

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:807
ANSWERED ON:12.07.2004
DECLINE IN POPULATION OF ASIATIC LIONS
Jagannath Dr. M.

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

- (a) whether the population of Asiatic lions of Gir forest is dwindling day by day;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the action taken/to be taken to conserve the species and ensure increase in its population?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

- (a) No, Sir. On the contrary the population of Asiatic lions has shown increase from 304 in 1995 to 327 in 2001
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Central Government provides technical and financial assistance to State Government for improvement of infrastructure for protection and conservation of the habitat and population of the lions. As lion is in Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 it has been provided with maximum protection under the existing laws.