

#### Protection and conservation of Asiatic lion

1868. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

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

- (a) whether his Ministry is aware that Gir, Gujarat is the only and the last home for Asiatic lions;
- (b) if so, whether his Ministry intends to be helpful in their protection and conservation;
- (c) whether Gujarat Government has submitted any proposal for financial assistance for any project related to their protection and conservation;
- (d) if so, whether the Ministry intends to release any financial assistance; and
- (e) the steps being taken up by the Central Government for the protection and conservation of Asiatic lions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry has been supporting the protection and conservation of Asiatic Lions since a long time.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of Gujarat has submitted a proposal for assistance for consolidation of long-term conservation of lions with proposed expenditure of Rs. 236.17 crores. The Planning Commission has approved the proposal but no additional outlay has been provided for this purpose to the Ministry. The Planning Commission has been requested to provide additional allocation for this proposal. In the meantime the Ministry is providing the funds for lion conservation under the existing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' for their protection and conservation.

(e) Steps taken by the Central Government for their protection and conservation of wildlife including lions are as follows:

1. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been enacted to deal with the issues of protection and conservation of wildlife in India.
2. A network of Protected Areas has been established to conserve wildlife and their habitats including animals like Asiatic Lions.
3. Financial and technical support from the Ministry is being provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' to State/UT Governments for the conservation and protection of wildlife including lions and its habitats.
4. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, with a network of five Regional and three Sub Regional Offices, has been set up to control poaching.