GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1972
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2024

App for DNA profiling of elephants

1972.   SMT. GEETA ALIAS CHANDRAPRABHA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a)   whether any information App has been developed by Government for DNA profiling of elephants;
(b)   if so, the features of this App; and
(c)   whether this App will help in preventing illegal smuggling of body parts of elephants, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a)to(c)   The Ministry in collaboration with Wildlife Institute of India, has developed an App namely 'Gajah Suchana' for collection of biological samples from captive elephants across India for DNA profiling. Gajah Suchana is an Android operating system-based App, which can only be accessed by specific password (provided to the respective State Forest Departments). The App records following information for individual captive elephants:

- Elephant details (Name, Area, Type of facility, Microchip ID, gender, Age, Origin etc.)
- Owner details (Name, Address, Certificate etc for privately owned elephants)
- Elephant body measurements and photographs
- Details of the veterinary officer and Forest Department officials

The information are combined with the genetic data generated for each individual to develop a comprehensive database for captive elephants of India. In addition, same data from all elephants that are being transferred (intra as well as inter-state transfers) are also being collected. Any illegal smuggling of body parts from these elephants can be tracked (through genetic data from seized materials), that will strengthen prosecution procedures and act as deterrent towards such illegal activities.

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