

No. 27401/G2/07/RD

Revenue (G) Department

Dated: 6.6.2007

CIRCULAR

Sub: Prevention of cruelty to elephants in captivity -instructions issued

**Ref: D.O. letter No. 34/PA/Secy/Forest/ 07 dated. 10.4.2007 from the Secretary
to Government , Forest Department**

It has been brought to the notice of Government that elephants in captivity are extensively ill-treated and tortured, resulting in their running amok in public places causing loss to life and property. Action has already been taken for by the Forest Department in the matter, vide reference cited.

The following instructions are to be followed strictly while exposing an elephant to festivals or as part of any celebration or any public or private function

1. An elephant in musth shall not be used for festivals or functions.
 - 1.1 An elephant found sick, injured, unduly stressed or pregnant shall not be used on such occasions
 - 1.2 The owner of the elephant shall ensure that in case of musth arrangement is in place to properly secure the elephant so that the animal does not become a hazard to public at large.
 - 1.3 Using heavy chains and hobbles with spikes or sharp edges or barbed wires for tying elephants should be avoided.
 - 1.4 Marching an elephant over tarred roads or otherwise during the hottest period of the day for a long duration at a stretch without rest should be avoided
 - 1.5 Making an elephant to stand in scorching sun for long durations or to put the ceremonial gear or decorations for unreasonably long duration or to burst crackers to the elephant for ceremonial purpose is not permitted.
 - 1.6 Sedatives, if necessary, shall be used to control nervous or temperamental elephants only as prescribed by a Veterinary Doctor.
 - 1.7. If an elephant is affected by an epidemic disease, the same should be informed to the Chief Wildlife Warden
 - 1.8 Keeping an elephant chained or tethered for an unreasonably long time on a short or unreasonably heavy chain or cord shall not be permitted.
 - 1.9 Abandoning an elephant in circumstances, which will render it to suffer pain by reason of starvation or thirst, shall not be permitted.
 - 1.10. A chain hung around the neck of the elephant shall display a board mentioning the name of the elephant and the owner.
 - 1.11. Movement register, disease and vaccine register, food register and work register must be kept by mahouts and carried along with the elephant wherever they go.

2. The festival Committee or persons(s) organizing such a function shall obtain a Certificate from a Veterinary Doctor to the effect that the elephant is fit to be exposed in a festival. The certificate should be produced before any responsible officer on demand.
 - 2.1 The Committee or Person(s) in charge shall give the details of the elephants to be taken out for solemn procession at least 72 hours in advance to the Officers of Police, Forest & Revenue Departments having local jurisdiction
 - 2.2. The Committee shall ensure that there is sufficient food and water given to the elephants which are to participate in festivals/functions.
 - 2.3 During the time of procession, the elephants shall have chains, (idachangala and malachangala) tied to the leg
 - 2.4 During the time of celebrations, the first mahout should be in front of the elephants
3. The mahouts should not be intoxicated at the time of work. Action should be taken against mahouts who drink while at work
 - 3.1 At the time of the solemn procession, the elephants(s) should not be beaten or whipped to raise its head for a majestic look
 - 3.2 The Committee should not serve alcohol to the mahouts
 - 3.3 A mahout who gets drunk often should not be engaged for managing elephants
 - 3.4 The mahouts should not use iron clipped cane
 - 3.5 The mahouts should be free of any contagious disease
4. The elephants should be carried in lorries when the distance of transport is more than 50 kms. The Certificate of Chief Wildlife Warden should be obtained for carrying elephant on lorries
 - 4.1 While transporting elephants, care shall be taken to maintain moderate speed avoiding jerks and reducing effects of shocks and jolts to the minimum
 - 4.2. The vehicle carrying elephants should have at least 2 attendant mahouts
 - 4.3 Transporting of elephants in trucks for over 12 hours at stretch must not be followed
 - 4.4 A valid health certificate from a Veterinary Doctor to the effect that the elephants is fit to travel by road or rail as the case may be, and is not showing any sign of infectious or contagious disease shall be obtained
 - 4.5 The elephant shall be properly fed and given water before loading
 - 4.6 During night, when the elephants are moved, the reflectors should be attached to its tails and forehead. The mahouts should also wear reflector jackets
5. Cases will be booked against person(s) or Committee which shows cruelty to elephants

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