To

The Chief Secretary of all States and Administration of Union Territories,

Sub: Restrictions imposed for control/containment of COVID-19: Upkeep of captive animals in Zoos - regarding

Sir,

The Central Zoo Authority is a statutory body of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, to perform functions assigned under Section 38-C of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

2. In the wake of measures taken for control and containment of Coronavirus COVID-19, this office vide Circular F.No.25-1/2002-CZA(Vol.II)(AK)/2469/2020 dated 23.03.2020, requested the Chief Wildlife Warden of States and UTs and officer in-charge of all zoos, to ensure supply of drinking water, food and requisite healthcare to all captive animals housed in zoos. Copy of the same is enclosed herewith for your perusal.

3. It is learnt that certain zoos are facing severe hardship in getting supply of food, drinking water, upkeep and healthcare of wild animals in captivity due to restrictions imposed for control and containment of COVID-19 under Section-144 & Curfew.

4. In view of the above, respective State Government and Administration of the Union Territory is requested to specify the activities of food & drinking water supply, upkeep and healthcare of captive animals housed in zoos under the “essential services” and exempt them from the restrictions under extant legal provisions.

Yours sincerely

Encl. As above

(Dr. S P Yadav)
Member Secretary

Copy to:

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister (EF&CC), Government of India
2. PS to Hon'ble Minister of State (EF&CC), Government of India
3. PPS to the Director General of Forests and Special Secretary
4. The Chief Wildlife Warden of all States / UTs