

SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Sir, today, it is a question of Shri Ram Jethmalani. *(Interruptions)*.... Tomorrow, it will be a question of other Members. *(Interruptions)*... That is why I humbly submit to you, please allow the Member to give his explanation. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Sir, the House should know when he is going to be allowed. *(Interruptions)*.... लेकिन इश्यु बहुत इम्पोर्टेंट है। सुबह से बोल रहे हैं (व्यवधान) उनको बैठा कर रखते हैं ... (व्यवधान)... The House should know when he is going to be allowed. *(Interruptions)*... The House should know when he is going to be allowed. *(Interruptions)*

मीलाना ओबैदुल्ला खान आजमी : जो आरोप उन पर लगाए गए हैं उन आरोपों की सफाई देने वह कहाँ जाएंगे? ... (व्यवधान)... दो दिन तक उनके ऊपर आरोप लगाए गए, सब कुछ कहा गया ... (व्यवधान)... उनके खिलाफ बोलेंगे और आज वह सफाई देना चाहते हैं तो उनको मौका क्यों नहीं दिया जा रहा है ? ... (व्यवधान)... यह तो बड़ी गलत रवायत बरपा की जा रही है।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): Calling Attention, Shri Bratin Sengupta.

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**CLARIFICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE CALLING ATTENTION TO A  
MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE - DEATH OF PRECIOUS  
WILDLIFE IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY INCLUDING ZOOS  
AND WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES - contd.**

SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA (West Bengal): Hon. Vice-Chairman, Sir, though I was agitated over the other issue, which is very important--I still feel he should have been given a chance--since you have called my name in relation to the Calling Attention regarding the tragic place in various animal parks, particularly in Nandanka would like to submit whatever I have to say on this.

When animal lovers, wildlife lovers and conservationists the world over are concerned with the dwindling tiger population and the dwindling population of rare species of animals all over the world, apart from the tragedies that have taken place in Gir, Morena, Kanha and other places, the death of tigers has taken place continuously for a few days in Nandankanan. The entire country is overtaken by grief. It is not a question of national consensus alone. The kind of tigers that are in

Nandankanan are of a rare variety. It has been a precious animal for animal lovers and wildlife lovers the world over. They are concerned about them. We have an international commitment to keep these white tigers, the Royal Bengal tigers, alive.

Sir, you had called the attention of the Minister the other day and the Minister had come out with a detailed statement. All the promises that he had made, all the best wishes and the concern that he had expressed and shared with us, on the floor of the House, were tall talk. He had promised, and I quote from the statement which he had made on the floor of the House: Ecological security should get the same priority, as national security. This is on record. But even after that, the Minister could not take any action. Even day-before-yesterday, the same tragedy has taken place in the Nandankanan zoo, with the death of another Royal Bengal white tiger. The management of the zoological park and the employees who were in connivance, were not punished, and no action was taken against them. Under these circumstances, in view of the international concern the issue has raised, and in view of loss of prestige for our nation before the whole international community, I have no other option but to demand the resignation of the Minister because these incidents never took place in one day. If you remember, from 23<sup>rd</sup> June onwards, one after another, these tigers have become a victim of the same disease, tripanosomiasis. Even the tranquil injections -- the Minister could not answer it; even the zoological authorities could not answer it -- which were necessary to be injected to these animals were not made available. A layman is not supposed to know why tranquil injections were not made available. It is, of course, a rare kind of injection. But the authorities in charge of the Nandankanan park were supposed to know it. Which is why Shri Zutshi was here, although he was not a full-time officer, which a zoological park like this deserves. But still, they should have come to know it. Reports have come that because of the cost factor tranquil injections were not made available, although tigers, one after another, kept on dying because of the same disease tripanosomiasis, according to medical parlance. There is no answer. Instead of tranquil, Berelin injection was given. Some of the doctors have said -- it has also come in the Press -- that giving a Berelin injection to a tiger which is suffering from such a disease is equivalent to giving a disin to a patient who is suffering from viral fever. That is what has been done. But no action was taken. It did not happen in one day. I have repeatedly mentioned it. Neither the death of the national bird peacock, at Morena, nor the deaths of lions in the Gir forest, nor the death of tigers took place

in one day. It was a continuous process. But no action was taken and no preventive step was taken. Yes, Shri Zutshi was transferred and certain action were taken in succession. But preventive steps which could have avoided the subsequent tragedies were not taken. That is why one after another, tragedies took place. Thirteen tigers have died during these days. Similarly, in the Gir forest also, one after another, lions have died. But no preventive steps were taken. They could not stop these tragedies. Same is the case with peacocks. Neither the deaths of lions, nor the death of peacocks, nor the death of tigers are new things. These incidents are happening since 1996. This happened in 1996. This happened in 1998. The statement of the Minister in reply to the Calling Attention Motion and the statement of the Minister in reply to a question in the House the other day are testimony to the fact that these incidents are happening in all these years, due to the connivance of a certain section of the employees because of which the whole nation is angry. We have come to know that one of the employees was fired from that particular garden because he used to steal 25 kg. of fish which was meant for a crocodile. He used to sell it to a nearby hotel. That fired employee, as a retaliation, came back and organised a cold-blooded murder of that crocodile. This is one of the most tragic incidents that has taken place in any zoological park all over the country. This incident took place last week. He did it in connivance with some people when the farewell ceremony of the former Director-General of that particular park was taking place. Neither the Minister nor the Management could prevent it. It was a cold-blooded murder of a crocodile which has evoked tremendous international reaction for quite valid reasons. In view of the continuous tragedies which the Minister has failed to prevent, I have no other option but to say that he should resign on moral grounds. Of course, the Minister has to do many things. But he could have visited the Nandankanan park, which he did not do, but on moral ground for his inaction, for his inability to take the Nandankanan people to task for such incidents and for not being able to prevent the tragedies that have been occurring all these days even after all kinds of caution and warnings that have been given by different wildlife and animal lovers. He has not been able to rise up to the warnings of these animal lovers and he has not been able to prevent the tragedies and, hence, on moral ground, the Minister of Environment and Forests must tender his resignation.

**डा. कुमकुम राय (बिहार) :** माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, एक अरब की आबादी वाले इस देश में रहने वाले सैकड़ों लोगों की असमय मृत्यु विभिन्न हादसों के माध्यम से हो रही है। इन खबरों को पढ़ कर, देख कर और सुन कर आम आदमी से लेकर सरकार तक संवेदनहीनता की

स्थिति में पहुंच गई है। सिर्फ औपचारिकता तथा अन्य रस्में निभा करके ही वह चुप हो जा रही है। ऐसी स्थिति में जब कुछ विगत दिनों से पूरे देश में संरक्षित एवं सुरक्षित वन्य जीव अभ्यारण्यों में दुर्लभ वन्य प्राणियों की असमय मौत या रहस्यमय परिस्थितियों में मौत की खबरें अगर आज इस सदन में चर्चा का विषय बन चुकी हैं तो उसमें भी मैं भाग लेना चाह रही हूँ। मैं कहना चाह रही हूँ कि रणथंभौर में चाहे विषाक्त बाजरा खाने से मोर मरे हों या घीतल मरें हों या फिर यह नन्दन कानन में बाघ मरें हों या फिर आन्ध्र प्रदेश सरकार के सिंचाई मंत्री के सम्मान में रात्रि भोज में वन्य संरक्षित और प्रतिबंधित वन्य जीवों का मांस परोसा गया हो, इस प्रकार की खबरें आए दिन आती रहती हैं। राजाजी राष्ट्रीय पार्क में 18 हाथियों की ट्रेन से कट कर मौत हो गई। यानी इन अभ्यारण्यों के बीच से रेल की पटरियां गुजर रही हैं। जिम कार्बेट के नजदीक की 65 एकड़ जमीन को उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार और केन्द्रीय सरकार ने खामोशी से उसको अधिसूचना से मुक्त करा लिया। इन सब खबरों से साबित होता है कि हमारी सरकार इन दुर्लभ वन्य जीवों के प्रति कितनी संवेदनशील है? यह अपने आप में एक प्रमाण है।

इसलिए महोदय, शुक्रवार से ले कर आज तक इस विषय पर जो चर्चा हो रही है इसका क्या नतीजा निकलेगा और क्या परिणाम सामने आएगा, यह तो आने वाला वक्त ही बताएगा। लेकिन मैं सिर्फ यह कहना चाहती हूँ कि अगर सरकार सच में इस स्थिति से निपटने के लिए कुछ सोच रही है या कुछ करना चाह रही है तो इन तमाम संरक्षित अभ्यारण्यों के लिए उसे कुछ ऐसे नियम अवश्य बनाने होंगे ताकि भविष्य में उनके अगल-बगल की जो जमीनें हैं उनको सरकारी उपयोग के लिए न लिया जा सके, उन पर अवैध कब्जे न किए जा सकें और वन्य कर्मचारियों द्वारा जो तमाम लापरवाहियां बरती जा रही हैं उन पर सख्त कदम उठाए जा सकें। साथ ही उन अभ्यारण्यों में जो पशु चिकित्सक हैं, जिनकी वहां नियुक्तियां हुई हैं उनको वहां रहने की सहूलियतें दी जाएं, ताकि वे पशु चिकित्सक अनिवार्य रूप से वहां रह करके वन्य जीवों की देखभाल कर सकें। इन अभ्यारण्यों में जो मौतें हुई हैं उनके विभिन्न कारण सामने आ रहे हैं। कुछ लोग उसमें मिलावटी पदार्थों की बात कहते हैं, कुछ लोग कहते हैं कि दवाइयां जो दी गई उनमें असावधानी बरती गई। तरह-तरह की बातें सामने आ रही हैं। कोई स्पष्ट बात सामने नहीं आ पाई है। इसलिए इसमें जो भी जांच हो उसके सारे निष्कर्ष सामने आने चाहिए। यदि इस संबंध में कोई लापरवाही साबित होती है तो उसके लिए भी सख्त से सख्त सजा दी जाए। यदि सरकार पूरे देश में विभिन्न राज्यों में जहां हजारों-हजार एकड़ जमीनें इन संरक्षित और सुरक्षित अभ्यारण्यों में पड़ी हुई हैं उसकी सुरक्षा व्यवस्था में दिलचस्पी नहीं लेना चाहती है या उसमें सफल नहीं होती है तो इन अभ्यारण्यों को बंद कर दें और किसी नए अभ्यारण्य को खोलने की इजाजत नहीं देनी चाहिए। धन्यवाद।

SHRI P.N. SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I would like to appreciate the Minister for having admitted, without any reservation, that the authorities in the Zoos were unable to show the professional confidence that was expected of them. And I would like to seek certain clarifications from the hon. Minister. There are around 313 tigers in the Zoos in India, and out of that, 35 deaths occur in a year which amounts to 12 per cent of the total population. But as far as the wild animals are concerned, the death rate is just 5%. What we could



understand is, the animals that are under the custody of some people, whether in the zoos or sanctuaries, are not being nurtured properly. The Minister has mentioned in his statement that poor standards of sanitation and hygiene, inadequate expertise in the field of health care etc. have jointly contributed to the death of animals. All this signifies that the animals in the zoos are living a life of slum-dwellers. The explanation that the Minister has given helps us to know the situation. But, I think, it is not the solution. For example, the suspected disease of Tripanosomiasis, to which the 12 tigers have fallen a victim, is not a new disease. As Shri Ramachandraiah quoted, from 1996 to 1998 and way back in 1950, some 30 to 40% of wild ass had been wiped out because of this disease. What steps did the zoo authorities take to save the animals from this disease? I want to know one thing. Why don't they vaccinate the animals to make them immune to such a disease that wipes them out? The tiger is our National Animal. The peacock is our National Bird. When these animals are not looked after in the way that they have to be, it leads to problems. The disease responsible for the death of these tigers has been diagnosed as Tripanosomiasis. But, as many other Members have mentioned here, a crocodile was beheaded in the same zoo. When the boy who looks after the crocodiles, goes to the farm at 5 o' clock, he finds the crocodile alive. After changing the water and so on, he again goes at 6 o' clock to feed the crocodile. But he finds it in a pool of blood, without its head. Within that one hour, something had happened. What we infer from this is that the miscreants are not from outside. I hope the Minister of Environment and Forests, who is taking much care and interest in finding a solution to this problem, will go into this matter and see what has to be done. The-day-before-yesterday, Shri Swaraj Kaushal had given a proposal, or, he had suggested, if the number of zoos could be reduced. I hope this suggestion will be considered. But I would also suggest that instead of reducing the number of zoos -- since the wild habitat is already becoming less in number due to deforestation, due to drainage of water ponds, etc. -- why don't we employ the so many unemployed and qualified veterinary doctors we have and instruct them to take care of the animals? My dear friend, Mr. Bratin Sengupta, is a lover of animals. He insists upon the Minister to resign. He is insisting upon the Environment and Forests Minister to resign, while the subject of environment and forests is in the Concurrent List. I would like to know from him whether the Deputy Chief Minister of West Bengal who is in charge of Home Affairs, will resign his post because there have been riots and so many lives have been lost recently in West Bengal.

SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: That is quite a different matter  
(Interruptions)

SHRI P. N. SIVA: Will he resign, because the power vests with the States? (Interruptions) The Home Minister is in charge of this subject in the State Government and he should be responsible for what has happened.. (Interruptions)

SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: It is unnecessary... (Interruptions)

SHRI P. N. SIVA: ...as this Minister is responsible for what has happened in Orissa (Interruptions)

SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: You are unnecessarily raking up this issue.

SHRI B. P. SINGHAL (Uttar Pradesh): That is for the Chair to decide.

SHRI P. N. SIVA: What happened in Orissa at the Nandankanan Zoo, which comes under the Concurrent List? The Minister had not shirked away from his duty. He visited the place. He went into every detail... He has not visited, but he has come out with the truth. So, his interest is being seen. I would like to seek a clarification from the hon. Minister. The disciplinary action taken against these officials who were not sincere in their duty, is not enough. What further steps are being taken to save the wild animals which are in our custody and see to it that no such things happen to them in future? I would also like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is going to retain the number of zoos as it is, and also to increase the area of wild habitats which are being encroached by poachers, by way of deforestation, by way of draining swamps, etc. I request that all such things should be stopped. Sir, I once again associate myself with the feelings of the hon. Members who have spoken on this subject. As a lover of animals, and in order to save our national animal and the national bird, the Minister should take immediate action -- though it is in the Concurrent List -- and extend whatever possible help the Central Government can extend to the State Governments to preserve our wild animals. I request him to see to it that such things do not recur in future.

SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL (Haryana): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the statement of the Minister, I must say, reads like the climax of a Greek tragedy. He has admitted everything right from overcrowding to inappropriate housing, poor standards of sanitation and hygiene, inadequate

expertise in the field of healthcare. I think he has admitted everything. I must compliment the hon. Minister that although he is a full-fledged Cabinet Minister, he has been very frank and very truthful in admitting these facts. I would only supplement the statement by a few facts. Although it is a very comprehensive statement, I hope the Ministry is aware of the depleting tiger population in the country. The number of tigers in the year 1993 was 3,750; and the number of tigers in the year 1997, when the last census was held, came down to 3,435. In the same way, the number of leopards in the year 1993 was 6,826; and in 1997, it went down to 5,738. The situation was so bad that the Supreme Court, by a judicial order, had to direct the Ministry to do something to save the tiger.

Sir, the Minister, in his statement, says that tigers in Sariska are dying on account of tuberculosis. I think it is not a complete statement. The tigers in Sariska are dying for want of water also. You have given Rs. 40 lakhs to the Gir Sanctuary; but I am sorry to say that it is not enough. I hope, you will do something for the Sariska Sanctuary as well.

Sir, I will now come to the number of zoos. As per page 3 of the statement, there are 199 recognised zoos. May I know from the hon. Minister as to how many unrecognised zoos are also functioning? I think their number may be equal or may be larger. Out of these zoos, 136 are mini-zoos. If these are the conditions prevailing in the major zoos, Mr. Minister, I would like to know from you as to when you are going to improve the plight of these 136 mini-zoos. When are you going to bring them to the normal standard of hygiene, healthcare and so on? Can you ever improve them? When will you have the funds to improve these zoos? How much time will you take to improve these 31 small zoos? Why must you have these small and mini zoos, or, even zoos at all? Why should you have these 17 zoos? Why should you even have these 199 zoos when you cannot look after the animals? I think, on the basis of this document alone, Mr. Minister, you need to abolish these zoos. You have forfeited your right to be the guardian of these mute animals. I think this is a sufficient case when you must release them back to nature. You should open a sanctuary and release all these animals back to nature. In addition, Mr. Minister, I have an unusual clarification to seek. I have no hesitation whatsoever. I would like to confirm from you about a thing. I heard that the Prime Minister is visiting America sometime in September, and he is carrying with him an elephant and an ass. These are the symbols of the two political parties there. I do not know who suggested this to the Government--if this is correct. I am

sure, it is not Brajesh Mishra. It could not be Brajesh Mishra. I believe, you can try to find better presentations for developing friendship and diplomacy. If you are taking these, Mr. Minister, then your Government is going against the Directive Principles of State Policy, which mandate you to look after the wildlife. In case this is done, I believe, it will be a very bad gesture of friendship and diplomacy, and, I think, you should not do this.

In totality, Mr. Minister, I must say that you have been very frank, very honest, and very truthful, and I have no reason to doubt your sincerity. But the minimum your Government should do, only on the basis of this paper, is to abolish the zoos.

Thank you.

**श्री संजय निरुपम (महाराष्ट्र) :** आदरणीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, हमारे चिड़ियाघरों की क्या स्थिति है, इसके बारे में स्वराज कौशल जी ने बहुत ही ताकत लगाकर और बहुत इन्फॉर्मेशन के साथ अपनी बात सदन के सामने रखी है। एक जानकारी मैं उसमें जोड़ना चाहता हूँ कि कई चिड़ियाघरों में टाईगर्स की संख्या बढ़ रही है, उनका प्रजनन ज्यादा हो रहा है और उन चिड़ियाघरों के पास इतना बजट नहीं है कि वे ....

**श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम (उत्तर प्रदेश) :** आज अखबारों में एक खबर छपी है कि बंदरों को बचाने में 3 आदमी मारे गए।

**श्री संजय निरुपम :** महोदय, गौतम जी अक्सर एक गंभीर बात को एकदम लाइट बना देते हैं लेकिन यह बहुत गंभीर बात है। महोदय, महाराष्ट्र में मैं एक-दो चिड़ियाघरों के बारे में जानता हूँ जहाँ पर टाईगर्स की संख्या बढ़ रही है लेकिन चिड़ियाघर के मैनेजमेंट के पास चूँकि फंडिंग की कमी है, इसलिए वहाँ पर टाईगर्स की नसबंदी की जा रही है। महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान इस बात की ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ कि एक तरफ जंगलों में शेरों की संख्या, बाघों की संख्या कम हो रही है, जो कि अपने आप में चिंता का विषय है, दूसरी तरफ कई चिड़ियाघरों में टाईगर्स की संख्या बढ़ रही है लेकिन चूँकि उन चिड़ियाघरों के मैनेजमेंट के पास बजट नहीं है, पैसा नहीं है, इसलिए मेल टाईगर्स की नसबंदी की जा रही है। तो मेरा कहना यह है कि यदि आप इन चिड़ियाघरों की हिफाजत नहीं कर सकते, इनके लिए पर्याप्त बजट नहीं दे सकते तो आपको इन सारे टाईगर्स को फ्री कर देना चाहिए। अब इसमें समस्या यह आएगी कि ये जंगलों में कैसे रहेंगे क्योंकि इनको आदत नहीं रही है शिकार करने की। तो आप ऐसा कर सकते हैं कि कम से कम जो बेबी टाईगर्स हैं, उनको फ्री किया जाए और संरक्षित क्षेत्र में धीरे-धीरे ट्रेनिंग देकर उनको डेवलप होने का मौका दिया जाए, अपनी संख्या बढ़ाने का मौका दिया जाए। महोदय, उनको सुरक्षित रूप से जीने का अधिकार मिलना चाहिए।

महोदय, जैसा कि स्वराज कौशल जी ने बताया कि हमारे देश में 3,700 के आस-पास शेर हैं। पूरी दुनिया में हिंदुस्तान के पास, नेपाल और बंगला देश को छोड़ दें तो सिर्फ साइबेरिया में टाईगर्स हैं और बाकी दुनिया में कहीं भी टाईगर्स नहीं हैं। यह हमारे लिए बहुत गर्व की बात थी कि जब अमरीकी राष्ट्रपति भारत आए तो उन्होंने घूमने के लिए जिन जगहों का चुनाव किया,



उनमें से एक जगह रणथम्भौर भी थी और वहां जाकर उन्होंने अपना शेर देखने का ख्वाब पूरा किया। लेकिन मुझे लगता है कि अगर हमने अपने बाघों को सही ढंग से संरक्षण नहीं दिया, उनको बचाया नहीं तो आने वाले दिनों में बाघों के मामले में दुनिया के बाकी देशों की तरह ही हमारे देश की स्थिति भी हो जाएगी।

यहां पर अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति तो आएंगे लेकिन बाघ देखने नहीं जा सकेंगे क्योंकि कोई बाघ ही नहीं बचेगा। तो टाइगर की रक्षा होनी चाहिए बहुत अच्छे ढंग से, टाइगर की संख्या बढ़नी चाहिए। स्वराज जी आपको पूरी जानकारी होगी इस बारे में, वैसे उनकी संख्या 300 के आसपास है।

**श्री स्वराज कौशल :** पूरी जानकारी मेमका जी को होगी।

**श्री संजय निरुपम :** इस फोरेस्ट में जो लॉएंस बचे हैं उनकी संख्या 300 है और इस जाति के लॉएंस कहीं हैं ही नहीं सिर्फ हमारे पास हैं। उसमें से अभी चार मर गए हैं। वहां पर मैं अक्सर जाता रहता हूं। मैं रणथम्भौर जाता हूं, कान्हा जाता हूं, मैं गिर भी गया हूं। वहां पर पिछली गर्मी के मौसम में पानी की किल्लत हो गई। पीने के लिए पानी नहीं था। उन जंगलों के जानवरों को पीने के लिए पानी नहीं मिल रहा था, लॉएंस को भी पीने के लिए पानी नहीं मिल रहा था। हमने वहां मैनेजमेंट से पूछा कि पानी को क्या हुआ? तो उन्होंने कहा कि बारिश नहीं हुई। वहां का वातावरण सूख गया था। तो मैंने कहा कि आपके पास टैंकर तो होने चाहिए पानी लाने के लिए। मैंने पता लगाया, मैंने मंत्री महोदय को भी बताया था कि पूरे फोरेस्ट में एक भी टैंकर नहीं था। उस समय की केन्द्र सरकार ने बाकायदा बजट भेजा था टैंकर खरीदने के लिए लेकिन वह पूरा का पूरा बजट मिस-यूज हो गया। उसके बाद हमने वहां की राज्य सरकार से और फिर केन्द्रीय सरकार से बातचीत की। तो फिर नए सिरे से 4-5 टैंकर मंगवाए गए। प्यास के कारण जो वहां के सिंह मरने की स्थिति में थे उन सिंहों को बचाने के लिए टैंकर के जरिए पानी भेजा गया। तो समस्या पहले तो बजट की है, जो बजट है वह भी बहुत कम है। मिनिस्टर साहब इस बात को समझ रहे होंगे कि जितने भी संरक्षित वन हैं उनके लिए जो बजट मुहैया किया जा रहा है केन्द्रीय सरकार की तरफ से या राज्य सरकार की तरफ से वह अपने आप में बहुत थोड़ा बजट है। तो मेरा पहला निवेदन होगा कि बजट बढ़ाया जाना चाहिए। दूसरी बात, जिस तरह से बजट का दुरुपयोग हो रहा है उस दुरुपयोग को भी रोकने की दशा में कोई न कोई ढंग का कदम उठाया जाना चाहिए।

रणथम्भौर का एक अजीब किस्सा है। रणथम्भौर के आसपास जो लोकल लोग रहते हैं जो वन को संरक्षित करने की वजह से प्रभावित हो गए हैं उनके पुनर्वास के लिए केन्द्र सरकार ने राज्य सरकार को पैसे दिए थे। लेकिन उस सारे के सारे पैसे का दुरुपयोग हो गया, उस पैसे का सही इस्तेमाल नहीं हुआ। मैं इस विषय में पक्की जानकारी करके बतला रहा हूं, वहां के आफिसर्स से बात करके जो जानकारी मुझे मिली है वही बतला रहा हूं। वहां के जिन लोगों की जमीन संरक्षित जंगल की वजह से ले ली गई थी तो उनको रि-हेबिलेट करने के लिए जो पैसा आया था वह पैसा कहां गया किसी को पता नहीं चल रहा है। जो हमारे बाघ जंगलों में हैं, कान्हा हुआ, रणथम्भौर हुआ वहां जो फोरेस्ट गार्ड हैं हमारे जंगलों में, मैंने अपनी आंखों से देखा है कि उनके पास अपनी रक्षा करने के लिए पर्याप्त हथियार नहीं हैं। जिस तरह से पोचिंग बढ़ रही है, यह तो हमारे अखबारों में छप गया कि नन्दनकानन में बीमार होकर बाघ मर गए, मोर

मर गए, चीते मर गए लेकिन बड़े पैमाने पर इन जंगलों में टाइगर्स का, लाएंस का, चीतों का, पेथर्स का पोचिंग हो रहा है, शिकार हो रहा है। ऐसी शिकायतें मंत्रालय में आई हैं। मैं मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा और उनसे पूछना चाहूंगा कि कितनी शिकायतें रणथम्बीर और कान्हा से आई हैं और इन पोचर्स को रोकने के लिए जो फॉरेस्ट गार्ड यहां पर तैनात किए जाते हैं उनको कितने हथियार दिए गए, किस तरह के हथियार दिए गए, इस बारे में पता हो तो बताएं? क्योंकि मेरा अनुभव है कि उनके पास एक भी हथियार नहीं है। मेरा अनुभव है कि जो पोचर्स हैं वे बहुत ही सोफिस्टिकेटेड बैपर्स लेकर आते हैं और वह फॉरेस्ट गार्ड खड़ा का खड़ा रह जाते हैं और वह पोचिंग करके निकल जाते हैं। ऐसी पोचिंग की कितनी शिकायतें हैं इस बारे में मैं मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहूंगा? हो सके तो इस बारे में अपनी कुछ ठोस जानकारी दें कि कितनी पोचिंग की शिकायतें आई हैं और उनके खिलाफ क्या ठोस कार्रवाई हुई और कितने लोगों के खिलाफ एक्शन लिया गया? वहां पर काम करने वाले कितने लोग अपने को एकदम अयोग्य महसूस करते हैं पोचर्स के सामने? टाइगर्स के सेंसस का मामला है, इस संबंध में भी मैं छोटी जानकारी देना चाहता हूँ यहां पर। बांधवगढ़ का अभ्यारण्य है कान्हा के पास। वहां कितने टाइगर हैं यह किसी को नहीं मालूम है। वहां पर आज तक टाइगर्स का सेंसस भी नहीं हुआ है। मैं मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान विशेष रूप से आकर्षित कर रहा हूँ कि बांधवगढ़ में कितने टाइगर्स हैं और उनका सेंसस क्यों नहीं हो रहा है? पोचर्स की जो लॉबी है उसके दबाव में तो क्या ऐसा नहीं हो रहा है? क्योंकि वहां सबसे अधिक फॉरेनर्स जा रहे हैं फोटो खींचने के बहाने, शूटिंग करने के बहाने जाते हैं। उसमें क्या करते हैं किसी को जानकारी नहीं है। जो आफिशियल्स हैं, प्रशासनिक अधिकारी हैं, वे ही सही ढंग से इसके बारे में जानकारी दे सकते हैं। बांधवगढ़ में टाइगर्स की सेंसस का मामला है, उसके बारे में मंत्री जी कुछ स्पष्ट तौर पर बतायें। मैंने कान्हा में खुद अपनी आंखों से देखा है, उसके बारे में मेरा जो अनुभव है वह मैं आपको बताता हूँ। वहां पर संरक्षित वन और बफर क्षेत्र है, इसको लेकर विवाद चल रहा है। वहां पर कुछ एनजीओज स्थानीय आदिवासी लोगों को भड़का रहे हैं। वे उनसे कह रहे हैं कि जैसे जमीन हमारी है वैसे ही जंगल भी हमारा है। वे उन आदिवासी लोगों को भड़का कर जो बफर जोन है उस पर वे कब्जा कर रहे हैं और कह रहे हैं कि यह आपके अधिकार में नहीं रहेगा, आपके नियन्त्रण में नहीं रहेगा। इस तरह से सामाजिक आंदोलन के नाम पर यह किया जा रहा है। मुझे शक है कि ऐसा करके पोचिंग को बढ़ावा दिया जा रहा है। माननीय मंत्री महोदय अगर कुछ संभव हो तो इसके बारे में बतायें कि इस तरह के एनजीओज कौन-कौन से हैं, जो कान्हा क्षेत्र में सक्रिय हैं जो अवैध तरीके से हमारे टाइगर्स का या लायन्स का शिकार कर रहे हैं? इन एनजीओज का पोचर्स लॉबी से क्या नाता है। यह भी बताने की कृपा करें? मेरे ख्याल से इन एनजीओज के खिलाफ स्थानीय लोगों से शिकायतें आई हैं कि इन सामाजिक संस्थाओं के लोग सामाजिक प्रश्नों को खड़ा करके गलत काम कर रहे हैं। क्या ऐसी शिकायतों के खिलाफ सरकार ने कोई कार्रवाई की है? (समय की घंटी)... उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, क्या ज्यादा समय हो गया?

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सुरेश पचौरी): दस मिनट का समय हो गया है।

श्री संजय निरुपम: ठीक है। बातें और भी हैं, लेकिन मैं अपनी बात यहीं खत्म करता हूँ। मैंने माननीय मंत्री जी के समक्ष जो प्रश्न रखे हैं, जो स्पष्टीकरण चाहा है अगर वह दे सकें तो अच्छा है। यहां पर इंटरप्रिटेशन हो रहा है, भाषान्तरण हुआ है, इसलिए उनकी समझ में सारी बातें आ गई होंगी। अगर वे मेरे प्रश्नों का उत्तर दे दें तो उनकी बड़ी मेहरबानी होगी। धन्यवाद।

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Sanjay is very constructive today.

DR. L. M. SINGHVI (Rajasthan): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, first of all I may say that we are in your debt as is the hon. Member who raised this issue an issue of the greatest importance. We speak in anguish, we speak in sorrow, and we speak in grief. The failures are many and it will not do merely to ask this Minister or that Minister to resign. That is an easy way out. What this country requires is to ask itself and to introspect on whether we have a framework of National Policy, whether we are providing the necessary funds, whether we have the appropriate professionalism or not, whether these zoos and sanctuaries are not becoming a hazard for the lives of those whose lives are meant to be protected and cared for. Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I think what happened in Nandankanan shows for sure that it is no longer a garden of joy; it has become a garden of death disaster and tragedy. Nandankanan as a name, -- the name ought to be changed -- carries a special meaning. What has happened in Nandankanan can only be described as the wages of neglect on the part of those to whom the care of our precious wildlife, whether in the zoos or in the sanctuaries, is entrusted. Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, it is important to recognise that the first and foremost issue here is the issue of accountability. The Minister has very kindly reassured us that the Committee will go into it and we will then be able to act on the recommendations and the findings of the Committee. But I often remember what Dr. Johnson said about Committees. He said, committees consist of individuals who can do nothing individually and decide collectively that nothing can be done. We are in a situation of total inertia, total lack of priority. Perhaps, we are in a situation where we are not even aware of a National Policy framework. No doubt, this is a subject of jurisdiction of the State.

No doubt, the question of peacocks in Madhya Pradesh, the question of tigers in Nandankanan and the question of those animals that have died in Rajasthan are all issues which, ultimately, become the national issue. The subject is a State subject. But, it is a national issue. That is why it is important for this Parliament to remind itself of the policy framework, the need for people of commitment to play a part in protecting our wildlife; maybe, one simple solution would be, to make Smt. Maneka Gandhi, the Minister in charge of Wildlife; at least, you would have the assurance of some one with a sense of commitment being involved in it. But the fact of the matter, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, as you initiated the

discussion, is, there is a lack of priority. Lack of finance becomes an easy excuse. Lack of professionalism is also because of lack of priority. I find that the reports, which have come so far, are not at all re-assuring because the tendency to find excuses is something which is inexcusable and, I think, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, it is important that Parliament must intervene not because it falls within our jurisdiction directly but because it has become a national issue. It has become an issue where a policy framework, on a national basis, is necessary. There seems to be a breakdown of policy framework. There seems to be a rampant insensitivity in a matter of this nature. There appears to be only a situation where we become a House of post-mortems. Animals have died, birds have died and we carry out a post-mortem. That is not satisfactory. We are intended by our Constitution to frame policies, to lay down policies and to ensure the implementation of those policies. That is where, I think, the basic issue is. The basic issue, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, is this. Are we prepared to provide a policy framework and to make sure that it is implemented, beyond politics and beyond partisanship but, with a view, to make sure that wildlife is protected in the best traditions of India's own heritage? It seems to me, to ask a Minister of the State Government concerned to resign for this or that lapse on moral responsibility, is not the solution. I do not think that is the solution to the problem. The solution to the problem is to provide the necessary professional training, to provide the necessary leadership at the Centre and in the States, and to provide a sense of commitment. At least, that is the lesson we can learn from these tragedies that have happened in Nandankanan and in Rajasthan. Those tragedies may multiply in the years to come. That is where, I think, our duty calls. Our duty is to proclaim to the people and the Government that we are committed to protect environment. Sir, Smt. Indira Gandhi, had introduced one of the provisions of national fundamental duty. One of the fundamental duties is to protect our environment. That is a part of the Constitution and this Government has given an accolade to this. This Government also wants to cultivate a sense of fundamental duties. We all want that there can be no rights without duties. We are not performing our duties. It is not only for the Government but also for the citizens to join in this crusade for the preservation of wildlife rather than take the bounties of nature for granted, which is what we are prone to do. I wanted to add my humble voice to the many points that have been raised here with a sense of conviction and sincerity but, at the end of the day, if it is only in the House and on the record of our proceedings, we have not done our duty, and the Government



have not done their duty. I also wish to pay a tribute to our newspapers which have been able to appeal to our conscience on this very important issue. Thank you

PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I was quite surprised to read the statement of the Hon. Minister. The whole issue is not merely, what he says, an evidence of empathy and concern for wildlife, but the issue is far more crucial. It is a matter of life and death for humans as well. The entire issue is a part of the issue of biodiversity. We humans have a lot of company on earth -- millions of species of animals, plants and other organisms. We are interdependent. The awareness about biodiversity is growing globally. We have also become aware. But our awareness is confined only to the IPR and patenting rights, especially for medicinal plants. There is a little evidence of our concern regarding our animals. We forget that when there will be no tigers, peacocks and crocodies on the earth, there will be no humans as well because we are all interdependent. That is why negligence of our forests, our zoos and our sanctuaries is very dangerous for our future generations as well as for us.

The Minister's statement reveals three points. First, we have no pride in our animal life. Why do we chase them? In India, we have about 95,000 known animal varieties; we should be proud of them. Are we trying to preserve the natural advantage that nature has given us? Instead of preserving them we are callous and we let them perish. Secondly, as the hon. Minister himself had agreed, we have not developed the requisite expertise to look after animals. My question is, if we are not competent to preserve them, why should we have them at all? As Mr. Swaraj Kaushal pointed out, why do we have zoos? The animals need to be preserved, both *in situ* and *ex situ*. *In situ* nature preserves them. But we interfere with nature in the name of development and also in the name of religion and kill lions in the Gir forests and *chitas* in Ranthambore. *Ex situ* we bring them to zoos, to circuses, to parks, deny them health care, give them contaminated food and kill them. Sir, during the last four years, ten per cent of our total animals died in zoos only. Do we have any right, whatsoever, to maintain zoos? The third point is that it reveals a lack of accountability in all spheres, which has resulted in the death of animals, and the people responsible for it go scot free. The staff sells the food of the animals, but nothing happens. Whenever a mishap occurs, we institute a commission of inquiry. Its report is kept in cold chambers and the

authorities are happy that their responsibility is over. We wait for the next mishap and for the next commission of inquiry. I suggest that the Government should seriously attempt, one, to evolve a sustainable forestry practice; two, design programmes to highlight the value of animal genetic resources for public education; third, fix accountability for negligence and mete out strict punishment for those who are responsible for it.

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, in fact, I must thank you first because you had started the discussion. About ten hon. Members have deliberated on the recent episode and they have shown their concern for wildlife, especially tigers. Sir, there are various suspicions. In fact, they don't have the exact feedback, or, the exact reasons of what went wrong in the Nandankanan Zoo. That is why, my friends have raised their voice and demanded that the Minister should resign. It is not a question of Minister's resignation. Ministers come and go, but what is important is that the problem should be corrected. If we have gone wrong, then, we should correct it. It is for the Opposition to point out the irregularities, and wherever there is an irregularity, it has to be corrected by the Treasury Benches. Actually, we, the Ministers, are not running the zoos. We are dependent on the State Government; and the State Governments are dependent on the officers in charge of the zoos.

I would like to address the points one by one and if there is anything left out, I can clarify it. First of all, my friends said, it is because of food poisoning. Sir, it is not correct. Because beef, or, other meat, is slaughtered in the slaughterhouse between 6 p.m. and midnight. And the next day, it is brought to the zoo only after 10 a.m.. So, actually, the time-gap between the slaughtering for the meat and the feeding of the animal will not be less than 10 to 12 hours. If the particular parasite, Trypanosomia, is left in the meat, definitely there is a chance of animals getting infected. But as per the scientists, this trypanosom parasite does not live beyond eight hours. So, food poisoning, or, infection through food, is ruled out.

The second point was that wrong medicine was administered. According to the Veterinary Scientists, so far we have got only two or three medicines, like the Berenil and Triquine, to treat this trypanosomiasis disease. They had administered Berenil; there is nothing wrong in administering that particular medicine. So, the point that wrong medicine was administered is ruled out.

**3.00 P.M.**

The other day, while deliberating on this point, I had said that we don't have enough curriculum or education as to how to treat the wild animals. My friends should not confuse between the treatment of wild animals and domestic animals. We have expertise in treating the domestic animals because we are in touch with them and embrace them everyday. But in the case of wild animals, we don't approach, or, go near those animals. Sir, here, I would like to read one sentence from the book 'Trypanosome and Trypanosomiasis of Indian Livestock' released by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. It has been written by Dr. B.S. Gill, a prominent and eminent Parasitologist working in the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, and a former dean of Veterinary College of Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana. Here, he says, " Wild animals died of Trypanosomiasis soon after the capture." What it reveals is that, as and when you captured a wild animal, the disease Trypanosomiasis flares up.

This book is written by an eminent veterinarian. I would like to inform the House that tigers are the most sensitive animals. So, they should not be subjected to any kind of stress and strain. What happened in the Nandankanan Zoo in Orissa was, those animals faced a severe cyclone some seven or eight months back,. So, they were subjected to some stress and strain. During the cyclone, the compound walls and boundaries were broken. Those boundaries and compound walls have not yet been repaired. There is a village, namely, Daruenga which is at a short distance from the tiger cages. The domestic animals there are also suffering from trypanosomiasis. That area itself is prone to trypanosomiasis. The distance between the tiger cages to the village is about 400 meters only. The domestic animals used to come there for grazing. The infection would have occurred because of vectors. The vectors may be flies or ticks. The flies bite the domestic animals grazing around, thereby transmitting the particular disease to the tigers. Gradually, these tigers become prone to trypanosomiasis. These parasites do exist in the blood vessels of the tigers. It is just like a latent existence. The trypanosomiasis parasites do exist in the blood vessels, that is, in between the white blood corpuscles and red blood corpuscles.

When they are subjected to some stress and strain, as the three authors have quoted in their book, suddenly they lose their resistance and trypanosomiasis occurs. Exponentially, the trypanosome, the parasite, increases. That is why our friends who were looking after the particular

zoo, the veterinarians, could not, in spite of their action, manage that quickly. This book has been released by the Animal Disease Research Institute, which is in Orissa. The other authors are Dr. S.P. Tripathi, Shri R.K. Vardhan and Dr. P.K. Mohopatra. In the introduction itself, they say that the disease appeared occasionally, in an epidemic form, which was not very responsive to treatment, due to its acuteness. It is not yet clear as to which of the pre-disposive factors are involved in such an outbreak. This book was written in 1995. The book says, "Recently, several outbreaks of trypanosomiasis have occurred and recorded in cattle, donkeys and dogs in Orissa". Though the diagnosis of the acute form of disease is not very difficult, as the parasites are seen in the blood, the treatment is not very successful, as the affected animal dies soon. "...Since the parasites are scanty in the peripheral blood in sub-acute and chronic form of the disease, it is difficult to diagnose them. In this manuscript, an attempt has been made to highlight the different aspects of trypanosomiasis, with the hope that it would help the veterinarians in the field to handle the disease suitably. Further, it says, "Chronic form is a usual form of disease in the cattle and buffaloes of Orissa, which act as the main host. This is no specific clinical sign; but the performance of the affected animals goes down gradually. Usually, the animals recover between four-and-a-half months to twelve months, but many predisposing factors may turn the disease into a sub-acute or acute form, causing mortality." Here, I should say that parasites exist in the blood vessels of the animals. In 1999, there were such incidents. Various parasites do exist. When a particular tiger or any other animal is taken out of its cage for taking blood samples or for any such test, even at that point of time, it is subject to stress and strain, which has accounted for the increasing number of trypanosomiasis cases. It is not a new disease. Because it is an old disease, it may recur at any point of time.

Sir, the other thing that was said was regarding financing. Many of my hon. friends have said that proper financing is not there and that Central assistance is not forthcoming. They were telling all these things. For the information of my friends, I would like to quote the figures of Central assistance that is provided for the protection of wildlife and Zoos. Sir, for the development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Rs. 12 crores was provided in 1999-2000; and this year, i.e., for 2000-2001, the figure is Rs. 22 crores. Sir, for 'Project Tiger', a sum of Rs. 17 crores was provided last year, and this year, Rs. 23 crores is provided. For 'Project Elephant', Rs. 6 crores was provided last year, and this year, the figure is Rs. 8



crores. Sir, last year, the budget for the 'maintenance of Central Zoo Authority was Rs. 12 crores, which has now been raised to Rs. 13 crores. Last year, the total investment was Rs. 47 crores, and this year, it stands at Rs. 66 crores.

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM : Do you think it is enough?

SHRI T.R. BAALU : I do not say that it is enough. But, Sir, enough is enough. My hon. friend Shri Swaraj Kaushal has recommended that when the Government is not able to maintain the 136 mini-zoos, it is better to abolish them. He asked: why can't we abolish them. Yes; we can abolish them. But, tomorrow, your Madam will find fault with you. Where will she take her children to show animals? She can't go to the forests. It is not like that...*(Interruptions)*... I am replying.

SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL : I leave it to your best judgment. But if it is a problem of ... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Your concern is that we have to maintain; otherwise, we should leave ... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL : It is a problem of over-crowding. You do not have sufficient resources. Why can't you leave them? It is all that I am asking. If you could cite a better illustration from home, I think it would be better.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : I fully agree with you. Actually, the zoo authorities had gone one step forward. They wanted to breed more animals. They were, perhaps, ambitious. But it was not correct. When they are not able to manage the present population, they should not go for more inbreeding. Inbreeding itself is a problem. Because of the inbreeding, the causalities have gone up because it loses resistance. Sir, I want to reply to the points raised by Mr. Kaushal. .... *(Interruptions)*.... Out of 13 tigers, there were 8 white tigers that had fallen prey to this because of inbreeding only.

Mr. Kaushal, here we are not just registering. The number of zoos that ceased to operate is 42. The number of zoos not granted recognition is 93. We are just not registering them. When they are not having proper infrastructure facilities, we simply ignore them.

SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL. What will you do with the animals?

SHRI T. R. BAALU: I will tell you. Wherever overpopulation is there, we will address the problem. The overpopulated animals will be definitely distributed.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) IN THE CHAIR]

SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: You say that you have closed many zoos. What have you done with the animals there? Have the zoos been allowed to continue to keep the animals? Your registration has been denied to them.

SHRI T. R. BAALU: For the time being, till such time as we have a comprehensive decision on this issue, it will continue. I have already said in the Question Hour that proper action will be taken, a comprehensive decision will be taken only after the committee that has been set up for this purpose to go around 109 zoos, gives a comprehensive report within three months.

SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: What about the unrecognised zoos? Will they continue?

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH (Andhra Pradesh): All the animals will become extinct. There is no law.

SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: What are you doing about the unrecognised zoos, Mr. Minister?

SHRI T. R. BAALU: They are recognised zoos only. We are not allowing any unrecognised zoo.

SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: I am asking about the unrecognised zoos. ....(Interruptions) ....

SHRI T. R. BAALU: As far as the Government is concerned, we have only recognised zoos.

SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: What will you do with the animals? You are not replying me.

SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL (Rajasthan): He is asking what you are going to do with those animals.

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: The whole issue is being taken lightly. .... (Interruptions) ....

SHRI T. R. BAALU: It is not. I am not taking anything lightly.

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: You are saying! "Enough is enough." The fact is that the budget is not enough. ... *(Interruptions)*....

SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Better apply your mind to the problem.

SHRI T. R. BAALU: I have already applied my mind. That is why on the very first day itself I announced a Committee. The Committee went into it in detail. It has submitted a report. After that, we have conducted a workshop in Chennai. Further, we are going to take a proper decision. ....*(Interruptions)*...

Sir, I have not concluded my reply.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया) : आप बैठ जाइए। Let him conclude...

श्री संजय निरुपम : आपने यह बताया कि फंड कम है एनफ नहीं है...(व्यवधान)...क्या इसमें जांच करने के लिए किसी कमेटी की जरूरत है?

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): बोलिए मंत्री जी। बताइए ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री संजय निरुपम : इससे बड़ा कोई सच नहीं हो सकता...(व्यवधान)...तो क्या आप बजट बढ़ाने का एश्योरेंस देंगे, आश्वासन देंगे मंत्री जी?

SHRI T. R. BAALU: Some of my friends have said that the tiger population is going down.

श्री स्वराज कौशल : वाईस चेयरमैन महब, मैंने एक सवाल मंत्री जी से कई बार अंग्रेजी में पूछा है। वे जवाब नहीं दे रहे हैं इसलिए हिंदी में पूछ रहा हूं। दो सवाल हैं। एक तो पैसा नहीं है और दूसरा सवाल यह है कि ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI T. R. BAALU: Sir, I am not yielding. ... *(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): He is not yielding, please.

SHRI T. R. BAALU: Some of my friends have raised an alarm about the depletion of the tiger population. The tiger population has not depleted.

My friend from the TDP, Mr. Ramachandraiah .....*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: He has not answered my points.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): He is not yielding. Why do you not allow him to continue? How do you know that he is not going to reply to your queries? .....*(Interruptions)* ....

SHRI T. R. BAALU: If they do like this, how can I reply to them?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): If you do not allow him to reply, how can he reply?

श्री संजय निरुपम : सही इन्कारमेशन तो दी जाएगी। टाइगर्स की संख्या घट रही है वह अपने आप में एक तथ्य है ...(व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागरोदिया): आप बैठिए ।

The floor is with the Minister. Let him reply. If he does not clarify, we will see later. .... (Interruptions) .... Please sit down. Let the Minister reply.

SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Let him quote the figures also

SHRI T. R. BAALU: I am going to quote the figures. I am only referring to Ramchandraiah Garu. Is there anything wrong in it? How do you presume things?

SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: You said that the tiger population is not declining.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: I have only mentioned Ramachandraiah. He has raised some alarm as to the depletion in the tiger population, quoting a report. Sir, one Political Committee of the United Nations visited India and made some adverse comments. The adverse comments were: We believe that the rate of decline in tiger population is accelerating. (Interruptions) It said that the actual tiger population in India was much lower than the official figure of 5,000. They put the figure between 2,000 and 3,000. The next thing it said was that the Mission was not convinced that the Indian tiger population outside the designated protected areas was properly protected or valued. It called upon international donors to stop funding the tiger conservation agencies in India...

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: This sentence is to be noted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): What he is saying is automatically being noted.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: ...until the Central and State Governments demonstrate that such money would be spent effectively in total, where they were needed. This is the report.



Sir, we co-sponsored a resolution at a Conference held in April, 2000 at Nairobi. Many multilateral countries supported the motion. We explained the matter to them. The matter was extensively discussed. Finally, the multilateral forum expunged all these remarks from the internet and from other places. They have also urged the multilateral and other donor agencies to donate or assist India freely.

Now, I come to the tiger population. We have got only 3,700 tigers in India, plus 313, minus that one which died last week. We have got about four thousand tigers.

SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Your statistics are of 1993.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: No, they are of 1998.

SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: What was the tiger population in 1990?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: I can only say about 1998. The 1990 figure is not available at the moment. I will get it and pass it on to the hon. Member.

SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Mr. Minister, what was the tiger population in 1997? Please go through the Rajya Sabha records.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: I have got the 1998 figure.

श्री संजय निरुपम : लेकिन इन्फर्मेशन तो सही आनी चाहिए ।

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, I am not yielding.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): If you are not yielding, you continue with your reply.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, my friends wanted to know what steps we have taken to deal with the poachers. The Government has taken action by way of intensive patrolling of sensitive areas and arresting the offenders; we have given awards to informers for collection of information about the poachers and smugglers. We have been taking help from the police in investigation of cases against offenders. Moreover, regional coordination Committees in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have been formed for joint action against inter-State gangs of poachers. For the last one year, in Karnataka, five elephants were killed, 17 persons were arrested and one person was killed in the encounter. In Tamil Nadu, three instances were noticed; 16 persons were arrested. In West Bengal, two persons were arrested. As far as Karnataka, Orissa and West Bengal are concerned,

poaching has been higher in 1998-99. The number of poaching cases in Karnataka is 25, compared to 23 in previous year. As far as Orissa is concerned, the number of poachings was 13, compared to 7 in previous year. As far as West Bengal is concerned, in 1997-98 it was 4 ; in 1998-99 it was 13. Smuggling of ivory is the root -cause for the heinous crime of killing of elephants. That is why extensive seizures have been made. This year alone, we have made seizures in Mumbai, Chennai and Delhi. Between 1997 and 2000, there were a lot of instances in Orissa, Meghalaya, West Bengal and Kerala. So, action is being taken to curb the activities of poachers.

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM : What about Ranthambore, Rajasthan? ..(Interruptions)... As far as poaching is concerned, how many cases you have received in the case of Ranthambore and Kanha?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): He does not have the information right now. ..(Interruptions)... He is not yielding.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: I will pass on the information to the hon. Member. ..(Interruptions)..

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया) : आप बतलाना । उन्हें कम्प्लीट कर लेने देंगे, फिर कोई बात रह जाएगी तो बाद में पूछ लीजिए ।

SHRI T.R. BAALU: The measures taken by the Government of India to protect elephants are : We have established the "Project Elephant". We are funding the "Project Elephant" From 1991 to 2000, we have funded Rs.37.73 crores. As far as the physical achievements of "Project Elephant" are concerned, 31 patrolling camps, 455 kms. of patrolling track, 1,533 kms. of roads restoration, 11 watch towers, 395 wireless sets have been established; and 31 motor cycles, 25 cycles, 4 jeeps and 2 vans and 77 fire arms have been provided. For mitigation of human and elephant conflict 235 kms. of elephant-proof bench has been established. Electric fencing of 880 kms. has been done. The number of elephants captured is 43. The amount spent on elephant drives is Rs.49.5 lakhs. The ex-gratia relief paid is Rs.202.2 lakhs. The expenditure on publicity awareness is Rs.77.7 lakhs. For habitat restoration, plantation for food and cover in 3,636 hectares pasture, forest development on 2,114 hectares and land acquisition of 151 Sq. km was taken up. Other Centrally assisted schemes are there. The Government of India has also provided assistance to the State Governments for protection of wild animals, mitigating human-wild animal conflict and for development works in the fringe villages, under

various schemes. My friend, Mr. Sanjay Nirupam, wanted to know whether there were any cases of poaching in Ranthambore and Kanha. In the last three years, there were no cases of poaching in these areas. Before I conclude, I would request all the Members of the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha, whenever they go to their constituencies.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): You can only request the Members here. You cannot request the Members of the other House from here.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Whenever Members visit their constituencies or visit any place, if they come to know of any deficiencies or shortcomings, kindly intimate me, I will definitely attend to them. Whatever they may say, the report of such deliberations submitted by the hon. Members will be given due importance by the Ministry, and if any information is sought for on any point which has been left out, I will pass on that information to the hon. Members.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): We have taken a lot of time on this subject. *(Interruptions)* Mr. Swaraj Kaushal.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, कौशल जी से पहले मुझे एक सवाल पूछने दीजिए आप ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): कोई बात नहीं, पहले कौशल जी एक क्वेश्चन पूछ लें, उसके बाद आप पूछ लीजिएगा ।

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, एक सवाल मैं पूछना चाहती हूँ ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): अब मैं आपके उनको बोलने के लिए बोलूँ या आपको बोलूँ ।

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : पहले मुझे बोलने के लिए बोलिए फिर उनको बोलिए ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): अच्छा, फिर श्री कौशल का चांस चला जाएगा । इनका चांस गया, अब सुषमा जी आप बोलिए ।

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मेरे बिना बोले श्री मंत्री जी मेरी ओर से तर्क घड़ते हैं ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैंने यह सोचा था कि जलसदों के स्पष्टीकरणों का जवाब देते हुए मंत्री जी जू कॉर्डर का जिक्र जरूर करेंगे । उन्होंने चूंकि अपने जवाब में जिक्र नहीं किया, इसलिए बहुत धैर्यरता से आपकी अनुमति से मैं यह प्रश्न पूछना चाहती हूँ कि इसी सरकार के कार्यकाल में जुलाई, 1998 में, जिस समय सुरेश प्रभु जी इस मंत्रालय के मंत्री थे, यह तय किया गया था कि जू के लिए एक अलग जू कॉर्डर बनेगा । अगर वह जू कॉर्डर बन जाता तो बहुत से वे कारण

जिनका उल्लेख आज मंत्री जी ने किया है बाघों के मरने के पीछे, उन कारणों का निवारण हो जाता। आज दो बरस हो गए, मैं जानना चाहूंगी मंत्री जी से कि उस जू कॉर्डर का निर्माण किया गया या नहीं किया गया और अगर नहीं किया गया तो क्यों नहीं किया गया ?

एक प्रश्न जो इन्होंने मेरी ओर से घड़कर यहाँ कह दिया कि मैं कौशल जी से शिकायत करूंगी कि मैं अपने बच्चों को कहां ले जाऊँ बाघ दिखाने के लिए, तो मैं मंत्री जी को बताना चाहती हूँ कि बच्चे नहीं हैं, मेरी एक बच्ची है, लेकिन मैं अपनी बच्ची को प्रकृति के तौर पर विचरण करता हुआ, जंगल में दहाड़ता हुआ सिंह दिखाना ज्यादा पसंद करूंगी, बजाए पिंजरे में बंद बाघ के।

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, माननीय मंत्री जी ने अभी चर्चा की ...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया) : डिस्कशन तो खत्म हो गया, आप केवल एक स्ट्रेट सवाल पूछिए।

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल : मैं एक ही सवाल पूछूंगा। इन्होंने कहा कि उड़ीसा में नवम्बर, 1999 में सुपर साइक्लोन आया था और उसके कारण संभवतः नंदनकानन वन में जिन बाघों की मौत हुई, बाद में उनको कोई बीमारी लग गई और उसके कारण उनकी मौतें हुई। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि पशु-पक्षियों के संबंध का जो शारीरिक विज्ञान है, क्या वह इतनी बात को समझने में भी असमर्थ है कि इन सारी प्राकृतिक आपदाओं के कारण जिन पशु-पक्षियों का हम पालन कर रहे हैं जू में, उन पर उनके प्रतिकूल प्रभाव कैसे पड़ेंगे और उनके लिए हम प्रिकाशनरी मैजर्स क्या ले सकते हैं ? क्या हमारे यहां के विद्वान डाक्टर लोग या यहां पर इस जू को देखने वाले अधिकारी लोग इस बात का ऐप्रिहेंशन नहीं कर सकते थे कि इतना बड़ा, इतना भारी साइक्लोन आया, जिसके कारण जानवरों या पशु-पक्षियों पर स्ट्रेस या स्ट्रेन हो सकता है या वे किसी प्रकार की छूत की बीमारी के शिकार हो सकते हैं, उनके खाने-पीने के सामान में हमें किस प्रकार की सावधानियां बरतनी चाहिए ताकि उनको किसी प्रकार की छूत की बीमारी न लगे? क्या हमारे डाक्टर या विशेषज्ञ इतनी सी बात को भी समझने में असमर्थ हैं, अगर हैं तो फिर उनके खिलाफ कोई कार्रवाई करने की या उनको अधिक से अधिक ज्ञान देने की हमने क्या व्यवस्था की है ताकि आगे इस प्रकार की पुनरावृत्ति न हो क्योंकि हमारे यहां प्राकृतिक आपदाएं आती रहती हैं?

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया) : संजय निरुपम जी, केवल एक सवाल पूछिए क्योंकि अगर यह बात लम्बी चल गई तो फिर नई डिस्कशन शुरू हो जाएगी।

श्री संजय निरुपम : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने साफ-साफ कह दिया कि पिछले तीन वर्षों में रणथम्बोर और कान्हा में कोई पोंचिंग नहीं हुई है। पिछले तीन वर्षों में कम से कम दस बार मैं इन जंगलों में गया हूँ और मेरी जानकारी है कि आज भी पोंचिंग हो रही है।

दूसरे, मैं इस बारे में कोई सवाल नहीं पूछ रहा हूँ, इनको बताना चाहता हूँ कि आपके पास जो इन्फार्मेशन है, वह सही नहीं है, मैं किसी दिन साक्षित कर दूंगा, सदन में सबूत लाकर रख दूंगा। पोंचिंग रोकने के लिए इन्होंने जो व्यवस्था बतलाई - पेट्रोलिंग है, इक्विपमेंट और व्हीपन्स आदि हैं, यह सारा कुछ पेपर पर है। मेरा अपना अनुभव है कि ऐसा कुछ भी वहां पर नहीं हो रहा है। जो फारेस्ट गार्ड्स हैं वे थोड़े से भी वैल इक्विपड नहीं हैं, वे पोंचिंग को नहीं रोक सकते और इसलिए मंत्री महोदय इस बात को गंभीरता से लें और मंत्रालय की जो



इन्फार्मेशन आ रही है, उस पर विश्वास न करें, खुद वहां पर रेड करें, छापे डालें और उसके बाद उन्हें विश्वास होगा कि इन जंगलों में विशेषकर टाइगर्स की जिस तरह से पोषिंग हो रही है, उसको रोकने के लिए विशेष व्यवस्था करने की जरूरत है।

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, are we having another discussion? I have no problem, but we have some serious Business. You have given enough time, and if you have allowed another round of discussion, no problem. *...(Interruptions)...*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): No, I don't think so. I have not allowed another round of discussion. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: We know the Government has serious business, but it is also a serious matter.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I am not against any individual. *...(Interruptions)...* My point is, regarding this matter, in the morning, it was decided to convert it into a Short Duration Discussion. We had no problem. We could have converted it into a Short Duration Discussion, but some rules, some practices, ought to be followed.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA):: Yes; it is well taken. We will try to conclude it immediately. Go ahead, Mr. Ramachandraiah.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, originally, it was a State subject. Because the State Governments were unable to protect the wildlife, it was brought, through a Constitutional amendment, to the Concurrent List. Now, the Central Government cannot say that it is the State Government's responsibility. It cannot shirk its responsibility. Otherwise, it should transfer it to the State List; and we will hold the State Governments accountable for it. Having brought it to the Concurrent List, now, so callously, the Government of India is taking the decision! It cannot shirk its responsibility. Let it come with an enactment which is more stringent, issue guidelines to the States, so that the wildlife can be protected.

श्री सुरेश पच्चोरी (मध्य प्रदेश): माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने जो मुद्दे उठाए थे और जो प्रश्न पूछे थे, उनका उत्तर नहीं आया है। सीधी बात मैंने यह पूछी है कि वाइल्ड लाइफ कन्करेंट लिस्ट में है तो इसकी जिम्मेदारी आंशिक रूप से केन्द्रीय वन मंत्रालय उठाता है या नहीं? दूसरा 3 नवंबर, 1997 को तत्कालीन वन मंत्री ने सभी मुख्यमंत्रियों को जो पत्र लिखा था कि वाइल्ड वेलफेयर वर्डन्स को चीफ कंजरवेटर ऑफ फॉरेस्ट बना देना चाहिए, इस संबंध में समीक्षा की गई है या नहीं? तीसरा मैंने यह पूछा था कि वाइल्ड लाइफ सेक्टर को स्पेशल सेक्टर में कन्वर्ट करने के बारे में मंत्री जी का विचार है या नहीं? मैंने यह भी पूछा था कि इंडियन वाइल्ड

लाईफ बोर्ड जो है, जिसके अध्यक्ष स्वयं प्रधानमंत्री जी हैं, उसकी बैठक कब से नहीं हुई है ? एक और जो महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दा था, जिसके बारे में सभी ने विज्ञप्ति व्यक्त की है, वह यह था कि इन क्षेत्रों में काम करने वाले कर्मचारियों के लिए पर्याप्त ट्रेनिंग का अभाव है । उसका कारण यह है कि उसका ऐक्सपेंडिचर केन्द्रीय सरकार वहन नहीं करती है । क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार ट्रेनिंग देने संबंधी यह ऐक्सपेंडिचर वहन करने के लिए तैयार है ? महोदय, जू अथॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया की गाईडलाइंस का पालन यदि नहीं होता है तो निश्चित रूप से उसके लिए केन्द्रीय सरकार जिम्मेदार है । उसके लिए क्या किया जा रहा है ?

महोदय, वन्य प्राणियों के इलाज को दृष्टिगत रखते हुए एक निवेदन मैं यह करना चाहता हूँ कि चिड़ियाघरों में, सैंचुरीज में, नेशनल पार्क्स में काम करने वाले जो कर्मचारी हैं, उनकी रुचि इस काम में नहीं रहती है। उनकी रुचि बढ़े, इसके लिए क्या उन्हें विशेष वेतन देने का प्रावधान किया जाएगा ? कम से कम जो वन विभाग में काम करने वाले अधिकारी हैं, कम से कम 3 वर्ष तक वे वहां काम करें, यह सुनिश्चित किया जाएगा ? इस बारे में क्या सरकार विचार कर रही है ? इस संबंध में क्या आपको कोई सूचना मिली है ?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): Mr. Sengupta; you have already spoken.

SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: When will the Minister take action for releasing 50 acres of land for Nandankanan?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): Thank you, Mr. Minister.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, (Interruptions)...

SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Sir, I have one question. (Interruptions)... It is just a one-line question.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): You decided to concede in favour of your wife.

SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: No, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): You didn't!

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Bihar): Sir, there is no rule like that. She is a widow and there is no husband. (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): I didn't give any ruling.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Everybody has got a right to ask questions.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): I didn't give 'any ruling'. I only asked him, "Have you conceded in favour of your wife?" I never said 'it is a ruling'. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Minister, will you allow him to ask a question?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, Madam Swaraj has already asked. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Sir, he is nobody to allow or disallow a Member. You have to permit me, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): I have already asked him to speak. So, he has to yield now. That is why, I said, "Will you allow him to ask a question?" Mr. Minister, will you please yield for a minute now?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: No problem, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): Okay. Go ahead, Mr. Kaushal.

SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman. We had the Minister's statement that the tiger population in the country was depleting. The hon. Minister disputes that. Now, I have a copy of the answer given to Mr. K.K. Birla, in reply to his Unstarred Question No.657, wherein the Minister conceded that the total population of tigers in the year 1997 was 3435. I have the copy with me. Sir, I have got a copy of another answer given by the hon. Minister which says that the population of tigers in 1993 was 3750. I believe 3750 tigers in 1993 as compared to 3435 tigers in 1997 means there is depletion of tiger population. How does he reconcile this? Secondly, I have asked about the Prime Minister's visit to America. Is it a fact that the Prime Minister is carrying an elephant and an ass to America as a gesture of goodwill?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, Sushmaji wanted to know whether this Government would come forward to set up a zoo cadre. She has made this suggestion. Sir, the Government is contemplating downsizing the Government. As it is, there is no such move. I am sorry I cannot help her. Shri Ramdes Agarwal wanted to know whether such disease could be known in advance. It is also a suggestion. I will instruct my officers to find out a mechanism. Shri Nirupam raised a point about Kanthambore. We will definitely look into it. Shri Swaraj Kaushal said that there is depletion. There is no depletion. There is no need for any panic. So far as birth rate

is concerned, it is 19 per cent; whereas as the death rate is only 12 per cent. There is no need for any worry. *(Interruptions)*.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): This subject is over. We will now take up the Short-Duration Discussion.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI (Maharashtra): Sir, I had sought permission to make a statement. Am I not entitled to this courtesy that I should be told whether I have been granted permission or not? I have been waiting since morning. It is a small, short, four-page, innocuous statement. Does it take so much time for somebody to decide whether or not it should be allowed to be made? It is my inalienable right to make a defence against certain accusations that have been made against me. I am sorry that this elementary right and elementary rule of fairness both are being violated. I only wish to record my very respectful protest. At least, tell me about that so that I can go and do something better.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): Mr. Jethmalani, the point is your name is not there in the list. It is not on the Agenda. I have not been advised by the Chairman on this issue. Unless I hear something from the Chairman, because he approves the Agenda, I cannot make any commitment.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: I want the House to know that I am anxious to make a statement. I had made this request in the morning. I have also indicated my personal problem that I am not here from tomorrow. After this, at least, my colleagues who are in the House will not blame me that I did not try to make a statement. People are being compelled to resort to extra Parliamentary methods. That is all I can say.

### SHORT-DURATION DISCUSSION - DISINVESTMENT POLICY OF GOVERNMENT - (contd.)

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल (राजस्थान) : धन्यवाद उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय। मुझे आशा है कि यह डिस-इंवेस्टमेंट के बारे में शॉर्ट ड्यूरेशन डिस्कशन आज पूरा हो जाएगा। क्योंकि जब डिस-इंवेस्टमेंट की बात आती है तो मैंने उस दिन भी कहा था कि डिस-इंवेस्टमेंट की व्यवस्था होते-होते तक कई सरकारें बदल जाती हैं और अभी-अभी कुछ दिन पहले एक अरुण जी के पास से दूसरे अरुण जी के पास डिस-इंवेस्टमेंट का विषय चला गया। मैं समझता हूँ कि अभी अगर श्री जेठमलानी जी यील्ड नहीं करते तो शायद आज भी डिस-इंवेस्टमेंट का मामला आगे टल जाता। उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, 1991 से डिस-इंवेस्टमेंट की हम चर्चा कर रहे हैं और उस समय जब निर्णय लिए गए और आज वर्ष 2000 में हम बैठे हैं।