

## **CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ORDERS PROHIBITING SALE OF ANIMALS BY ZOO**

No. 3-52/87-WL-I  
Government of India  
Department of Environment & Forests and Wildlife  
(Wildlife I Section)  
Paryavaran Bhavan, Phase II, C.G.O. Complex,  
Lodhi Road, New Delhi

The 28th October, 1987

To

**The Forest Secretaries/ Chief Wildlife  
Wardens of all states/ UTs.**

**Subject:** Requests for sale of animals to circuses-instructions regarding.

Sir,

Instances have come when the state Governments and Directors of Zoos have requested to allow them to sell their excess animals to circus parties on the plea that they are having excess of animals like lions, leopards and tigers etc. and due to limited accommodation, there excess animals are maintained in small cells. Moreover, feeding expenditure on these animals is also stated to be a problem. The matter was discussed in the meeting of the Expert Committee of Indian Board for Wildlife on zoos held on 15.1.1986. After careful consideration, it has been decided not to allow the sale of excess animals of Indian Zoos to Circuses. However, such zoos may exchange their excess animals with other Indian zoos authorized by Government of India or State Government/ Municipal Corporation. It would also be appropriate to curtail or stop breeding alongwith those animals which are getting surplus.

It is requested that above instructions may kindly be complied with.

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No. 3352/87-WL-I  
Government of India  
Department of Environment & Forests and Wildlife  
(Wildlife I Section)  
Paryavaran Bhavan, Phase II, C.G.O. Complex,  
Lodhi Road, New Delhi

Dated 14th November, 1990

To

The Chief Wildlife Wardens of all the States.

Sir,

We have received reports about some zoos entering into commercial transactions with private circuses for disposal of the zoos animals. Instructions have already been issued vide this Ministry's letter No. 3-55/87-WL-I, dated 28.10.87 that the zoos should not enter into any transactions of animals with the circuses/ private individuals. The surplus animals should invariably be disposed of through exchange programmes between different zoos. Population control measures should also be adopted in respect of the species which are breeding excessively.

2. It may be brought to the notice of the zoos that under section 49B of the Act there is a total ban on any commercial dealings of scheduled animals and any zoo carrying out commercial transaction in violation of scheduled animals would be liable for prosecution under the Act. Similarly, in respect of other animals also any dealings of wild animals can be done only under licence under section 44 of the Act. Therefore, the zoos are not entitled to carry out any trade in respect of any wildlife species. The violators of the provision of the Act would be liable for punishment under the Act. You may further ensure that while suitable action is taken against the defaulting zoos no legal certificate of ownership should be issued in favour of any circus or private individuals for the animals acquired from the zoos.

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