

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3884
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.04.2018

Deaths of Asiatic Lions

3884. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Asiatic Lions, an endangered species found only in Gujarat, have died in the last two years;
- (b) if so, the year-wise details of the casualties and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the remedial measures adopted to protect the endangered species of Asiatic Lions?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) & (b) Asiatic Lions in wild are found only in the Gir Landscape in the State of Gujarat. The number of deaths of Asiatic Lions in and around Gir Sanctuary during the last two years, as informed by the State Government, is given below:

S. No.	Year	Total no. of death of Asiatic lions
1.	2015-16	85
2.	2016-17	99

The various reasons which led to deaths of Asiatic Lions include natural deaths, territorial fights, train & road accidents, falling in wells, electric shock etc.

- (c) The remedial measures adopted to protect the Asiatic Lion includes:
- i. Listing the species in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby, according them highest degree of legal protection from hunting and poaching.

- ii. Asiatic Lion have been identified as one of the species for conservation efforts under the component 'Species Recovery Programme' of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) - Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat.
- iii. Schemes have been prepared for management of satellite population of Asiatic Lions, re-establishment of riverine and non-riverine corridors, co-existence of Human and Lion, management of areas outside Protected Areas, knowledge and awareness to local people and research and control activities as per requirements.
- iv. The following Protected Areas in Gujarat have been declared for conservation and protection of Asiatic Lions:

S. No.	Name of Protected Area	Area (sq.km)	Year of declaration
1.	Gir National Park	258.71	1975 & 1978
2.	Gir Sanctuary	1412.13	1965 & 1974
3.	Paniya Sanctuary	39.64	1989
4.	Mitiyala Sanctuary	18.22	2004
5.	Girnar Sanctuary	178.88	2008
6.	Barda Sanctuary	192.31	1979

- v. Sufficient Budgetary provision (Annually around Rs. 65-70 crores) for conservation of Asiatic Lion.
- vi. Robust research support including Leogen project for conservation of genetic resource and develop, operate and maintain Gene Bank database of Asiatic Lions.
- vii. Awareness programme for active co-operation of local people.
- viii. Compensation scheme for death/ injury of human and cattle by wildlife including Asiatic Lions.
- ix. Establishment of Rescue Centres and Rescue Teams having veterinary doctors and skilled manpower as well as vehicles, machinery and equipment for timely rescue of wild animals.
- x. Appointment of 'Vanya Prani Mitra' (Wildlife Friend) in 300 villages around Gir area.
- xi. Erection of chain linked fencing on Railway track in Amreli district.
- xii. Monthly Monitoring Committee has been constituted headed by Inspector General of Police, Junagarh Range having officers of Police and Forest Department as members to keep vigil on suspicious movements, exchange of information and monitoring of Wildlife offences in the area.
- xiii. Wireless Network in and around Gir area for fast communication.
- xiv. Checking Nakas on entry points for keeping track of movements of vehicles and people.
