

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1135

ANSWERED ON:30.07.2001

DIPLOMATIC GIFTS OF PRECIOUS AND ENDANGERED WILDLIFE .

DINESH CHANDRA YADAV;RAM JEEVAN SINGH

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether giving of diplomatic gifts of precious and endangered wildlife to other countries has been on the rise.
- (b) if so, the number of such gifts given to other countries and also received from them during the last three years indicating the names of protected/endangered animals and countries ;
- (c) the rationale behind such a policy/practice; and
- (d) the steps proposed to remedy the situation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) to (d) India has from time to time been giving diplomatic gifts to wild animals to foreign countries as goodwill gesture. The main purpose of such gifts is bringing education and awareness about the wild animals of India among the people of recipient country. International Union for Conservation of Nature also recognizes the inevitability of such gifts and has issued detailed guidelines on the subject, which are strictly adhered to. Gifting wild animals does not affect the conservation of the species as no animal is captured from the wild for the purpose of diplomatic gift. Even rescued animals from wild, received in zoos are treated as invaluable genetic resources and not allowed for export/gift. Captive animals of rare category are also not given as diplomatic gift. The details of wild animals given and received as diplomatic gift by Government of India during last 3 years are as below: -

Sl.	No.	Year of approval	Name of the Dignitary who presented Diplomatic Gift	Name of the Donor Zoo (Male:Female)	Name of the Animal Given	Recipient Country
1	2	3	4	5	6	

1.	1998-1999	President of India	Nandankanan Elephant	(0:1)	Lzmir Zoo, Turkey	Zoo, Bhubaneswar, Orissa
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2	1999-2000	Defense Minister, Govt. of India	National Zoological Park Assam State	Elephant	(0:1)	Uneo Zoo, Japan
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		Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India	Zoo, Guwahati	Peafowls	(2:2)	National Zoo, Dhaka
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3.	2000-2001	Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India	M.C. Zoological Park, Chhatbir, Punjab	Bengal Tiger	(1:1)	Tripoli Zoo, Libya
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Sl.	No.	Year of approval	Name of the foreign Animals given	Name of Indian Zoo	Name of Foreign Dignitary	Name of the Recipient
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1. 1998-1999 President of Zimbabwe African Elephant (1:1) Delhi Zoo