

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4625
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2010
LIONS IN GIR FOREST
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Gir Forest in Gujarat is the only and last home for Asiatic Lions in India;
- (b) if so, whether the Government intends to be helpful in protection and conservation of the Asiatic Lions;
- (c) if so, the details thereof indicating therein the financial help provided to the State Government of Gujarat during the last three years and the current year;
- (d) whether the Government of Gujarat had submitted any proposal for financial assistance for any project related to protection and conservation of the Asiatic Lions; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof indicating the amount of assistance proposed to be released to Gujarat?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes, Sir. The Gir forest in Gujarat is the only home for Asiatic Lions in India.
- (b)&(c) The Ministry provides financial and technical assistance to the State Government of Gujarat for protection and conservation of Asiatic Lions in Gir forest. The details of financial assistance provided during last three years and the current year to the Government of Gujarat under Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' for protection and conservation of Lions are as follows:

Sl.No. Financial Year Amount (Rs in Lakhs)
provided to Gir National
Park, Gujarat

| | | |
|---|--------------------|-------|
| 1 | 2007-08 | 40.00 |
| 2 | 2008-09 | 32.00 |
| 3 | 2009-10 | 78.46 |
| 4 | 2010-11(till date) | NIL |

- (d)&(e) The Government of Gujarat has submitted a proposal for consolidating long term conservation of Asiatic Lions at the total cost of Rs.262.36 crores for a period of five years, which has been approved 'in principle' by the Planning Commission. However, the Planning Commission has suggested that financial assistance under the project may be met out of the ongoing scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats'. Due to paucity of funds in the scheme for the current financial year, no amount has been released so far.