

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:270
ANSWERED ON:10.11.2010
DEATH OF BLACK BUCKS IN DELHI ZOO
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether several black bucks and other wild animals died in Delhi zoological park in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has recently investigated the reasons for large scale deaths in this zoological park;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposes to be taken to ensure such incidents of death do not reoccur in the future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)&(b) A total of 43 animals including several Black Bucks died in the National Zoological Park, New Delhi during September 2010. Details of deaths are at Annexure.

(c)&(d) Yes, Sir. An enquiry was conducted by Dr. P.K. Malik, Professor and Head, Department of Wildlife Health Management, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. Also, a team of expert veterinarians from the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Bareilly visited the National Zoological Park, New Delhi on 18-10-2010 and suggested various measures for improvement of animal health care. Excessive rains and backflow / overflow of sewage water had caused severe water logging, resulting in contamination of the rain water in the animal enclosures of National Zoological Park, New Delhi. Death of animals, particularly the Black Bucks, had occurred due to the intake of contaminated water, which caused severe intestinal and lung infection among the animals.

(e) Steps taken to ensure that such incidents of death of animals do not occur in National Zoological Park are as under:

(i) Soon after the death of animals, the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests had visited the National Zoological Park on 29.09.2010 along with senior officers of the concerned departments to assess the situation. National Zoological Park, Delhi Jal Board and Municipal Corporation of Delhi have taken measures for improvement of water drainage and revamping of the trunk and sewer line passing through National Zoological Park.

(ii) The animal enclosures have been disinfected.

(iii) The top soil of Black Buck enclosure has been replaced by fresh soil in order to reduce the level of infection.

(iv) The animals were given medicine supplements as prophylactic measure and the infected animals were administered antibiotics.

(v) Contaminated water has been pumped out of the animal enclosures.

(vi) Rhino moat has been power fenced to prevent rhino from consuming the contaminated water.