

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3631
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2006
ESCAPE OF DEERS
Nikhil Kumar Shri ;Singh Shri Mohan

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

- (a) whether five sambar deers escaped from their enclosure in Delhi zoo as reported in 'The Times of India' dated November 16, 2006;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the zoo authorities are not properly handling the zoo inmates;
- (d) if so, the number of animals that died in Delhi zoo during the last three years due to negligence of zoo authorities; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to fix responsibility on zoo officials in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS b(SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Presently the renovation work of animal enclosures is going on in the zoo. The common fencing of Sambars and Bentang enclosures was also under repair. Due to negligence of contractor, the fencing was not properly fixed, as a result of which the Sambar came out of their enclosure via Bentang enclosure in the night of 11th / 12th November 2006. However, when the animals were noticed outside in the morning of 12th November, 2006, all the Sambars were taken back into their enclosure.

(c) There is no mishandling of zoo animals by the zoo staff but certain isolated cases cannot be ruled out.

(d) & (e) In the last 3 years, only one incident of death of 2 Jaguar Cubs due to negligence of zoo staff has occurred on 31.03.2006. In this case, the concerned Assistant Keeper was placed under suspension and disciplinary proceedings against him have been initiated. As a follow up action and to update the zoo keepers of the best practices on animal up-keep a workshop-cum-seminar was conducted in the zoo premise.