

# Tiger electrocuted by poachers in Pench

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In a formal post-mortem. Next day, he said, the ranger went to Kurai Police Station to lodge a complaint. As there was no senior officer at the police station, a constable filed the first information report (FIR) but refused to give a copy of the FIR to the ranger, he added.

What is more shocking, he said, was that despite receiving the complaint the police did not visit the spot till date to investigate the case.

Mr Chatterjee said on April 12 the team of 'The Jungles' visited the spot to see the ashes of the tiger.

Mr Chatterjee further informed that a tiger was electrocuted in a similar fashion at the same spot in 1995. A bison was electrocuted in January 1996. A suspected poacher had also been electrocuted while laying the trap. In March this year, a sloth bear was also electrocuted, again in the trap laid by the poachers.

He said during his visit the field director Mr Chauhan was very much at the Karmajiri forest guest house but did not even speak to the team of 'The Jungles' in this regard. Moreover, he said, Mr Chauhan did not

inform the press about it.

After returning to Nagpur from Pench National Park, Mr Chatterjee rang up the field director to know the line of investigation. However, he said, the field director did not provide more details in this regard but very casually replied that he had informed Mr P K Sen, Director of Project Tiger, New Delhi.

Mr Chatterjee said 'The Jungles' immediately faxed a letter to the well known wildlife conservationist of Ranthambhore Foundation, Mr Valmik Thapar. Similarly, he said 'The Jungles' would appeal to the Central Government as well as to the Government of Madhya Pradesh to conduct a thorough probe into the matter so as to curb the growing poaching menace in the Pench National Park.

Meanwhile, a wildlife researcher from the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun, Mr G Areendran suggested that the 3 kilometre high tension line passing through the said forest should either be insulated or replaced with an underground cable to prevent the poachers from laying such traps in future.