

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3188
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2009
RELOCATION OF ELEPHANTS
Ray Shri Rudramadhab

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to relocate elephants from zoological parks of the country to wildlife sanctuaries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the funds earmarked for this purpose?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) Elephants have been part of zoo collection in India, and there are around 162 elephants (including 3 African elephants) in zoos and circuses. Elephant is a large mega herbivore, which is free ranging, cruising over long distances. There are very few zoos in the country, which have adequate space to permit free movement of elephants, as a result of which they are kept chained for long hours, causing trauma and stress to the animal. Therefore, the Central Zoo Authority has advised the concerned State authorities to rehabilitate such elephants in elephant camps/ rehabilitation camps/ facilities available with the forest department at National Parks/ Wildlife Sanctuaries/ Tiger Reserves for departmental use.

The Central Zoo Authority would bear the cost for transportation of the zoo elephants to nearby protected areas, based on the proposal received from the concerned State Chief Wildlife Warden.