

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:979  
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2010  
POPULATION OF LION  
Viswanathan Shri P.

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the decreasing population of lion in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the recent statistics of lion population;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to launch `Project Lion` in the country on the lines of `Project Tiger`; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)& (b) No, Sir. There is no decrease in the lion population in the country. As per the report available in the Ministry, there is an increase in the population of Lion. Present population of Asiatic Lion is 359(+10) as per estimation carried out in April 2005 as against 322 to 332 in 2001.

(c)&(d) Government of Gujarat has submitted a project entitled `A plan for consolidating long-term conservation of Asiatic lion in the greater Gir region`. The project proposal is for an amount of Rs. 262.36 crores for 5 years of which Central Government's share is 90% and State Government's share is 10%. The Planning Commission has been requested for providing additional funds under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of `Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats` (IDWH) for considering the proposal.