

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1181

ANSWERED ON:30.07.2001

GIFTS OF TIGERS BY ZOO AUTHORITIES

MADHAVRAO SCINDIA;RENUKA CHOWDHURY;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

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

(a) Whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "no beastly tales at Chhat Bir, here tigers are simply gifted away" appearing in the Indian Express dated April 24, 2001;

(b) if so, the details and facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check such practices in future ?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) And (c) the news item published in the Indian Express dated 24.04.2001 under the caption "No beastly tale at Chhat Bir, here tigers are simply gifted away" has criticized the gift of two tigers to Libya from Chhat Bir Zoo. In support of his contention he has quoted that tiger population in the country numbers of deaths of tigers both in captivity and outside captivity. A pair of tiger has been gifted to Libya on the request of Ministry of external affairs. Government of India has been giving such gifts from time to time as goodwill gesture and for education and awareness about Indian wildlife outside India. Since the tigers given are of captive origin the gift has no impact on population of tigers in the wild. Further the no. of tigers in the zoo was beyond its carrying capacity and the zoo was willing to make the tigers available for the gift. Since the success in introduction of captive bred large cats in wild is yet to be achieved the value of captive bred tigers as gene pool is also limited.