

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 520
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.12.2023

Death of Asiatic lions in Gujarat

520 SHRI MOHAMMED NADIMUL HAQUE:

Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that more than 400 Asiatic lions have died in Gujarat from 2019 to 2021, if so, the year-wise details thereof;
- (b) the percentage of Asiatic lions died due to unnatural reasons in the last five years and the action taken thereon;
- (c) the details of the prey base estimation conducted by the Gujarat Forest Department in the last five years, year-wise;
- (d) whether Government proposes to translocate the lions to Madhya Pradesh as per Supreme Court guidelines, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) As reported by the State, 397 lions including 182 cubs of 0-1 year have died in Gujarat from 2019-2021, and the details are as under: -

Year	Lions	Cubs
2019	66	60
2020	73	76
2021	76	46

- (b) As reported by the State, 10.53% lions including 3.82% cubs have died due to unnatural reasons out of total deaths of lions in the last five years in Gujarat State. Funding assistance is provided under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (CSS-IDWH) to the State of Gujarat for conservation of Asiatic lions, raising awareness on lion & other wildlife conservation, habitat management, protection, eco-development, human resource and infrastructure development, voluntary village relocation, as per sanctioned Annual Plan of Operation submitted by the State Government.

- (c) As reported by the State, the details of prey base estimation conducted by the Gujarat Forest Department in Gir Protected Area and reserved and un-reserved vidis of Gir during last five years are as under: -

Year	Number of herbivores estimated during the year
2018	1,49,365
2019	1,68,109
2020	No prey base estimated carried out
2021	No prey base estimated carried out
2022	2,20,406

- (d) & (d) The matter of translocation of lions from Gujarat to Madhya Pradesh is sub judice [Contempt Petition (Civil) No. 568 of 2022 in the Supreme Court].
