



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref: O2/1/5/2

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 2941 {NW4003E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 32 of 2023

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 15 September 2023

Ms T Breedt (FF Plus) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

- (1) Whether she is aware of the fact that of the 12 cheetahs exported from Namibia to India, only five survived and of the twelve cheetahs exported from the Republic to India, only seven survived, while one cheetah is apparently to remain permanently in captivity and the rejection of cubs is ongoing; if not, why not, in each case; if so,
- (2) whether, given the high mortality rate and the range of problems being experienced in India with the cheetah reintroductions, she will reconsider the reintroduction programme; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether her department has carried out a comprehensive and transparent evaluation of the specified programme and its problems to date, given that since the reintroduction programme was announced, ongoing concerns and appeals have been raised by local and international conservation, animal welfare and carnivore specialists and groups for her to reconsider the reintroduction programme; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) whether, given the extent and range of the issues, she will consider halting the export of cheetahs from the Republic to India, pending the outcome of the specified evaluation; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

2941. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- (1) To date, five mortalities have been recorded from the 12 cheetahs that were translocated or exported from the Republic of South Africa to the Republic of India on 17 February 2023. Furthermore, from the eight cheetahs that were translocated in September 2022 from the Republic of Namibia to the Republic of India, three mortalities have been recorded. All the translocated cheetahs were released from quarantine bomas to free-roaming conditions in India's Kuno National Park. The surviving cheetah cub is still under veterinary care.
- (2) South Africa, in line with the signed Memorandum of Understanding with India, has offered to provide veterinary support training in India's Kuno National Park to address veterinary related challenges identified in Kuno National Park. In this regard discussions with India are ongoing to finalise the modalities.
- (3) South Africa has and continues to monitor the implementation of the cheetah re-introduction programme in India's Kuno National Park. Minister Creecy has committed to supporting her counterpart to ensure a successful outcome of the project.
- (4) The decision to translocate additional cheetahs to India will be informed by the periodic scientific assessments to be undertaken on the translocated cheetahs as well as the population viability analysis of cheetahs in South Africa.



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MS B D CREECY, MP

MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

DATE: 28/9/2023