

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3509  
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2005  
FATE OF GIR LIONS  
Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh

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

- (a) Whether fate of Gir lions is trapped in a dispute between concerned States ;
- (b) If so , whether a project on second home for the lions was conceived in Madhya Pradesh ; (
- (c) if so, the details in this regard ; (
- (d) Whether some lions have been sent to Kuno Palpur in Madhya Pradesh ;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor ; and (
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to rectify the situation ?

**Answer**

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

(a), (b) & (c) The Kunopalpur wildlife sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh, a historical range of Asiatic lions, has been identified as an alternate home for reintroducing the endangered Asiatic lions which are now confined only to the Gir forests of Gujarat. The Government of India has embarked on a phased project to reintroduce lions in the identified area, and as many as 18 villages have been relocated from the Kunopalpur sanctuary with funding support under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Presently the project is in its second phase which involves translocation of lions and building up the population .

(d ) No Sir .

(e) & (f) Certain prerequisites like a availability of prey animals are essential before translocation , hence the prey base assessment of Kunopalpur Sanctuary was done by the Wildlife Institute of India , which has indicated the future time limit for reintroduction. The State Government of Gujarat has been requested for providing a viable population of lions for translocating to the Kunopalpur Sanctuary .