

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3572

ANSWERED ON:29.07.2009

ELEPHANT EXCHANGE POLICY

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

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

- (a) whether the Government has decided to renew elephant exchange policy with International Zoo after several years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken/ being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (c): No, Sir. It is an ongoing process. Zoos deal with very small populations of different wild animal species including elephants in their collections. While regular exchange of animals is an essential activity for maintaining the genetic health of animals in captivity, it is also necessary to obtain new and exotic animals through exchange for bringing awareness, empathy and love among the zoo visitors for conservation of biodiversity. Such exchange of surplus animals of the desired species including Indian elephant between Indian zoos and zoos abroad has been a continuing process.