GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 4256 TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.03.2023

Translocation of African Cheetahs

4256. DR. PON GAUTHAM SIGAMANI:

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

- (a) whether the Kuno National Park which currently hosts 20 Cheetahs brought in from Africa, does not have enough prey to sustain all the animals according to a wildlife scientist, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether there are tiger reserves which are well equipped for the said purpose, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also true that a State Government had offered to host some Cheetahs brought in from Africa, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government is considering to utilise the tiger reserve offered by the said State Government and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) No Sir. As per the scientific Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India, Kuno National Park holds potential to sustain up to 21 cheetahs based on existing prey base.
- (b), (c) & (d) A detailed scientific action plan has been prepared as per IUCN Guidelines for introduction of Cheetah in India. As per the Action Plan, Kuno National Park, Nauradehi wildlife sanctuary and Gandhi Sagar wildlife sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh and Shahgarh Bulge, Bhainsrorgarh wildlife sanctuary and enclosure in Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan are the potential sites identified for cheetah introduction. Cheetah introduction in these sites depends upon the continued availability of cheetahs from African countries for sourcing as well as the status of habitat, prey base and protection mechanism on the ground.
