

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3859
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2007
COMMITTEE FOR APPRAISAL OF GIR LIONS
Deora Shri Milind Murlu

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has set up a special committee to do a spot appraisal of Gir in the wake of the recent spate of poaching of the Asiatic lion;
- (b) if so, the time by which the special committee is likely to give its report;
- (c) the number of lions killed in the last one month and the total present population of the lions in the sanctuary; and
- (d) the steps the Government proposes to take to provide additional security to the sanctuary?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. The Union Government has set up a special committee for on the spot appraisal of Gir in the wake of the recent poaching of the Asiatic lions. The Committee needs to submit the report within thirty days of its constitution i.e. up to 2nd of May,07 .

(c) The State government has reported death of 9 lions during the month of March 2007 in the Gir sanctuary area. Three of the lions have died of natural cause and six lions have been killed by the poachers. Further, the estimated population of lion in and around the Gir Protected Area and near by satellite areas is 359 +10 as per the April, 2005 population estimates.

(d) Following steps has been taken by the State Government to provide additional security to the sanctuary:

1. The staff at Gir has been strengthened.
2. Intensive patrolling is organized.
3. State Reserve Police is assisting Forest Department in protection of lions.
4. Information network is being strengthened through public awareness and public contacts.