

inland waterways projects and details thereof, if no such framework exists, reasons therefor.

(b) whether Ministry has done any Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of Inland waterways project underway, if so, details thereof, if not the reasons therefor.

(c) whether Government plans to come up with rules to give EIA clearances to Inland waterway projects, if so, when and details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) It is informed that in O.A. no. 487/2015 in the matter of Bharat Jhunjhunwala and ors. *Vs.* Inland Waterways Authority of India and ors., the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal *vide* order dated 1st November, 2018 held the "There is no dispute about the fact that the project of Inland Waterways is, as on date, not included in the EIA Notification, 2006". In view of the above the Ministry has not done any Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of Inland waterways project.

#### **Asiatic Lion Conservation Project**

795. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government launched Asiatic Lion Conservation Project to protect and conserve the lion population;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) in what way this project will help in conservation and recovery of Asiatic lions with disease management and modern surveillance techniques;

(d) the budget of the project and the contribution of State and Centre; and

(e) the present population of Asiatic lions, especially in Gir Protected Area and the total network of area under the Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Currently the Asiatic Lion is endemic to Gir Landscape. Consequently, the conservation of this majestic creature of nature becomes imperative. Further, Lion is one of the 21 critically endangered species identified by the Ministry for taking up recovery programme.

Asiatic Lion, being listed in Schedule-I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, has been accorded the highest degree of protection.

With a view to strength the conservation initiatives to protect Asiatic Lion, Ministry has approved a three year (FY: 2018-19, FY: 2019-20 and FY: 2020-21) dedicated project titled "Asiatic Lion Conservation Project" with a total budget of ₹ 97.85 crore. The project envisages a scientific management prescription with involvement of communities along with coordination with multi-sectoral agencies. The activities under the project would include better management of Lion habitat, disease control and veterinary care for overall conservation of Lion. An amount of ₹ 17.03 crore is being released by the Ministry for implementation of activities during first year of the project.

(c) For consolidating the conservation of Asiatic Lion in Greater Gir Region, its associate biota and its habitat; various activities have been proposed in the project proposal including the disease management and modern surveillance techniques. Salient features of these are broadly as follows:-

- (i) Veterinary care: Developing a Rescue centre, Tranquilizer gun, Veterinary care facilities and Medicines, Disease profiling, Vaccination of livestock along with control of domestic dogs and cats.
- (ii) Regular scientific research will be conducted to assess the prevalence of important pathogens/diseases (Rabies, Canine-distemper virus, Canine parvovirus, Feline immunodeficiency virus, Feline leukemia virus and Protozoan diseases like Trypanosomosis, Babesiosis), if any, among free-ranging lions, co-predators and associated domestic dogs and cats at Greater Gir Region.
- (iii) The presently used programme software called M-STrIPES patrol module, which was developed by WII in collaboration with the National Tiger Conservation Authority for monitoring Tiger reserves and landscapes of India shall be customized for Gir by incorporating relevant points for lion conservation. Android apps will also be developed to use the module.

(d) The total budget of the project is ₹ 9784.50 lakh under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme-Development of Wildlife Habitat (with a funding ratio 60:40 of Central and State share respectively) for the three year project. Cost share of the Government of India- ₹ 58.71 crore (60%) Cost share of the Government of Gujarat- ₹ 39.14 crores (40%)

(e) As per the 14th Asiatic Lion Population Estimate, conducted in 2015, in the sprawling expanse of “Asiatic Lion Landscape,” including the Gir Protected Area, the population of Lions is as follows:—

Sl.No.	Areas	Population
1.	Gir National Park and Sanctuary and adjoining areas	304
2.	Girnar Sanctuary	33
3.	Mitiyala Sanctuary	8
4.	Paniya Sanctuary	11
5.	South Western Coast (Sutrapada-Kodinar-Una-Veraval)	32
6.	South Eastern Coast (Rajula-Jafrabad-Nageshree)	18
7.	Savarkundla, Liliya and its adjoining areas of Amrel	80
8.	Bhavnagar District	37
TOTAL		523

The total network of area under the Project includes:—

Sl.No.	Name of Protected Area	Area (sq.km.)
1.	Gir Sanctuary	1153.42
2.	Gir National Park	258.71
3.	Girnar Sanctuary	178.80
4.	Pania Sanctuary	39.64
5.	Mitiyala Sanctuary	18.22
TOTAL		1648.79 sq.km

Besides above mentioned protected areas, this plan will be implemented in whole of the Greater Gir Region and other parts of the State for the benefit of Lion conservation.

**Scheme for insulation of electricity line passing through Tiger reserves**

†796. SHRI AJAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal of Madhya Pradesh Government for Centrally sponsored scheme of insulation of electricity line passing through the areas of Tiger reserves is pending with Government;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.