

श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर : सभापति महोदय, मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि हिमाचल प्रदेश में जो नेचर पार्क हैं, उनमें zoos दिए गए हैं - धौलाधार में mini zoo क्रीएट किया गया है और कुफ़्री में भी zoo है। जो हमारे नेचर पार्क बनाते हैं, क्या इनमें पौधों के बारे में या हमारी ecology के बारे में बताने की भी कोई स्कीम है जिससे जो बच्चे वहां पर उन्हें देखने के लिए जाते हैं, जो लोकल हिमाचल के बच्चे जाते हैं, उन्हें लाभ हो सके? कृपया इस बारे में बताया जाए। इसी प्रकार ऐसे जो birds हैं, जो खत्म हो रहे हैं, उनको रखने के बारे में भी बच्चों को बताया जाए, क्या इस प्रकार की कोई स्कीम आपके पास है? जो monal आदि birds खत्म हो रहे हैं, क्या उनके लिए भी ऐसी कोई स्कीम है?

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, the Central Zoo Authority has taken up a breeding programme for the 14 critically endangered species of which the Himalayan Monal, which is endemic to Himachal Pradesh, is one. There are many other species for which the Central Zoo Authority has taken up the breeding programme. One of the most prominent is the vulture which has become almost extinct in our country. But, I am pleased to say, Sir, that near Pinjore, we have had a very successful breeding programme for the vulture and very soon we will be seeing the return of the vulture to our skies.

As far as the Himalayan Monal is concerned, this is an ongoing programme of the Central Zoo Authority; this is one of the fourteen species that have been taken up. We are indeed very much concerned about revival of these endangered species.

Sir, about the first part of the question the hon. Member has asked, in this nature park there are 198 zoos in the country; of which these two nature parks are part of that category. They belong to the smaller part of the zoos. But the fact is that in these nature parks it is not just the animals but it is the entire biodiversity that is focused on. It is the effort of the Central Zoo Authority. Ultimately, these are maintained by the State Governments. But, it is the effort of the Central Zoo Authority to ensure that the entire biodiversity is maintained. There is an upkeep programme. Ultimately, the younger generation, the school children, visitors are also made aware of the value of the biodiversity in its entirety.

'केन्द्रीय चिड़ियाघर प्राधिकरण द्वारा वन्य जीवों की स्थिति बेहतर बनाना'

***103. श्री कप्तान सिंह सोलंकी :** क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) केन्द्रीय चिड़ियाघर प्राधिकरण द्वारा वन्य जीवों की स्थिति बेहतर बनाने हेतु क्या-क्या प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं,

(ख) विगत दो वर्षों के दौरान विभिन्न चिड़ियाघरों में कितने जीवों की मृत्यु हुई है,

(ग) क्या सरकार ने चिड़ियाघरों में जीवों की मौत की घटनाओं के मद्देनजर कोई जवाबदेही तय की है, और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जयराम रमेश): (क) से (घ) विवरण सदन के पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) केन्द्रीय चिड़ियाघर प्राधिकरण भारतीय चिड़ियाघरों में चिड़ियाघर नियमों को मान्यता प्रदान करते हुए पशु-पक्षियों की देखभाल और स्वास्थ्य देखरेख हेतु न्यूनतम मानकों और प्रतिमानकों की निगरानी और प्रवर्तन करता है, और उनके सुधार के लिए तकनीकी और अन्य सहायता प्रदान करता है तथा अधिक संख्या में अनियोजित एवं बेतरतीब ढंग से चिड़ियाघरों के अस्तित्व में आने पर रोक लगाता है।

(ख) देश के भिन्न-भिन्न मान्यताप्राप्त चिड़ियाघरों में वर्ष 2008-09 और 2009-10 के दौरान क्रमशः 1699 और 1792 जानवरों की मृत्यु हुई है।

(ग) और (घ) चिड़ियाघरों को राज्य सरकार द्वारा वन विभाग या नगर पालिका या न्यास/सौसायटी के माध्यम से प्रशासित और चलाया जाता है अतः उत्तरदायित्व निर्धारित करने हेतु कार्रवाई संबंधित राज्य सरकार द्वारा की जाती है। केन्द्रीय चिड़ियाघर प्राधिकरण नियमों और विनियमों के क्रियान्वयन की निगरानी करता है और तदनुसार चिड़ियाघरों को मान्यता प्रदान अथवा मान्यता रद्द करता है।

Betterment of wildlife by Central Zoo Authority

†*103. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts being made by the Central-Zoo Authority for the betterment of wildlife;

(b) the number of animals died in different zoos during the last two years;

(c) whether Government has fixed the responsibility in view of the incidents of deaths of animals in zoos; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

Statement

(a) The Central Zoo Authority oversees & enforces minimum standards and norms for upkeep and healthcare of animals in Indian Zoos through Recognition of Zoo Rules, and provides them technical and other assistance for improvement and restrains mushrooming of unplanned and ill-conceived zoos.

(b) During 2008-2009 & 2009-2010, 1699 and 1792 animals respectively have reportedly died in different recognized zoos of the country.

(c) and (d) As the zoos are administered and run by State Government through Forest Department or Municipal Corporation or Trust/Society, actions are taken for fixing responsibility by the concerned State Government. The Central Zoo Authority oversees the implementation of rules and regulations and accordingly grants or cancels the recognition of zoos.

श्री कप्तान सिंह सोलंकी : सभापति महोदय, प्रश्न के उत्तर में बताया गया है कि केन्द्रीय चिड़िया घर प्राधिकरण का काम पशु-पक्षियों की देखभाल, उनके स्वास्थ्य की देखरेख और उनकी निगरानी करना है। लेकिन यह सब होने के बाद भी 2008-2009 और 2009-2010 में जितने पशु-पक्षियों की मृत्यु हुई है, उनकी संख्या बहुत चिंताजनक है, जो 2008-2009 में 1699 और 2009-2010 में 1792 है। यह चिंता तब और ज्यादा बढ़ जाती है जबकि इस मंत्रालय को देखने वाले जो मंत्री हैं वे काफी सक्रिय हैं, सुधारक हैं। लेकिन इसके पश्चात भी यह स्थिति बनी है। मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि इन सब को रोकने के लिए आपने क्या उपाय किए हैं और जहां पशु-पक्षी रहते हैं वहां की सफाई के बारे में, उनकी चिकित्सा के बारे में तथा मौसम का जो प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ता है उसको रोकने के बारे में क्या उपाय किए हैं और अगर ये उपाय नहीं हुए हैं तो क्या आपने किसी की मान्यता रद्द की है?

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, I would like to clarify that there are 198 Zoos in the country, of which, only one is run by the Central Government. 197 are run by the State Governments, by public trusts, by NGOs and by private individuals. It is not humanly possible for me to intervene in all 198 zoos. The zoo that is directly under my authority, which is the Delhi Zoo, I can take full responsibility for. Sir, as far as the mortality rate is concerned, the mortality rate, the hon. Member is right, it is a cause for worry, but, when you look at the mortality rate in our zoos, it is between 6 to 7 per cent. The international norm that is prescribed for an acceptable mortality rate is 7 to 8 per cent. So, we are well within the international norm, but I am not defending the deaths of animals in our zoos because of poor upkeep. Sir, wherever we have got the information, wherever we have the authority, we have moved. For example, we have withheld recognition for the Sayaji Bagh Zoo in Vadodara; we

have taken tough action against the Kanpur Zoo; we have closed the Meham Zoo in Haryana. We are also taking strict action against zoos in Indore and Gwalior. So, whatever the law provides under the Central Zoo Authority, whenever the information comes to us, we take action. But, the hon. Member should please appreciate the fact, Sir, that zoo maintenance, zoo upkeep is the primary responsibility of the State Government.

श्री कप्तान सिंह सोलंकी : नेशनल जू पॉलिसी-1988 के तहत आपने विजन डाक्यूमेंट ट्वेंटी-ट्वेंटी तैयार किया है। आपने इसके अंदर जो मुद्दे लिए हैं वे बहुत अच्छे मुद्दे हैं। मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि इन मुद्दों को लेकर, इस विजन डाक्यूमेंट को लेकर अब तक कितनी प्रगति हुई है और राज्य सरकारें उसमें कितना सहयोग कर रही हैं, उसके ऊपर प्रकाश डालने की कृपा करें?

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, there are two important initiatives we have taken, which I would like to apprise the hon. Member of. One is, of course, the preparation of the master plan for each of these 198 zoos. Out of these 198 zoos, 139 master plans have been prepared. So, by and large, most of the important zoos have had their master plans prepared. These master plans are now being looked at by the Central Zoo Authority in consultation with the relevant management, with relevant State Governments, and it is our intention to ensure that all maintenance, operation and expansion of the zoos are in consonance with the master plan. Sir, the second initiative that we have taken is the restructuring of the Central Zoo Authority. Right now, the Central Zoo Authority is hardly an authority. It is only an authority on paper. We have taken major steps to expand the Central Zoo Authority. I am pleased to inform the hon. Member that a proposal to start five regional offices of the Central Zoo Authority is right now under examination at the highest level of the Government, and I expect the Cabinet approval for this proposal very soon. This would also involve substantial strengthening of the Central Zoo Authority in Delhi as well.

One more issue that I would like to inform the hon. Members that the Central Zoo Authority has an agreement with the Indian Veterinary Research Institute at Izatnagar near Bareilly and they are the technical advisers to the Central Zoo Authority to ensure that the health of animals is kept and the mortality rate is kept down. It is a huge task, Sir. But, I would like to assure the hon. Member that with the restructuring of the Central Zoo Authority and with the preparation of the Master Plans, I hope to see some improvements in the manner in which the zoos are maintained in our country.

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी : सर, मैं आपके माध्यम से आदरणीय मंत्री जी से यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि जो animals death का आंकड़ा है, वह बहुत चिंताजनक है। हम animals की death पर चिंता करते हैं, लेकिन इस पर चिंतन कितना करते हैं। यह जो 1699 और 1792 के करीब दो साल का आंकड़ा है, जिन animals की मौतें हुई हैं, उनके कारण क्या है? इनकी किन बीमारियों से मौतें हुई हैं? क्या राइट भी रीजन है, एनवायरनमेंट भी रीजन है और किन बीमारियों के कारण मौतें हुई हैं? अगर मंत्री जी के पास कोई.....।

श्री सभापति : आप एक सवाल पूछिए।

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी : सर, मेरा एक ही सवाल है। मैं सिर्फ कारण जानना चाहता हूँ। क्या उसमें कुछ एचआईवी पॉजिटिव एड्स के कारण भी डेथ हुई हैं? इसके बारे में मंत्री जी कृपया बताने का कष्ट करें...(Interruptions)...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, to the best of my information as available to me old age, pneumonia, gastrointest, etc. are the normal factors that have been responsible for the mortality. As I said about the mortality rate, while it is true that there are 1700 deaths, ultimately, you have to look at the mortality rate that is what counts. The mortality rate is between 6 to 7 per cent which is not alarming by international standards, but certainly a cause for worry. We should bring the mortality rate down. I would not like the hon. Members to be under the impression that animals are dying in our zoos and somehow our mortality rates are far in excess of that is normally accepted all over the world.

SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Sir, the hon. Minister has given us the total number of deaths taking place in our zoos. He has not given us the break-up of the species. Is it true that some species are more vulnerable to death in our zoos? Is it also true that when there is a single animal, without a mate, there are very many chances of that animal dying? Should we not have the pair together whenever they are kept in zoos?

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, I would be glad to furnish to the hon. Member the information species-wise mortality. It is true the answer gives only the gross numbers and it is perfectly possible that the mortality is higher in certain species. But I would be glad to provide this information separately to the hon. Members.

DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister - of course, first, I would thank him for the very candid reply that he has given on this issues - whether the Government has a clear-cut policy with regard to zoos in the future that we have. As you have stated, we have

198 zoos in the country. Is there any plan to increase these numbers, or are these numbers going to be gradually reduced because the condition in several zoos in smaller towns is actually quite pathetic and there are very few trained staff? Perhaps, but I am not sure, it is subject the Minister needs to investigate, the mortality rates are probably higher in some of these smaller towns' zoos compared to the big cities where they are better maintained. In the light of this, in the light of the mortality and in the light of fact that a number of zoos over which the Central Zoo Authority has no control, it does not have trained staff, does the Government have any plan of phasing out some of the smaller zoos and clubbing them together where better health care and facilities can be provided to the captive animals?

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, policy on the new zoos is two-fold. One is, not only does it require approval by the Central Zoo Authority but it also requires the approval of the Supreme Court. This is as far as the new zoos are concerned. Sir, I have been very careful in agreeing to new zoo proposals except in so far as they relate to relocation. The hon. Member is aware, for example, that the zoo in Alipore, a very historic zoo, is cramped and the State Government has come forward with a proposal for a part relocation which we have agreed to and which we are funding. Similarly, in the city of Mumbai there have been proposals for relocation given the current location of the current zoo. So, I for one, in answer to the hon. Member's question, would say, am very cautious in so far as new zoos *de nova* are concerned. But certainly, there is a case for consolidation. There is certainly a case for relocation from some of the congested urban areas. The location for zoos, if you look at it from an ideal point of view, Sir, the Vandalur Zoo in the city of Chennai is a zoo that is ideally situated. It is not in the municipal precincts. It is far away from the city. It has got a large land area and people can generally enjoy being in the zoo unlike the zoos in some other cities or in small towns which happen to be bang in the middle of the city. Sir, as far as the mortality rate in small towns is concerned; I will get this information and pass it on to the hon. Member.

Recommendations of Forest Advisory Committee to tackle illegal mining

* 104. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: