

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1432
ANSWERED ON:29.10.2008
SNAKE VENOM COLLECTION CENTRE
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Maharashtra for establishment of Snake Venom Collection Centre;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a),(b)&(c): The Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra, had sought guidance for rearing snakes for sustainable supply of venom. In this connection, the Ministry has informed the Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra that permission for capturing snakes for extraction of venom for the manufacture of life saving drugs can very well be granted by the Chief Wildlife Warden as per the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. However, if the snakes are to be displayed to the public, then it would be covered under the ambit of the definition of 'Zoo', which would, therefore, require approval from the Central Zoo Authority.