

Conservation of Asiatic Lions

1608. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps being taken by the Forest Department for conservation of Asiatic Lions;
- (b) budget allocated and released by Government for conservation of the Asiatic Lions vis-a-vis Tigers and Elephants in the last three years; and
- (c) whether Government mulls opening up the modern and world class diagnostic facilities for the Lions and Elephants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) The steps being taken by the Forest Department, Government of Gujarat for conservation of Asiatic Lions are as follows:

- i. The State Government of Gujarat has taken legal, administrative and financial provisions for protection of Asiatic Lion in Gir, Gujarat. The legal provision includes declaring additional lion habitat area as Sanctuary/ National Park. The financial provisions are for strengthening, protection and surveillance, infrastructure, transport/ communication, health infrastructure, and man animal conflict reduction measures.
- ii. The State Forest Department has also declared Pania, Mitiyala and Girnar sanctuary, bringing additional area of 236.73 km of Lion habitat, under Wildlife (Protection), Act, 1972.
- iii. The Government of Gujarat has allocated ₹ 231.00 crore over a period of 5 years for long term Lion conservation, with main focus on reducing Man-Animal conflict. It comprises of new rescue centre, rescue teams, Rapid response team, strengthening of existing protection and surveillance infrastructure, transport/ communication infrastructures etc.
- iv. State Forest Department has introduced 3 years package of wildlife health care and veterinary support team, including manpower and equipment.
- v. Veterinary hospitals are equipped with fully Automatic Biochemistry Analyzer, Himatology Analyzer, Sonography machines, Digital X-ray machines, Leminar Airflow Machine, Bacteriological Incubator, Oxymeter, Autoclave, Stereo Microscope and Compound Microscope etc.

- vi. Awareness programmes conducted for active co-operation of local people and appointment of 'Vanya Prani Mitra' (Wildlife Friend) in villages around Gir area.
- vii. Monthly Monitoring Committee has been constituted which is headed by Inspector General of Police, Junagarh Range, having officers of Police and Forest Department as members to keep vigil on suspicious movements, exchange of information and monitoring of Wildlife offences in the area.
- viii. Wireless Network in and around Gir area for fast communication.
- ix. Checking Nakas on entry points for keeping track of movements of vehicles and people.

The Government of India provides funds to the States/ UTs Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme- Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat (CSS-IDWH) for conservation of species and their habitats including Asiatic Lion, Tigers, Elephants etc.

The details of funds released from the CSS-DWH for the conservation of Asiatic Lions during the last three years are as follows:

Sl. No.	Year	Funds allocated (amount in ₹ Lakh)	Funds released (amount in ₹ Lakh)
1.	2016-17	100.09	100.09
2.	2017-18	233.69	233.69
3.	2018-19	1983.40	1983.40

The details of funds allocated and released from CSS- Project Elephant for the conservation of Elephants during the last three years are as follows:

Sl. No.	Year	Funds allocated (amount in ₹ Lakh)	Funds released (amount in ₹ Lakh)
1.	2016-17	2000.00	2120.29
2.	2017-18	2750.00	2490.15
3.	2018-19	3000.00	2976.44

The details of funds allocated and released from CSS- Project Tiger for the conservation of Tigers during the last three years are as follows:

Sl. No.	Year	Funds allocated (amount in ₹ Lakh)	Funds released (amount in ₹ Lakh)
1.	2016-17	36500.00	34224.76
2.	2017-18	34500.00	34500.00
3.	2018-19	35000.00	32344.29

(c) The Government of India along with Government of Gujarat has launched a project titled „Asiatic Lion Conservation Project% with a total budget of ₹ 97.85 crores and being implemented by Gujarat Forest Department. Scientific management, specially focusing on Veterinary care is a part of the project and would be done with involvement of multi-sectoral agencies. Salient features of these are broadly as follows:

- i. Veterinary care: Developing a Rescue centre, Tranquilizer gun, Ambulances, Veterinary care facilities and Medicines, Disease profiling, Vaccination of livestock along with control of domestic dogs and cats.
- ii. Conduction of regular scientific research 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.

There are no plans for opening up modern diagnostic facilities for Elephants.

Deaths of fishes in rivers

1609. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that pollution control boards across the country enquired about the dead fishes in rivers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the cause of deaths of fishes was the release of untreated sewage which resulted in the depletion of oxygen levels in the river; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) to (d) Central Pollution Control