

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 948**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2019

**Transfer of Asiatic Lions**

948. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:

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

- (a) whether the Supreme Court had ordered in 2013 that Asiatic Lions from Gir Forests in Gujarat be transferred to the Kuno Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the order has been complied with, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether environmental experts and scientists have recommended that Asiatic Lions in Gir forests be relocated to other sites in Gujarat and other States, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to relocate Asiatic Lions from Gir forests to other sites in Gujarat and other States, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)**

- (a) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in I.A. No. 100 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 337/1995 in Centre for Environment Law, WWF-I vs Union of India & Others had vide their order dated 15<sup>th</sup> April 2013 directed the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to take urgent steps for re-introduction of Asiatic lion from Gir forests to Kuno in accordance with the guidelines issued by IUCN. Hon'ble Court vide the said order had also directed the Ministry to constitute an Expert Committee for this purpose.
- (b) In compliance to the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has constituted an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Additional Director General of Forests (Wildlife), MoEF&CC. The Expert Committee had convened Six Meetings so far.

- (c) A collaborative workshop held during 18-21 October, 1993 in Baroda, Gujarat identified the following sites for Lion translocation using 11 parameters:
- i. Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary
  - ii. Sita Mata Wildlife Sanctuary
  - iii. Darrah-Jawahar sagar Wildlife Sanctuary
  - iv. Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary
  - v. Barda Wildlife Sanctuary
- (d) In compliance of the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has constituted an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Additional Director General of Forests (Wildlife), MoEF&CC. The committee has met 6 times and the process of translocation is on. The State Specific Empowered Committees have also been constituted in the State of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat under the chairmanship of their respective Chief Wild Life Wardens for overlooking the translocation process. The translocation will be done only after mutual consultations between State specific empowered committees of the two States covering all aspects of translocation including evaluation of the habitat proposed for the translocation, procedures and guidelines required to be followed for translocation and also the safety and security aspects of the translocation.

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