

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4411

ANSWERED ON:21.08.2000

MONKEY POPULATION

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

- (a) whether monkey population in the country has lately been growing fast and assumed menacing proportions, so much so, that the simians are presenting grave threat to tigers and lions in forest reserves and sanctuaries;
- (b) if so, whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news items captioned 'Honor states still fresh, Sariska shuts door on Jaipur's monkeys' in the 'Indian Express' June 11, 2000; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken and proposed to be taken to contain and curtail the simian population in the country

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI):

(a) and (b) Rise in monkey menace is more to do with the habit of people feeding monkeys particularly Government officials during lunch hours and decline in tree cover in urban area. Because of sharing of half eaten food with urban population the monkeys get infection of Tuberculosis and other infectious diseases. Reintroduction of such animals is against the IUCN Policy on reintroduction of animals in the wild. The decision of Child Wildlife warden not to allow city bred monkeys is Sariska is in consonance with these guidelines.

(c) capture , sterilization and release in a planned manner in areas where in situ wild population are not very rich is the only practical solution to the problem. Post release monitoring of animals is crucial.