

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:911
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2003
POPULATION OF LIONS
SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the population of Lions is decreasing day by day in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any latest census have been made in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect and maintain the population of Lions in the country especially in Gujarat?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

- (a) No, Sir.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) & (d) Yes, Sir. Asiatic lion is found in wild only in Gujarat state. As per the census conducted in May 2001, the population of Asiatic lions is estimated between 322-332 individuals
- (e) The following steps have been taken for conservation of Asiatic lion in the country:
 1. The Gir Protected Area in Gujarat where Asiatic lion is found has been notified as national park and sanctuary. This area is being managed under approved management plan with a focus on long term conservation of Asiatic lion.
 2. Strict protection is being provided to Asiatic lion in Gir area by Forest Department of Gujarat with the involvement of local communities.
 3. An alternate home for Asiatic lion has been located at Kuno-Palpur in Madhya Pradesh for its re-introduction.
 4. To augment the in-situ conservation efforts, Asiatic lion has been identified for ex-situ breeding.