

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:477
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2013
SHIFTING OF ELEPHANTS FROM ZOOS
Karwariya Shri Kapil Muni

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

- (a) whether the Government has constituted any panel to review the arrangement relating to shifting of elephants from zoos to open areas/ Elephant camps run by forest departments of respective States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether some of the zoos have sought exemption from shifting of elephants from their zoos;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reason therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a)to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. 477 REGARDING 'SHIFTING OF ELEPHANTS FROM ZOOS" BY SHRI KAPIL MUNI KARWARIYA DUE FOR REPLY ON 29.04.2013.

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir. Several Zoos have sought exemption from shifting of elephants from their Zoos. The details and reasons thereof are annexed at Annexure.

(e) The Central Zoo Authority has constituted a Committee comprising of four Members for appraisal of housing facilities provided in zoos with respect to elephants. The Committee had carried out field appraisal and submitted a report. Important recommendations of the Committee, inter-alia, are as follows:

1. Central Zoo Authority upholds ban on zoos that lack space and appropriate environment for housing elephants.
2. Central Zoo Authority bans further intake of elephants (except elephants rescued from the wild, confiscated and old / abandoned / abused elephants, as mentioned in Central Zoo Authority guidelines on dealing with rescued animals).
3. Central Zoo Authority may permit some zoos to house elephants subject to the zoo's willingness to provide increased area, a better environment, higher quality of welfare for elephants and comply with CZA guidelines and specific conditions laid down by Central Zoo Authority subcommittee for the housing of elephants.
4. Zoos that are able to provide large forested/vegetated environment, lakes or water body, adequate space and expert veterinary support may be considered by Central Zoo Authority for retention of elephants provided the above conditions are met with.