

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 62
ANSWERED ON 08.02.2024

Cubs born to Cheetahs in Kuno National Park

62. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI:

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

- (a) the number of cubs born to Cheetahs in Kuno National Park;
- (b) the number of Cheetahs died till now in Kuno National Park;
- (c) the reason for such high number of deaths;
- (d) whether the number of deaths is usual or unusual in such relocation of Cheetahs;
- (e) the effort Government is making to avoid deaths of Cheetahs; and
- (f) by when another batch of Cheetahs will be imported from South Africa for introduction in Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e) & (f):- A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) & (f) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 62 ON CUBS BORN TO CHEETAHS IN KUNO NATIONAL PARK DUE FOR REPLY ON 08.02.2024

(a) As on date, after introduction of Cheetah in India, birth of 11 cubs has taken place in the Kuno National Park.

(b) & (c) As reported by the State, the details of Cheetah deaths are as below:

| Sl. No. | Name of Cheetah | Date of death | Reason for death |
|---------|-----------------|---------------|---|
| 1. | Sasha | 27.03.2023 | Renal insufficiency |
| 2. | Uday | 23.04.2023 | Neurological |
| 3. | Daksha | 09.05.2023 | Violent encounter with a male coalition during a mating attempt |
| 4. | Tejas | 11.07.2023 | Septicemia |
| 5. | Suraj | 14.07.2023 | Septicemia |
| 6. | Dhatri | 02.08.2023 | Septicemia |
| 7. | Shaurya | 16.01.2024 | Septicemia |

3 Indian born cubs of nearly 2 months of age died on 23.05.2023 due to heat stroke.

(d) As per scientific studies across the globe, in natural ecosystems, cheetahs have very low survival rate which is about 50% in reintroduction programmes.

(e) The Wildlife Institute of India, in consultation with Madhya Pradesh Forest Department and National Tiger Conservation Authority, has prepared a detailed scientific action plan as per Guidelines of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) for introduction of Cheetah in India. To ensure conservation and protection of Cheetahs in India, actions are taken as per scientific action plan prepared with inputs of leading Cheetah experts including biologists, ecologists, conservationists and managers. A Cheetah Project Steering Committee has been constituted to review progress, monitor and advise on the Cheetah introduction in consultation with international cheetah experts, as and when required.

(f) As per the Action Plan for introduction of Cheetah, every year, depending upon the availability of animals and status of introduced Cheetahs, 12-14 individuals are proposed to be brought from South Africa and Namibia or other African countries during the next five years. Action has been initiated for introduction of Cheetah in Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary.
