

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) No information has been received from the Swiss Government regarding Indians holding unaccounted money in Swiss banks. However, any information received under DTAA is covered by the confidentiality provisions of the DTAA.

Death of animals in Zoos

*286. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that five cubs and one tiger died in Nandankanan Zoological Park in Odisha and a lot of other animals are also dying in the Zoos daily due to negligence of the Government;

(b) whether Government proposes to pass an Act to close all Zoos and setting the animals free to wild areas, especially in Reserve Forests like Project Tiger and Project Elephant; and

(c) whether all the Zoos would be converted into modern gardens and lawns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that five newly born tiger cubs born on 16.11.2011 had died on 18.11.2011 in Nandankanan Zoological Park, Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The cubs died because of not being taken care of by mother. No negligence of the State Government is reported.

(b) The Government of India/Central Zoo Authority has no proposal to pass an Act to close the Zoos.

(c) There is no plan to covert the zoos to modern garden and lawns, however all recognized Zoos in the country have been asked to prepare and submit master plan for their long term development and its approval from the Central Zoo Authority. It has been made mandatory to provide atleast 30% of the area as green belt and natural vegetation.

Fiscal package for debt-ridden States

*287. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fiscal/financial package is being considered by Government, on priority basis, to bail out some State Governments, including Punjab, which are debt-ridden; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Debt relief to States is normally considered within the ambit of Finance Commissions' recommendations. The