

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 913
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.12.2018

Asiatic Lion

913. DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI:

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

- (a) whether any special provisions have been made by the Government for the protection of Asiatic Lion in the Gir forest;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a), (b) and (c) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India has taken several measures for the protection of Asiatic Lion. Asiatic Lion has been identified as one of the 21 Critically Endangered species for focused conservation program under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Development of Wildlife Habitat'. Measures adopted to protect the Asiatic Lion includes:
- i. Listing the species in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby, according them highest degree of legal protection from hunting and poaching.
 - ii. State Government of Gujarat has taken legal, administrative and financial provisions for protection of Asiatic Lion in Gir. The legal provision includes declaring additional lion habitat area as Sanctuary. Administrative provisions include creating a new administrative division for wildlife Management. The financial provision includes providing new scheme and additional financial support. The financial provisions are for strengthening, protection and surveillance, infrastructure, transport/ communication, health infrastructure, and man animal conflict reduction measures.
 - iii. The State Government of Gujarat has also declared Pania, Mitiyala and Girnar sanctuary, bringing additional area of 236.73 km of Lion habitat, under Wildlife (Protection), Act, 1972.
 - iv. To insure and intensify protection and conservation to lion habitat

- outside protected areas, new division has been declared.
- v. The Government of Gujarat has declared Rs. 231.00 crore over period of 5 year for long term lion conservation, with main focus on reducing Man-Animal conflict. It comprises of new rescue centre, rescue teams, Rapid response team, strengthening of existing protection and surveillance infrastructure, transport/ communication infrastructures etc.
 - vi. Government of Gujarat has introduced 3 years package of wildlife health care and veterinary support team, including manpower and equipment.
 - vii. Appointment of 'Vanya Prani Mitra' (Wildlife Friend) in villages around Gir area.
 - viii. Erection of chain linked fencing on Railway track in Amreli district.
 - ix. Monthly Monitoring Committee has been constituted headed by Inspector General of Police, Junagarh Range having officers of Police and Forest Department as members to keep vigil on suspicious movements, exchange of information and monitoring of Wildlife offences in the area.
 - x. Wireless Network in and around Gir area for fast communication.
 - xi. Checking Nakas on entry points for keeping track of movements of vehicles and people.
