

- (x) Bulk Consumer is being redefined in terms of turnover and the number of employees and they need to file annual returns now.
- (xi) The roles of the State Government has been also introduced in the Rules in order to ensure safety, health and skill development of the workers involved in the dismantling and recycling operations.

Death of Asiatic lion

1657. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is an increase in the number of death of Asiatic lions in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of such death during the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) the various reasons for this increase; and
- (d) what efforts have been made to stop the death of Asiatic lions in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) Asiatic lions are found in wild only in the State of Gujarat in India. As informed by the State Government of Gujarat, there has been increase in number of the death of Asiatic lions in the State. Year-wise details of death of Asiatic lion during the last three years is as under:

Sl. No	Year	Total no. of death of Asiatic lions
1.	2013	76
2.	2014	78
3.	2015	91

(c) The increases in death of Asiatic lion are due to both natural and unnatural reasons. Natural reasons are like in fight among lions, succumbing to illness and injuries, mortality of cubs, old age etc. Unnatural deaths occur due to road and railway accidents and falling in open wells in revenue area. Further, in 2015, 10 lions died due to drowning in a natural calamity of flash floods followed by heavy rains in Amreli district.

(d) Important steps taken to prevent the death of Asiatic lions in the State of Gujarat includes:

- (i) Financial and technical assistance is provided to the State Government of Gujarat under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development

of Wildlife Habitats' for providing better protection to wildlife including lions and improvement of its habitat.

- (ii) A scheme of construction of parapet walls around open wells in revenue area is being implemented by the State Government. Under this scheme 50% assistance is paid to the farm owner for constructing parapet wall.
- (iii) Construction of chain-linked wire fencing on both sides of accident prone part of railway track in Amreli district for avoiding lion deaths while crossing railway track.
- (iv) Construction of safe under and over passes on railway track.
- (v) Construction of speed breakers on road and display of sign boards on road etc.
- (vi) Awareness among public is being created through public meetings, Nature Education Camp, Wildlife Week Celebration, Eco-clubs activities to educate people for conservation of lions.
- (vii) Effective and efficient rescue works of injured animals in being done for saving the lions.
- (viii) Modernized hospital facilities have also been established for treatment of sick and injured lions.

Tigers and panthers in Panna Tiger Reserve

1658. DR . CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether tiger and panthers have become extinct from Panna Tiger Reserve;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) the annual grant provided for maintenance of the tiger reserve; and
- (d) the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) No, Sir. On the contrary, a total of 18 tigers and 24 leopards are present in Panna Tiger Reserve. Madhya Pradesh as per Status of tigers, co-predators and prey in India, 2014.

- (b) Question does not arise.

(c) The annual funding allocation under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger (CSS-PT) to Panna Tiger Reserve during last three years is given in the Statement (*See below*).

- (d) Question does not arise.