

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1490**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.12.2018

**Death of lions in Gir Forest**

1490. DR. ANIL AGRAWAL:

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

- (a) the number of lions found dead in Gir Forest in Gujarat recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the outcome of the enquiry and action taken by Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)**

- (a) It has been informed by State Government of Gujarat that 37 Lions were found dead in Gir Forest between September, 2018 to December, 2018.
- (b) The details of Lion deaths along with reasons thereof is as follows:

Sr. No.	Month	Death of Lion		
		Unnatural (man-made causes such as deaths due to road accident, hunting, electrocution, falling in well, poisoning etc.)	Natural (Old age, infighting, disease, injuries etc.)	Total
1.	September, 2018	0	24	24
2.	October, 2018	0	07	07
3.	November, 2018	0	05	05
4.	December, 2018 (up to 10.12.2018)	0	01	01

(c) & (d)

A team comprising of officials from the Ministry, Wildlife Institute of India visited Gujarat during 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2018. The team had made their observation and made suggestions for vaccination of domestic cattle of adjoining villages, intensive patrolling of area during monsoon, strengthening of veterinary health facilities and regular area screening for Lion presence and movement.

Government of Gujarat also invited a team of experts from Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Bareilly, National Zoological Park, New Delhi and Etawah Lion Safari, Uttar Pradesh. The team visited Gujarat from 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 to 02<sup>nd</sup> October, 2018. The team visited Jasadhar and Jamwala rescue centre, examined the records, the treatment procedure followed, conducted post mortem, collected samples and had detailed discussion with Forest Officers and veterinary officers of wildlife wing of Gujarat Forest Department.

The team has taken note of the prompt and timely action of Government of Gujarat in rescuing a large number of the lions and bringing them in isolation for observation, well executed decision of separating infected and healthy animal's population, proper clinical observations done, medical record maintenance, clinical observation of Lions, under rescue and under treatment, disease status of Lions in free ranging animals, facilities at various rescue centres and line of treatment followed, at all stages and mobilization of resources in the crises.

The test reports received from NIV, Pune and Veterinary college have shown the presence of viral, bacterial and some protozoan infections which spreads through ticks. However, these infections were noticed only in lions of one particular area (Roniya area, Dalkhania range) whereas all other 33 lions rescued from Semardi have been isolated and were found healthy. Nowhere else in Gir such things have been noticed.

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