

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3249

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2009

RELOCATION OF LIONS

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo

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

- (a) whether captive lions from Delhi and Hyderabad Zoo are being relocated to a Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the time by which these lions are likely to be relocated; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that these lions get naturalised to the new environment?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): In order to conserve the single isolated population of Asiatic Lions, the Ministry of Environment & Forests had initiated a habitat feasibility study through the Wildlife Institute of India, which, inter-alia had identified Kuno Palpur Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh as an alternate home for the Gir lions and for the release of wild lions from Gujarat. However, when the option of release of wild lions from Gujarat is not available, only then release of zoo bred Asiatic lions would be considered.