

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3891  
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2014  
NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL PARK  
Roy Prof. Saugata

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the National Zoological Park (Delhi Zoo) is facing a sealing threat for evading property tax;
- (a) if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the authorities have approached the local bodies for exemption from paying property tax; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) and (b) No. The National Zoological Park is not facing a sealing threat. However, it has received a Warrant of Distress Notice in Oct 2014 from the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) for attaching a sum of Rs. 14,98,74,126.00 (Rupees Fourteen Crores Ninety Eight Lakhs Seventy Four Thousand One Hundred Twenty Six only) from the bank accounts, securities and deposits of the National Zoological Park in Union Bank of India, Sunder Nagar.

(c) and (d) The demand of the property tax and service charge from the SDMC was not in accordance with the directions of the Ministry of Urban Development issued pursuant to the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Civil Appeal No. 9458-63/2003 Rajkot Municipal Corporation and Others -vs- UOI & Others.

Therefore, the National Zoological Park (NZN) had approached the SDMC with a request to charge the property tax / service charge in accordance with the circular referred above.

However, the SDMC subsequently issued the Warrant of Distress Notice, which is also in violation of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order that directs Municipal Corporations not to resort to coercive steps such as stoppage of services or revenue recovery proceedings for recovery of service charges from UOI or its departments.

Having exhausted all the options and left with no other choice the National Zoological Park has approached the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi at New Delhi for relief.