

area has been covered under JFM. People's participation is mandatory in all the afforestation schemes of the government. As reported by the state governments the forest cover has increased in the areas covered under JFM. Total forest cover as per 1999 assessment of Forest Survey of India has increased by 3896 sq. km., as compared to 1997 assessment.

Zoos and big Cats

2205. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Zoos in the country and the numbers of tigers, lions and other wild cats in each Zoos, in the beginning of 1998, 1999, 2000 and at present, indicating the number of births and deaths each year; and

(b) the expenditure incurred on maintenance of these Zoos?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) There are 199 recognised zoos in the country. The number of Tigers, Lions and Panthers in 38 zoos for 1997-98 and 1998-99 are given in Annexure. Information regarding births and deaths for the three species is also given in the Annexure [*See Appendix 190, Annexure No. 32*] Details of births and deaths for the year 2000 are not available.

(b) The ownership pattern of zoos is quite varied and includes private companies and trusts also. As such expenditure figures for zoos are not compiled and collated in this Ministry.

Pollution by Tanneries in Tamil Nadu

2206. SRHI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Tanner Pollution by tanneries in North Arcot district in Tamil Nadu, stating the extent of damage to lands and health hazards;

(b) whether it is happening inspite of Supreme Court