

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1402
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2012
FUNDS FOR SAFETY OF LIONS
Punia Shri P.L.

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

- (a) the Sanctuary-wise/Zoo-wise details of the amount spent by the Government for safety of lions during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether the Government has noticed any information regarding misuse of funds; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) The Asiatic lions are found in wild only in Gir forests in the State of Gujarat. The Ministry provides financial assistance to the State Government of Gujarat for the protection and conservation of lion and its habitats under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats'. The sanctuary-wise details of funds released under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' for protection and conservation of lions and their habitat during the last three years are at Annexure-I. No financial assistance for protection and conservation of lions in Gir forests has been released to the State Government of Gujarat under the scheme during the current financial year. Zoo-wise details of funds released for feed and upkeep of lions, including those received from circuses and housed in Rescue Centers, during the last three years and the current year are at Annexure-II. Besides, the Central Zoo Authority provides supplemental financial assistance to recognized zoos on receipt of requests from them in this regard, which are utilized towards the upkeep of animals kept in the zoo including lions.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.