

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4370
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2011
RELOCATION OF ELEPHANTS FROM ZOOS
Pakkirappa Shri S.

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

- (a) whether Government has set up a panel to take a new look at its order for relocation of elephants from zoos to forest camps near sanctuaries which had met with stiff resistance from several zoo directors across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the incidents reported so far during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) the road plan prepared to avoid such incidents in future;
- (d) whether the Government has given any guidelines to States in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

- (a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has set up a committee of 4 members which include Member Secretary, Central Zoo Authority or his representative & 3 others to carryout appraisal of the elephant housing in zoos, whose Directors have submitted the proposal requesting Central Zoo Authority to exempt from relocation of elephants from zoos. (case to case basis). There have been no incidents reported for stiff resistance from zoos, so far during relocation of elephants from zoos.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) & (e) The zoos have been asked to follow the advisory issued by the Central Zoo Authority "banning elephants from zoo collections". Further, zoos have been directed to adhere with the prescribed guidelines for transport of wild animals, while transporting elephants in consultation with the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State.