

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1022
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2025

Project Asiatic Lion

1022. SHRI A. D. SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the population of Asiatic lion in Gir is increasing since the last five years;
- (b) whether Asiatic lion is still in the endangered animal category;
- (c) whether the allocation of funds for protection of Asiatic lion is decreasing;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether there is a need to start a 'Project Asiatic Lion' on the lines of 'Project Tiger' for the protection of Asiatic lion in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a) The population of Asiatic Lions is showing an increasing trend. As informed by the State Government of Gujarat, the details of the population of Asiatic Lions over the years are as under:

Year	Estimated population
2010	411
2015	523
2020	674

- (b) Asiatic Lion is categorized as 'Endangered' according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species upgraded from "Critically Endangered" category in 2008 due to the efforts taken for conservation and protection of Asiatic Lions resulting in increase in their population over the years.

- (c) and (d) As informed by the State Government of Gujarat, the allocation of funds for protection of Asiatic Lions during last three years is as under:

Year	Fund allocation (In Cr.)
2021-22	91.03
2022-23	129.16
2023-24	155.53

(e) and (f) The Project Lion is being implemented in the Gir landscape in Gujarat. The Project envisages landscape ecology based conservation of the Asiatic Lion in Gujarat by integrating conservation and eco-development. The Project Lion document titled “Lion @ 47: Vision for Amrutkal” has been prepared with the following objectives:

- i. To secure & restore lions’ habitats for managing its growing population
- ii. Scale up livelihood generation and participation of local communities
- iii. Become a global hub of knowledge on big cat disease diagnostics and treatment
- iv. Inclusive biodiversity conservation through project lion initiative.
