

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:19
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2000
IMPROVEMENT IN THE MANAGEMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL PARKS
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

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

- (a) whether the Government propose to hand over the management and maintenance of zoological parks and wildlife sanctuaries to industrial houses or non- governmental voluntary organisations;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to bring improvement in the management of zoological parks and wildlife sanctuaries in the country;
- (d) whether zoo management courses are not available and the people are being sent abroad for training;
- (e) if so, whether the Government propose to start the Academy for zoological park management; and
- (f) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)
(a),(b),(c),(d) (e)&(f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A),(B),(C),(D),(E) AND (F) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR REGARDING IMPROVEMENT IN THE MANAGEMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL PARKS FIXED FOR ON 20-11-2000.

(a) In India, the ownership pattern of zoos is very varied. The State Governments, Municipal Corporations, Government Undertakings and Corporate Sectors have established their own zoos. Any decision to transfer the management of any zoo to any other agency can be taken by the owners of the zoo only. Government of India is not aware of any proposal in this regard.

As far as sanctuaries are concerned, the forest land comprising part of National Parks and Sanctuaries are the properties of State Governments and any decision to transfer the management can be taken by the State Government only. Government of India is not aware of any such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Steps taken by the Government to improve zoo management:-

- Government of India has established Central Zoo Authority under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 with the objective of enforcing standards for housing, upkeep and health care of zoo animals. Central Zoo Rules have also been incorporated under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 providing standards and norms for the upkeep, housing and health care of animals in the zoos.

- A three pronged strategy has been devised for improvement of zoos in the country-

(a) To stop establishment of sub-standard zoos in future,

(b) To close the zoos where the possibility of bringing the status of management of zoo animals to the prescribed standards does not exist.

(c) To provide technical and financial assistance to the zoos which have potential to improve and come upto the prescribed standards. Since its inception the Central Zoo Authority has provided financial assistance of Rs.27.48 crores to various zoos for the improvement of animal housing, upkeep, health care facility, veterinary care and rescue centres.

- Central Zoo Authority has organised regular courses with Wildlife Institute of India, Dehra Dun for capacity building and grading the skills of zoo managers, zoo supervisors and zoo veterinarians. They have also been sent to small courses to Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, U.K. for exposure to zoo management in the developed countries.

- Since the inception of Central Zoo Authority, 23 mobile zoos have been closed.

Steps taken by the Government to improve management of sanctuaries and national parks-

- States are being insisted upon to prepare management plans for the sanctuaries without which no financial assistance would be

provided.

- Settlement of rights and rationalisation of boundaries is being done on priority basis.
- Hundred percent assistance for both recurring and non-recurring items would be provided to protected areas in high mountains, coastal zones and deserts having the following endangered species - Musk Deer, Turtle, Red Panda, Snow Leopard, Rhino, Phary's Monkey, Sangai Deer and Great Indian Bustard.
- Financial outlay under different schemes of wildlife has been increased from about Rs.174.42 crores in the 8th Five Year Plan to about Rs.364 crores in the 9th Five Year Plan.
- For capacity building training courses for staff in wildlife are being regularly organised at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehra Dun.

(d) Except for short term capsule courses organised by Wildlife Institute of India, Dehra Dun / Central Zoo Authority, there are no other courses available on zoo management in the country. The people are sent abroad with the objective of providing them exposure in the management of zoos of the developed countries.

(e) No such proposal under active consideration of the Ministry

(f) Does not arise.