

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1008
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2025

Lion corridors and their movement areas in the Greater Gir region

1008. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI:

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

- (a) whether Government has duly notified by identifying lion corridors and their movement areas in the Greater Gir region, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has plans to ensure the conservation of Asiatic lions and their habitat in Greater Gir areas, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has undertaken any studies or consultations with wildlife experts and local stakeholders to address threats to lion corridors, including habitat fragmentation and human-wildlife conflict; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to prevent encroachment, illegal activities and other anthropogenic pressures affecting lion movement areas in the Greater Gir region?

ANSWER

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

- (a) As informed by the State Government of Gujarat, 21 important corridors have been identified as per the management plan for Gir Protected Area.
- (b) The Project Lion is being implemented in the Gir landscape in Gujarat. The Project envisages landscape ecology based conservation of the Asiatic Lion in Gujarat by integrating conservation and eco-development. The Project Lion document titled “Lion @ 47: Vision for Amrutkal” has been prepared with the following objectives:
 - i. To secure & restore lions’ habitats for managing its growing population
 - ii. Scale up livelihood generation and participation of local communities
 - iii. Become a global hub of knowledge on big cat disease diagnostics and treatment
 - iv. Inclusive biodiversity conservation through project lion initiative.
- (c) As per the information available with the Ministry, the Government of Gujarat has conducted comprehensive studies on lion corridors using modern technologies like radio collaring and GIS mapping. In the process, the relevant institutions are engaged.

Various initiatives have been taken up to mitigate habitat fragmentation and human-wildlife conflict, which includes habitat restoration efforts, community engagement programs and scientific research for ensuring the long-term conservation efforts.

- (d) The important steps taken by the Government for protection and conservation of Asiatic Lion and its habitat are as follows:
- i. A network of Protected Areas (National parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves) has been created in the Gir area.
 - ii. Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
 - iii. Wild Life Crime Control Bureau coordinates with State/UTs and other enforcement agencies to gather intelligence about poaching and unlawful trade in wild animals and animal articles.
 - iv. The local communities are involved in conservation measures through eco-development activities, which help the forest department in protection of wildlife.
 - v. Effective monitoring and supervision of lion corridors and lion movement areas is carried out through patrolling of forest area.
 - vi. Use of modern technology and IT initiatives has been taken for effective communication system for quick response.
