

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1652
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.03.2025

Studies on the prey-predator ratios for lions and tigers

1652. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI:

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

- (a) whether Government has conducted or is aware of studies on prey-predator ratios for lions and tigers in forests across India;
- (b) if so, the details of such studies, including ratio of prey availability per predator in various regions, and findings on its impact on lion and tiger populations;
- (c) comparative prey-predator ratios in regions of world where lions and tigers are found, and how they influence conservation strategies;
- (d) steps being taken to ensure optimal prey availability in protected areas to support healthy predator populations; and
- (e) whether Government is collaborating with international organizations or adopting global best practices to maintain prey-predator balance?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (c) As informed by Government of Gujarat, prey-predator ratio studies have been undertaken for Asiatic lions in the Gir landscape and the ratio has been found as 385:1, which is considered as healthy.

Further, prey-predator dynamics are assessed as part of the Tiger Conservation Plan for each tiger reserve in the country, to ensure optimal prey availability for sustaining healthy predator populations.

Protection and management of the wildlife is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments and Union Territory administrations. For protection of wildlife and its habitat, a number of Protected Areas have been declared throughout the country as per the provisions of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. These include National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves. Besides, the Act also provides for declaration of tiger reserves in the country.

- (d) and (e) In accordance with provisions contained under Section 33 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, the Ministry has issued guidelines for the process of management planning for Protected Areas and other landscape elements. The management plan takes into account the environmental factors and ecological pattern—vegetation and animal communities, their distribution, habitats of biological and geomorphic origin etc. It also factors in the critically endangered/endangered species which need special attention through a combination of protection and habitat restoration and also includes an inventory of the habitats/ ecological entities of special importance and their status; population estimation of key species.

Financial assistance is provided to the States/Union Territories under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Development of Wildlife Habitats and Project Tiger for protection and management of wildlife and its habitats.
