

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.544
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.12.2023

Railway lines passing through wildlife sanctuaries and national parks

544. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI:

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

- (a) the list of wildlife sanctuaries and national parks in the country through which railway lines pass;
- (b) the details of type of the tracks, length in kilometers, number of passenger trains and goods trains passing through each of them on an average per month;
- (c) the details of measures taken in each of such sanctuary or park to prevent death and/or injury to the respective wildlife on the tracks; and
- (d) whether Government plans some special measures to protect Asiatic lions from getting hit on the rail tracks passing through Gir in Gujarat, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) & (b) This information is not collated in the Ministry.
- (c) & (d) The Government has taken a number of steps to protect and conserve wildlife and endangered species of flora and fauna including Asiatic Lions which include:
- i. A guidance document namely, 'Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Linear Infrastructure on Wild Life' has been released by the Ministry which prescribes measures, both structural and non-structural to be adopted while designing linear infrastructure projects through wildlife habitats. The Ministry has made it mandatory for the User Agencies to enclose an animal passage plan prepared in accordance with these guidelines in consultation with the Chief Wild Life Warden along with the proposals for linear infrastructures planned through wildlife habitats submitted for seeking recommendations of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life.
 - ii. Financial assistance to States/Union Territories under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Development of Wildlife Habitats' and 'Project

- Tiger and Elephant’ for development of wildlife and its habitat, for activities like creation and maintenance of water holes for wild animals in Protected Areas, soil and moisture conservation measures, establishment of anti-poaching camps, strengthening wildlife veterinary care, eradication of weeds, creation and maintenance of fire lines, awareness generation.
- iii. Providing financial assistance to States/UTs for the recovery programme of critically endangered species under the component Recovery programme for saving of critically endangered species and habitats under CSS- ‘Development of Wildlife Habitats’. A total of 22 critically endangered species including Asiatic Lion have been identified under this programme.
 - iv. The following activities are being undertaken by the Gujarat Forest Department:
 - a. Habitat improvement
 - b. Monitoring through radio-collaring, camera trap, telemetry, SIMBA and patrolling through e-Guj
 - c. Human – wildlife conflict management
 - d. Eco-development works
 - e. Awareness generation and sensitization
 - v. The Ministry has prepared a document titled ‘Project Lion: Lion @47 vision for Amrutkal’ for conservation and protection of Asiatic Lion.
 - vi. Creation of Sanctuaries, National Parks, Conservation Reserves, Community Reserves, and Tiger Reserves, for conservation and protection of wildlife and its habitats.
 - vii. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for punishment for violation of its provisions. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that is used for committing wildlife offence.
 - viii. Law enforcement authorities in the States/UTs maintain strict vigil against poaching of wild animals.
 - ix. Wild Life Crime Control Bureau has been set up to gather intelligence about poaching and unlawful trade in wild animals and animal articles and to achieve inter-state and trans-boundary coordination in enforcement of wildlife laws.
 - x. In order to further strengthen the conservation of wildlife, Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) are notified around National Parks and Sanctuaries under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
