@ReadOnly only work with JS remoting. If you direct call the method using class instance then it wouldn't work

Here is the example(IN this example I have 97000 Task records.)

```
<apex:page controller="TestVFpage">
      <div id="totalAccounts"></div>
                   <script>
                  Visualforce.remoting.Manager.invokeAction(
                      '{!$RemoteAction.TestVFpage.getTask}',
                          function(result){
                              alert('Total Records: '+result.length);
                     );
                  </script>
  </apex:page>
Controller
 public class TestVFpage {
      @RemoteAction
      @readOnly
      public static list<Task> getTask(){
          return [SELECT Id FROM Task];
               Total Records: 97033
               Prevent this page from creating additional dialogs.
                                                                   OK
alert message
```

Another way to count records.

```
<apex:page>
   <input name="getList" class="btn" value="Get Account list" type="button"</pre>
onclick="getSobjectList()" />
   <script src="https://ajax.googleapis.com/ajax/libs/jquery/1.11.3/jquery.min.js">
</script>
   <script>
     var $j = jQuery.noConflict();
     var sessionId = '{!$Api.Session_ID}';
     function getSobjectList() {
     $j.ajax({
     type: "GET",
     url: "/services/data/v35.0/query?q="+''+"{!URLENCODE('SELECT count(Id) totalTask
FROM Task')}",
     headers: {"Authorization" : "OAuth " + sessionId},
     crossDomain : true,
     dataType: 'application/json',
     success: function (responseData) {
     console.log(responseData);
     error: function (request, status, error) {
     console.log(request.responseText);
     });
   </script>
</apex:page>
```

check browser console

