

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4196

ANSWERED ON:29.08.2011

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PROJECT TIGER

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

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to provide financial assistance under centrally sponsored scheme, 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' for conservation of Asiatic Lions in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the long term strategy for conservation of Asiatic Lions has not been given same attention as 'Project Tiger' in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) & (b) An amount of Rs. 674.541 lakh has been sanctioned during 2010-11 for the State Government of Gujarat for conservation of lions under the project 'Consolidating long term conservation of Asiatic Lions in Greater Gir Region' under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme-'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats'. In addition, this Ministry in the past also has been providing financial assistance to the Government of Gujarat for management of Gir Sanctuary under this scheme. Details of funds released for Gir Sanctuary during the last three years are as under:

| Year    | Amount Released<br>(Rs. in lakhs) |
|---------|-----------------------------------|
| 2008-09 | 32.00                             |
| 2009-10 | 78.46                             |
| 2010-11 | 64.48                             |
| Total   | 174.94                            |

(c) & (d) The 'Project Tiger' had been launched in the country in 1973 and the project for lion conservation has been initiated under the 'Species Recovery programme' of the scheme 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' (IDWH) in 2010-11. In addition, the State Government of Gujarat has been implementing own programmes for development of Gir Sanctuary and other habitats of lion for conservation of lions under the State Plan. The Government of India is seriously addressing the issues related to conservation of lions with resources available under its IDWH scheme.

(e) The steps taken to conserve lions in the country include:

1. Threatened species of wildlife are placed in the Schedules of the Wild Life (Protection), Act, 1972, thereby according them the highest degree of protection. Lion is included in Schedule I of the Act.

2. The Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972 has been amended from time to time and made more stringent against wildlife related offences including those pertaining to lion.

3. The concept of 'Greater Gir' has been adopted for development of Gir Sanctuary and Gir National Park for conservation of lions. The adjoining lion habitats of Girnar, Pania and Mitiyala have been notified as sanctuaries to widen the protected area network and home of lion.

4. The manpower and infrastructure have been improved and strengthened for intensive protection and conservation of lion and its habitats.

5. Habitat improvement measures like construction of bore well, check dams, gully plugging etc have been undertaken by the State Government.

6. Modern information and communication technology has been introduced for the conservation of the Gir area.

