

(b) the remedial measures proposed to check it and ensure more breeding of lions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) There is no depletion in the population of Gir lions. On the contrary it has increased from 284 in 1990 to 327 in 2001.

(b) Central Government has provided technical and financial assistance to State Government for the management of Gir National Park and Gir-Sanctuary and their population of lions.

Kastoori deer in Uttaranchal

†544. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total estimated number of rare Kastoori deer found in the border districts of Uttaranchal State;

(b) what specific steps are being taken to protect and increase the number of such deers;

(c) whether it is a fact that number of Kastoori deers are constantly decreasing on account of the smuggling and disease in these areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As per the report received from the State 193 Musk deer have been estimated in the border districts of Uttaranchal in the census of 2003.

(b) Regular patrolling and close interaction with local community through Eco-development Committees (EDC) for protection measures has been adopted. Intelligence network has also been established in far-flung areas and a constant vigil is being maintained.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.