

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3761  
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2014  
LION REINTRODUCTION PROJECT  
Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

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

- (a) the status of the Lion Reintroduction Project from Gujarat to Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) whether there has been a delay in the transfer of lions and if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the time by which the lions are likely to be transferred to the Kuno Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) and (b) The programme for Lion Reintroduction contemplates a long term action starting from preparation of the translocation area in Madhya Pradesh for receiving the Lions; selection of animals in Gujarat for translocation; and process for translocation including arrangements for soft release. The whole programme encompasses action for over 25 years. In the meanwhile, in pursuance to the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 15th April 2013 in I.A. No. 100 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 337/1995, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has constituted an Expert Committee for planning and implementation of translocation of Asiatic lions from Gir, Gujarat to Kuno, Madhya Pradesh. Meetings of the Expert Committee have been held to crystallize the Action Plan and road map for translocation of Lions, in accordance with the Guidelines issued by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Implementation of the Action Plan for translocation of Lions includes certain studies (both ecological and social). As a preliminary step towards preparation of area for the translocation, the area of Kuno Palpur Sanctuary is required to be enlarged. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has taken necessary steps in this regard.

(c) No specific time frame can be prescribed for transfer of Lions.