

## **Regarding withdrawal of SROs issued by the State Board for Wildlife in Jammu and Kashmir and delineation of Wildlife Sanctuaries in Ladakh-laid**

**SHRI JAMYANG TSERING NAMGYAL (LADAKH):** In 1987, the intent to establish the Hemis, Changthang, and Karakorum as Protected Areas, covering 12,350 Sq/Km, was notified Jammu and Kashmir under Sections 17 and 35 of the Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife Act 1978 through SRO 158, 155, 152. However, crucial subsequent processes, such as Proclamation, Settlement of Rights, and the Final Declaration of the Protected Area under Section 26A-1, remain incomplete due to gross errors in the initial notification. Presently, the restrictions are being arbitrarily applied to approximately 38,755 Sq/Km, encompassing 87% of Leh District, far exceeding the initially designated area. Alarming, over 98% of residents in this expanded area are Tribals. To address these critical issues, the following interventions are urgently requested:

1. The Ministry of Home Affairs is urged to intervene and withdraw SRO 158, 155, 152, issued by the State Board for Wildlife of erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir State, on the Demand for the Withdrawal of Wildlife Sanctuary Notifications in Ladakh and grounds of unresolved errors persisting for 36 years and the improbable rectification of these errors in the future.
2. Additionally, the Ministry of Home Affairs is implored to facilitate a fresh proposal from the State Board for Wildlife of the Union Territory of Ladakh in consultations with LAHDCs to delineate Wildlife Sanctuaries in Ladakh, excluding Human Habitations.