

**Shifting of Lions of Gir Sanctuary**

2616. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have taken note of the strong opposition in Gujarat to the reported move to shift the Gir sanctuary lions to Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the decision has been reversed;

(c) if not, what are the reasons for such a decision; and

(d) what is likely expenditure on this project and when is it likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has taken note of the opposition in Gujarat to translocate few lions from Gir sanctuary in Gujarat to Kuno-Palpur sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The project aims at safeguarding against the population of Asiatic lions being wiped out by any natural catastrophe.

(d) The approximate expenditure for this project is expected to be Rs. 65 crores. The actual translocation of lions is expected to be done during the year 2000.

**Impact of Vehicular Pollution on Adolescents**

2617. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some study undertaken by the Centre of Occupational and Environmental Medicine has shown that adolescents' athletic and academic performance and attendance in schools are adversely affected by vehicular pollution;

(b) if so, other adverse effects which have come to notice with such study;

(c) whether Government propose to take some drastic action in the matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The study was carried out by the Centre of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. No conclusive evidence on the incidence of ailments due to vehicular pollution could be inferred.

(c) and (d) The Government has taken measures to control pollution, which include the following:

- (i) The Government has formulated a comprehensive Policy Statement for Abatement of Pollution which envisages integration of environmental and economic aspects of development planning, lays stress on preventive aspects of pollution, promotion of cleaner technologies to reduce pollution and health related aspects;
- (ii) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and also for the shifting of industries from congested areas.
- (iii) Low lead petrol had been introduced in the four metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai w.e.f. June 1994. Subsequently, unleaded petrol was introduced in the above mentioned 4 cities with effect from 1.4.1995;
- (iv) The Government is implementing a major plan of action for introduction of unleaded petrol and catalytic converter fitted vehicles and introduction of low sulphur diesel for cleaner diesel vehicles in a phased manner. Fuel quality standards for petrol and diesel have been notified.