

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 992
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2022

Translocation of African Cheetahs to India

992. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH:
SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI:
DR. AMEEYAJNIK:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that according to the Supreme Court ruling from 2013, priority must be given to the translocation of Asiatic Lions over the African Cheetahs;
- (b) whether movement of Cheetahs from Africa is the reason for the delay in the transfer of Asiatic Lions to Kuno;
- (c) whether Government has listed other sites for the transfer of African Cheetahs, if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details of the cost of transfer and yearly maintenance cost of African Cheetahs and the Great Indian Bustard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) & (b) The Hon'ble Apex Court vide judgement dated 15.4.2013 had directed to translocate Asiatic Lions and stayed the translocation of African Cheetahs. However, vide order dated 28.01.2020, the Hon'ble Apex Court has allowed introduction of African Cheetah in India on experimental basis and Cheetahs from Namibia were translocated in pursuance of the said directions of Hon'ble Apex Court.
- (c) As per the action plan on introduction of Cheetah to India, Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary and Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh, Shahgarh Bulge, Bhainsrorgarh Wildlife Sanctuary and Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan have been identified as other suitable areas for Cheetah in India.
- (d) Under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger a budgetary provisions of Rs. 38.7 Crore has been made for five years besides funding support of Rs. 29.47 Crore under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) which includes cost of transportation, management and maintenance.

The Ministry has taken initiative for conservation breeding of the Great Indian Bustard in collaboration with Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra Forest Departments and technical support from Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun and has sanctioned a Project titled 'Habitat Improvement and Conservation Breeding of Great Indian Bustard-an integrated approach' with a budget outlay of Rs. 33.85 crores for the duration of seven years.
