

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3075
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.03.2025

Death of Asiatic lions

3075. SHRI A. D. SINGH:

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

- (a) the number of Asiatic Lions died in the country in the last five years, year-wise;
- (b) the reasons for the death of Asiatic lions;
- (c) whether there were incidents of poaching also leading to death of lions;
- (d) if so, the action taken against the poachers; and
- (e) the efforts being made to protect the Asiatic lions?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Asiatic Lions are found in the wild only in the State of Gujarat. As reported by the State Government of Gujarat, the numbers of Asiatic lions that died in last five years are as under: -

Year	Total number of Asiatic lions died
2020	142
2021	124
2022	117
2023	121
2024	165

- (b) As reported by the State Government, the reported causes of lion deaths include old age, illness, injuries from fights, cub mortality, falling into open wells, electrocution, accidents etc.
- (c) and (d) The State Government of Gujarat has informed that there were no incidents of poaching leading to death of lions during these years.

- (e) The important steps taken for the protection of Asiatic lions are as follows:
- i. Project Lion has been initiated for the conservation of Asiatic Lions. A comprehensive vision document 'Project Lion: Lion @47 Vision for Amrutkal' has been prepared.
 - ii. Regular patrolling is done by forest staff, trackers and rescue teams with modern communication system and vehicles in forest area to monitor lion movement and their health condition.
 - iii. Rescue cum Rehabilitation Centers with modern veterinary equipment, Animal care centers have been established.
 - iv. Awareness campaigns are organized for the local communities.
 - v. Wireless stations with modern equipment have been established. Check posts have been modernized. Watchtowers have been erected in forest areas. Water points and fire lines have been created in the habitats.
 - vi. Engagement of VanyapraniMitra in villages nearby sanctuary area to monitor and to provide information of wildlife movement and to monitor the poaching activities.
 - vii. Radio collars are used to monitor movement of the lions.
 - viii. Sign boards are used at important places showing the importance of wildlife for environment, provisions of various forest laws to protect wildlife.
 - ix. Measures have been taken to increase the prey base for lions in Gir landscape.
 - x. The Ministry provides financial assistance to State of Gujarat for the conservation of Asiatic lions and its habitats under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Development of Wildlife Habitats'.
