GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1337
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2025

Safety of Asiatic lions in Barda Wildlife Sanctuary

1337. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI:

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

(a) whether Government has finalized plans for the habitat suitability and safety of Asiatic lions in Barda Wildlife Sanctuary;
(b) the steps being taken to popularize the said Sanctuary among wildlife enthusiasts, wildlife opinion-makers and general public;
(c) whether Government has assessed potential human–wildlife conflict concerns in Sanctuary; and
(d) the steps being taken to engage local communities in conservation, awareness and ecotourism initiatives around the Sanctuary?

ANSWER

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

(a) Barda Wildlife Sanctuary lies in the state of Gujarat. The management of wildlife and development of habitat is primarily the responsibility of the state governments/UTs. As per the provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, wildlife sanctuaries are managed in accordance with the management plan approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden of the state. The State government of Gujarat has informed that plan has been finalized for the habitat suitability and safety of Asiatic lions in Barda Wildlife Sanctuary.

(b) State government has informed that steps are being taken to actively promote Barda Wildlife Sanctuary as an emerging lion landscape and second home for Asiatic Lion. Following measures have been taken for this purpose:

i. Barda Jungle Safari with dedicated safari vehicles has been launched since 2024 and a strong public response has been reported.
ii. A new Safari Park over 248 ha has been approved, including interpretation centre, wildlife hospital, rescue and rehabilitation centre, and integrated tourist facilities.

iii. World Lion Day 2025 was celebrated at Barda Wildlife Sanctuary for highlighting Barda's ecological significance and natural lion recolonization for soliciting community awareness and participation for lion conservation.
iv. Nature education camps, signage, awareness programs, IEC activities and media engagement programs are also conducted regularly.

(c) State Government has informed that human–wildlife conflict concerns have been assessed in the Management Plan, and surrounding villages. The Government is implementing measures such as habitat improvement to support the lion population, Radio telemetry, rapid response teams, increased patrolling, livestock-protection support, controlled grazing and community awareness activities to minimize conflict.

(d) Government of Gujarat has informed that livelihood opportunities have been enhanced through habitat improvement works and as part of eco-tourism activities, engagement of local youth as safari drivers, guides, data entry operators, and support staff. Nature Education Camps, IEC activities and training programs are being conducted regularly.

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