

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2142

ANSWERED ON:06.08.2001

CLOSING OF ZOOS

A. VENKATESH NAIK;ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;RAMSHETH THAKUR

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

(a) whether due to the implementation of new laws of Zoo Authority of India, many private and community zoos are going to be closed in Maharashtra and Karnataka;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) & (b) According to Section 38(H) of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Central Zoo Authority is required to grant recognition to a zoo having regard to the interests of protection and conservation of wildlife, and the standards and norms that have been prescribed for housing, upkeep and healthcare of zoo animals. The zoos which do not meet the objective of conservation and do not provide the animals in their collection, housing, upkeep and healthcare upto the prescribed standards, can not be granted recognition. Such zoos are required by law to be closed down.

(c) A meeting of State Forest Secretaries was convened on 20.11.2000 to review the functioning of the zoos in the country and devise the strategy for implementation of conditions stipulated by Central Zoo Authority for ensuring improved housing, upkeep and health care of zoo animals. Chief Ministers of concerned States are also requested to look into the matter and ensure compliance of the conditions stipulated by Central Zoo Authority at the time of issuing letters of recognition in a time bound manner.