

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 672
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2023

Relocation of Cheetah

672. SHRI SURESH KUMAR KASHYAP:
SHRI THIRUNAVUKKARASAR SU:
SHRIMATI MALA ROY:
DR. RAMAPATI RAM TRIPATHI:
SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B.:
SHRI SANGAM LAL GUPTA:
PROF. SOUGATA RAY:
SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY:
SHRI RAVNEET SINGH BITTU:
SHRI ANURAG SHARMA:
SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI:

Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that among the cheetahs that were translocated from South Africa and Namibia to Kuno National Park (KNP) of Madhya Pradesh, some of them have died and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) the total cost of import of 70 Cheetahs;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to relocate them to some other places in the country and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has consulted of any wild life expert to free them at Kuno forest and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the method for keeping track of the health and physical condition of the translocated cheetahs;
- (f) whether the Government has formed a new committee to keep watch on the Cheetah project having International and national experts in it;
- (g) the measures taken to ensure their safety and prevent any further cheetah deaths in this regard; and
- (h) whether the Government proposes to translocate more cheetahs and other similar animals to the country in the near future and if so, the details in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) As reported by the State, the details of Cheetah deaths are given below:

Sl. No.	Name of Cheetah	Date of death	Reason for death
1.	Sasha	27.03.2023	Chronic renal failure
2.	Uday	23.04.2023	Cardiopulmonary failure

3.	Daksha	09.05.2023	Traumatic Shock
4.	Tejas	11.07.2023	As per the Preliminary Necropsy Report, the reasons of death is Traumatic Shock
5.	Suraj	14.07.2023	As per the Preliminary Necropsy Report, the reasons of death is Traumatic Shock

3 Indian born cubs of nearly 2 months of age died on 23.05.2023 due to heat stroke.

- (b) As per the Action Plan for Introduction of cheetah in India, for the first phase (5 years), the estimated cost of the project is Rs. 91.65 crore.
- (c) A detailed scientific action plan has been prepared as per IUCN Guidelines for introduction of Cheetah in India. As per the Action Plan, Kuno National Park, Nauradehi wildlife sanctuary and Gandhi Sagar wildlife sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh and Shahgarh Bulge, Bhainsrorgarh wildlife sanctuary and enclosure in Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan are the potential sites identified for cheetah introduction. Cheetah introduction in these sites depends upon the continued availability of cheetahs from African countries for sourcing as well as the status of habitat, prey base and protection mechanism on the ground.
- (d) Yes Sir. The introduction of cheetahs in India is based on the best available conservation science and a detailed scientific action plan prepared following the expertise of leading Cheetah experts including biologists, ecologists, conservationists and managers.
- (e) A dedicated team of forest officials, cheetah experts and veterinarians has been undertaking protection as well as monitoring and well-being of cheetahs on 24x7 basis.
- (f) Yes Sir. A Cheetah Project Steering Committee has been constituted on 25th May, 2023 and the terms of reference of the Steering Committee is to review progress, monitor and advice on the Cheetah introduction in consultation with international cheetah experts as and when required.
- (g) To ensure conservation and protection of Cheetahs in India, actions are taken as per scientific action plan which has been prepared following the expertise of leading Cheetah experts including biologists, ecologists, conservationists and managers.
- (h) As per the Action Plan for introduction of Cheetah, every year depending upon the availability of animals and status of introduced Cheetahs, 12-14 individuals are proposed to be brought from South Africa and Namibia or other African countries during the next five years.
