

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:679
ANSWERED ON:13.05.2002
STERILIZATION OF TIGERS AND LIONS
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

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

- (a) whether sterilization of tigers and lions has been suggested to contain their population in view of the resource crunch;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to provide financial assistance out of the funds allocated for `The Tiger Project` to provide food for lions and tigers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Since the protocol for releasing captive bred tigers and lions in the wild has yet not been developed, breeding of these species in zoos has to be controlled to ensure health care upto prescribed standards. Sterilization is considered as one of the effective methods for controlling the population of tigers and lions in zoos.

(c), (d) & (e) Since the funds under the `Tiger Project` are used for conservation of tiger population in the wild only , financial assistance under the scheme can not be given for maintaining animal populations in the zoos.