

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1759
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2005
MIGRATION OF GIR LIONS
Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

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

- (a) whether lions from natural habitat in the Sasan Gir Sanctuary area are migrating to places including the coastal belt ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and.
- (c) the steps taken to protect the migrating Gir lions?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. As reported by Government of Gujarat, lions are migrating beyond the Gir National Park due to the tendency of expansion of their home zone, which is a natural process for healthy growing populations. 12 lions were reported from coastal areas during the population estimation exercise in April, 2005.

(c) Protection is extended for lions in all the areas including coastal zones by the State Forest Department through regular patrolling and awareness campaigns. To provide maximum protection to lions, the species has been included in Schedule-1 of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.