

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3004
ANSWERED ON:05.09.2007
FUNCTIONING OF GIR NATIONAL PARK
Patel Shri Jivabhai Ambalal;Thummar Shri Virjibhai

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

- (a) whether the Government has made any review of the functioning of the Gir National Park;
- (b) if so, the findings thereof; and
- (c) the details of the developmental works undertaken in the said National Park during the last three years?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) & (b) As per the information received from the State Government, the Management Plan of Gir Protected Area (PA) was reviewed by the Management Plan Review Committee held on 5th May 2006. The Committee decided the objectives of the new Management Plan for the Gir PA as under:

1. Protect and conserve the Gir forests in a manner that is consistent with the ultimate and perpetual conservation of Asiatic lion and all other life forms and systems that together constitute this unique ecosystem.
2. Conserve and consolidate the lion habitat.
3. Improve health of the forests, their ecological functions and optimum productivity.
4. Reduce negative impacts on the biodiversity from anthropogenic pressures.
5. Pursue ecological studies and ecological research for better understanding of the ecosystem and provide greater scientific inputs for management.
6. Wildlife protection including anti-poaching and anti-encroachment works, protection against illegal grazing, fire protection, habitat management, health care research and monitoring, awareness and education, ecodevelopment and ecotourism are prioritized tasks for the management of Gir PA.

(c) The developmental works undertaken in the Gir PA during the last three years, inter alia, include:

1. Survey and demarcation
2. Habitat improvement works including removal of weeds.
3. Food and water facility for wildlife.
4. Nature education, extension and orientation.
5. Maintenance of watch towers, roads, buildings, wireless networks
6. Wildlife rescue, care and treatment
7. Forest fire protection
8. Ecodevelopment activities such as self-employment, community improvement works, training and education of local people residing in the surrounding areas of Gir PA.
9. Plantation in degraded forest areas including improvement of reserve and non-reserve grasslands.