villages inside Similipal (except Bakua village) have been completely relocated to provide adequate space for the growth and movement of wildlife. A tiger migration scheme is being implemented to bring tigers from outside the state to increase their number in Similipal and improve their genes.

A special JTF team comprising permanent forest personnel and police personnel has been formed to protect Similipal Tiger Reserve. In the last 3 years, 103 wildlife crime cases have been registered in Similipal Tiger Reserve, 255 poachers have been arrested and 57 guns have been seized.

Minister for Forests, Environment and Climate Change Shri Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia presented these data in the Assembly regarding protection of Similipal.



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