

development (iii) Biotechnology (iv) Applied research and (v) Extension. The duration of the Project will be five years and the estimated cost is about Rs. 900 crores.

(c) and (d) The Project has been posed to the World Bank, which is currently evaluating the same.

Automobiles pollution in Delhi

2860. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether maximum air pollution is due to automobile emissions in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether there is any plan for limiting the number of cars per family in the city;

(c) whether there is any proposal for restricting the use of generators in residential localities; and

(d) whether there is any incentive for those pooling their cars for transporting in the city?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) No, Sir.

Death of Royal Bengal Tigers in Tripura

2861. SHRI JAYANTA BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 526, given in the Rajya Sabha on 24th November, 2000 and state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some Royal Bengal Tigers and other animals have died in the Sepahijala Sanctuary in Tripura; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to prevent such deaths in future?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) State Government has reported the death of

year old Tiger and 18 year old Leopard in Sepahijala Zoo, which is located within the Sepahijala Sanctuary. No wild Tigers are found in this sanctuary.

(b) The action taken by the Government to safeguard against death in zoos are as follows;

—Government of India has established Central Zoo Authority under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 with the objective of enforcing standards for housing, upkeep and health care of zoo animals. Central Zoo Rules have also been incorporated under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 providing standards and norms for the upkeep, housing and health care of animals in the zoos.

—A three pronged strategy has been devised for improvement of zoos in the country—

- (a) To stop establishment of sub-standard zoos in future.
- (b) To close the zoos where the possibility of bringing the status of management of zoo animals to the prescribed standards does not exist.
- (c) To provide technical and financial assistance to the zoos which have potential to improve and come upto the prescribed standards.

Since its inception the Central Zoo Authority has provided financial assistance of Rs. 27.48 crores to various zoos for the improvement of animal housing, upkeep, health care facility, veterinary care and rescue centres.

- Central Zoo Authority has organised regular courses with Wildlife Institute of India, Dehra Dun for capacity building and grading the skills of zoo managers, zoo supervisors and zoo veterinarians. They have also been sent to small courses to Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, U.K. for exposure to zoo management in the developed countries.
- Since the inception of Central Zoo Authority, 23 mobile zoos have been closed.
- All the zoos having lions and tigers in their collection have been asked to carry out screening of these animals for blood borne diseases and to take preventive and prophylactic action and to avoid overcrowding-transfer animals to other zoos.
- Zoo authorities have been directed to beef up the security.