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Title : Need to expedite establishment of proposed Zoo of international standard at Gorewada, Nagpur, Maharashtra.

DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK (THANE): The Government of Maharashtra has decided to establish a zoo of international standards at Gorewada, Nagpur, vide the Government resolution dated 12th December, 2005. Detailed Project Report for establishing zoo at Nagpur has been prepared by the consultant M/s Bernard Haison and Fiends Ltd., Singapore. Accordingly, it has proposed to establish and manage the Zoo at Gorewada, Nagpur as per the guidelines for establishment and scientific management of zoos in India issued by the Central Zoo Authority. The zoo is proposed on the forest area of 1904 hectare at Gorewada adjoining Nagpur city. The following components are proposed in the zoo complex:

1. Sunset Safari & Central Plaza
2. Gondawana Biopark, Walking Trails
3. African Safari
4. Indian Safari & River ride
5. Gorewada Reserve
6. Rescue & Rehabilitation Centre
7. Conservation and breeding centre

As the proposed zoo will have animal enclosures, roads, buildings etc, existing vegetation would be affected to certain extent during construction period. To address this issue the DPR has a provision to uproot and transplant the trees falling in the area of roads, buildings, enclosures etc., during construction period. Further planting of tall seedlings to enhance tree cover and also to enrich vegetation in enclosures is proposed in the zoo premises. The proposal for approval to the DPR of Gorewada has been sent to Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India and also to the Central Zoo Authority of India. As the said proposal is pending for long with Government of India, I urge upon the Government to kindly consider the same at the earliest.