

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:537
ANSWERED ON:22.05.2006
DECREASING POPULATION OF WILD ANIMALS
Moghe Shri Krishna Murari;Rawat Shri Kamla Prasad

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

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- (a) the population of wild animals, particularly lions, in the country, sanctuary-wise and park-wise during the last three years and the current year, separately;
- (b) whether their population is on the decline;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps proposed/taken in this regard so far?

Answer

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

(a) to (d)
A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 537 FOR REPLY ON 22.05.06 REGARDING `DECREASING POPULATION OF WILD ANIMALS`.

(a) Sanctuary-wise and Park-wise population of wild animals is not collated at the national level. However, the State-wise population of major species of wild animals, as reported by the States, based on the last three census, is placed at Annexure - I. The population of lions, found only in Gir, Gujarat, is also shown.

(b)No Sir. As reported, the population of lions has increased from 327+ 5 in 2001 to 359 + 10 in 2005.

(c)Does not arise.

(d)It is the constant endeavour of the Central and State Governments to improve the habitat of the wild animals inhabiting the National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries so that a viable population of wild animals, including lions, is maintained. Financial and technical assistance for habitat improvement, strengthening of infrastructure, communication systems, census, research, eco development, etc is provided under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes `Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries`. `Project Tiger` and `Project Elephant`.

As reported by the Government of Gujarat, adequate infrastructure including wireless communication, vehicles, quarters, check posts, etc have been provided in Gir National Park. Regular patrolling, anti poaching operations, monitoring and awareness programmes to enlist people`s support are carried out. Eco development is pursued for enlisting people`s support.