

**Death of blackbucks in Kanpur Zoo**

‡164. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Blackbuck which have died in Kanpur Zoo and the reasons therefor; and

(b) the action taken against the guilty officers/staff members of the Zoo?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) A total number of 31 Blackbuck died in Kanpur Zoo due to attack by the stray dogs on the night of 19th/20th January 2013.

(b) The State Government of Uttar Pradesh reportedly has suspended the Director, Kanpur Zoological Park, Kanpur along with the Keeper-1, Night Chowkidar-1, Wildlife Guards-2, Forester-1 and Range Officer-1 after conducting detailed enquiry and fixing up of the responsibility of the lapse.

**Gender discrimination in wages**

165. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been brought to the notice of the Ministry that female contract labourers hired by forest staff are not being paid wages equivalent to their male counterparts;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Ministry has formulated any laws or schemes to ensure gender sensitization in its departments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry supports afforestation programmes taking into account the approved wage rates of the State Governments which prescribes rates according to the nature of the work rather than

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‡ Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.