

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 365
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.02.2025

Insufficient prey base for lions in Gir

365. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the herbivore prey base is insufficient for lions in Gir, Gujarat;
- (b) the steps taken by the Central Government and the State Government to ensure availability of sufficient preys around the areas of lions' movement;
- (c) whether any breeding centres are set up for herbivore animals in and around Gir to cater to growing number of lions and their migration out of Gir;
- (d) the number of incidents of lions killing domestic animals in last five years; and
- (e) the details of steps taken to reduce incidents of lions moving out to human areas and to prevent human-animal conflicts?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a) As informed by State Government of Gujarat, there is sufficient prey base for Lions in Gir. The population of prey animals during the last three estimates indicate an increasing numbers. The numbers of prey animals as per the last three estimates are as below:

Year	Estimated population
2019	1,55,659
2022	2,02,993
2024	2,13,391

- (b) The following are the important steps taken for ensuring availability of prey base in around the areas of lions' movement, include:
 - i. The Ministry provides financial and technical support to the States including Gujarat for conservation and management of wildlife and its habitat under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme- Development of Wildlife Habitats.

- ii. A network of Protected Areas namely viz., National Park, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves covering important wildlife habitat have been created all over the country under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to conserve wild animals and their habitats.
 - iii. Prey base augmentation enclosures for key species such as Spotted deer (*Axix axis*), Sambar (*Rusa unicolor*) have been strategically established across key areas to enhance the prey base population and support long-term sustainability.
 - iv. Systematic population assessments of herbivores are conducted to monitor population trends and ensure stable wild prey base within the landscape.
- (c) As informed by the State Government of Gujarat, Sambar prey base augmentation enclosures have been established at Krangasa, Vadvangada, Ambardi, Kileshwar-1, Kileshwar-2, Rampara, Karjada, and Spotted deer prey base augmentation enclosures has been established at Satvirada and Rampara.
- (d) As informed by the State Government of Gujarat, the numbers of incidents of lions killing domestic animals in last five years are as follows:

Year	Number of incidences
2019-20	2605
2020-21	3244
2021-22	3659
2022-23	3670
2023-24	4385

- (e) The important steps taken to reduce incidents of lions moving out to human areas and to prevent human-animal conflicts:
- i. An advisory on dealing with human-wildlife conflict has been issued by the Ministry in February 2021. The Advisory recommends coordinated interdepartmental action, identification of conflict hot spots, adherence to Standard Operating Procedures, establishment of rapid response teams, formation of State and District level committees to review the quantum of ex-gratia relief, and issuing guidance/instructions for expedited payments etc.
 - ii. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has also issued Guidelines to States/UTs on 3rd June, 2022 on managing Human Wildlife conflict including damage to crops.
 - iii. The activities supported under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes 'Development of Wildlife Habitats' include construction/erection of physical barriers such as solar powered electric fence, bio-fencing, boundary walls etc. to prevent the entry of wild animals into crop fields.
 - iv. Financial aid for human injuries/causalities as well as for cattle deaths are provided by the State Government.

- v. Habitat improvement works are taken up in Protected Areas and other lion habitats.
- vi. Waterholes are provided at appropriate locations within forest area.
- vii. Radio collaring of selected lions for assessing their movement and behaviour patterns.
- viii. Community awareness and sensitization programme are convened.
- ix. Erection of Machans in farm lands for farmers
- x. Trekkers and rescue teams are deployed for shifting animals from human populated areas in case of conflicts.
- xi. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides regulatory functions for dealing with human wildlife conflict situations.
