

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:202
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2006
REHABILITATION OF ANIMALS
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

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

- (a) whether the Government has launched any scheme for the rehabilitation of animals like lion, tigers etc. which are banned in shows as more circus owners start surrendering their animals to the Central Zoo Authority;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the rare wild animals which lacks proper care and attention?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

a) & b) Yes Sir, The Ministry of Environment & Forests through the Central Zoo Authority established five Rescue Centres at Vandalur, (Chennai), Tamil Nadu; Bannerghatta, (Bangalore), Karnataka; Nahargarh (Jaipur), Rajasthan, Visakhapatnam & Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh for rehabilitating lions, tigers etc. banned in shows of circuses. Till date 313 lions and 82 tigers, 10 bears, 20 monkeys and 4 panthers have been rehabilitated in these rescue centres. Two more rescue centres at South Khairabari (Cooch Behar) West Bengal and Van Vihar Zoo (Bhopal) are coming up to accommodate around 48 lions and tigers which are still in possession with the circuses.

c) The Central Zoo Authority provides financial assistance on 100% basis to the major recognized public sector zoos for improvement of housing and healthcare facilities, so that proper care and welfare of the rare wild animals are met in captivity, thereby ensuring their long term survival.