

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3627  
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2004  
UNSAFE WELLS IN GIR FOREST  
Thakkar Smt. Jayaben B.

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that six lions and 17 other wild animals have lost their lives during the last two years by falling into open wells in Gir Forests area of Saurashtra, Gujarat.
- (b) if so, whether out of 8696 wells only 637 wells are safe; and
- (c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to protect lions and wild animals from such wells ?

**Answer**

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

- (a) As reported by the State Government, one lion and two other wild animals have died by falling in wells in the Gir Forests during 2002-03 and 2003-04. In addition, seven lions and twenty-five other wild animals have died by falling in open wells dug on private lands outside the Gir Forests.
- (b) The State Government have reported that 637 wells have been made safe for wild animals during the last five years. However, nearly 8696 open wells still exist in the private lands within a radius of 6 kms from Gir Forests.
- (c) The State Government encourages the local people to construct parapet walls or such other structures around their wells in order to make them safe for wild animals.