

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:89
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2002
STERILIZATION OF LIONS
MONI KUMAR SUBBA

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

- (a) whether Akhil Bhartiya Lions Sangharash Samiti has expressed horror over sterilization of the lions in forests, National Parks and reserves of the country ;
- (b) if so, whether the birth rate of lions in India is distressingly low which is only 4.2 per thousand against 9.7 per thousand as in East Africa; and
- (c) if so, the population of lions in Assam and other North Eastern forests as per last three censuses and the steps being taken to promote and preserve the lions?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a),(b) & (c) Animal Welfare activists have been representing from time to time against sterilization of lions. No sterilization of Asiatic Lion has been done in this country. In certain zoos number of hybrid lions has gone beyond carrying capacity. In such cases sterilization of males is done for controlling population within the carrying capacity of the zoo. Lions are found only in Gir forests of Gujrat. No sterilization of lions has ever been done in the Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary. The population of lions in Gir National Park and Sanctuary in 1995 and 2000 was 304 and 320 respectively registering a growth of 5.26%. The reason for declined in population growth rate is because of fact that the population of lions has already gone beyond the carrying capacity of the park. The report of more than 70 lions living outside the Gir National Park and Sanctuary are there.