

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2316
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2023

Asiatic Lions

2316. SHRI PARBHUBHAI NAGARBHAI VASAVA:

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

- (a) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in coordination with State Government of Gujarat for rescue of Asiatic Lions in case of fire/floods etc. in their habitat areas; and
- (b) whether the Government proposes to conduct mock drills in coordination with State Government of Gujarat for tackling such eventualities?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The Central Government has issued advisories to the State Government of Gujarat for managing eventualities such as cyclones which may cause flash flood like situation. The management plan of Gir Protected Areas has detailed provisions for fire management which *inter alia* equip field staff with appropriate firefighting equipment to deal with fire incidents. During fire prone season, surveillance through fire watchers and frontline staff is carried out from fire watch towers and hill tops. Further, satellite-based fire alerts are utilized to proactively manage fire incidents in Lion habitats.

To manage flood or flood-like conditions, elevated areas have been identified where affected wild animals including Asiatic Lions can take shelter. The field staff continuously monitors movement and location of wildlife including Asiatic Lions in areas susceptible to floods, so as to address any emergency and perform rescue operations.

- (b) The Government of Gujarat undertakes all necessary measures to tackle such eventualities. Regular training and capacity building programs including mock drills are conducted by the Gujarat Forest Department.
