

Animal Welfare Board of India

(Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India)

13/1, Third Seaward Road, Valmiki Nagar, Thiruvananthapuram,

Chennai - 600 041 PostBoxNo.8672 Email: awbi@md3.vsnl.net.in,

animalwelfareboard@gmail.com website:www.awbi.org,

Phone:044-24571025, 24571024, Fax: 044-24571016.

M. RAVIKUMAR, I.F.S

Secretary

No.9-1/2016-17/PCA

Dated 6th September 2016

Shri R.S. Negi,
Under Secretary (AW)
Animal Welfare Division,
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
5th Floor, Vayu Wing, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jorbagh Road, New Delhi 110 003

Sir,

I am directed to issue this advisory of the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), a statutory body established under The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960. As you know, two extremely important functions of the AWBI, working under the aegis of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and as per Section 9 of the PCA Act, 1960, are the following:

1. "to keep the law in force in, India for the prevention of cruelty to animals under constant study and advise the Government on the amendments to be undertaken in any such law from time to time"
2. "to advise the Central Government on the making of rules under this Act with a view to preventing unnecessary pain or suffering to animals generally, and more particularly when they are being transported from one place to another or when they are used as performing animals or when they are kept in captivity or confinement"

This advisory describes the tremendous cruelty endured by captive elephants in India when they are used for performances, which involves training and exhibiting them as well as forcing them to perform tricks which are unnatural to them as proved by various AWBI-authorized inspection reports on elephants in circuses, used for temple festivals/events and for joy rides. Because of these circumstances, during the 43rd general meeting of the AWBI, held in Chennai on 23 July 2016, after approving the attached extensive document titled "Study Report on Why the Use of Elephants in Circuses and Other Performances Should Be Banned," the Board resolved to send an advisory to the Ministry for issuing a Notification to ban the training, exhibition and use of elephants for performances in India as per the provisions of Section 22 (ii) of the PCA Act, 1960. The minutes of the Board meeting and the study report is enclosed for your perusal.

It is evident from the enclosed report that in order to protect our national heritage animal, elephants should be added to the list of wild animals banned from being used in performances in India. This move is both informed and scientific and is in the best interests of this species and the human.

On behalf of the AWBI, the prescribed authority under the Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001, I hereby advise the MoEFCC to issue a central notification conferring exercise of powers to it according to Section 22 (ii) of the PCA Act, 1960, to ban the training, exhibition and use of elephants for performances in India.

Yours faithfully,

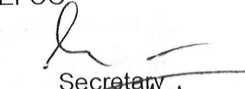
(M. Ravikumar)

Secretary

Encl. as above.

Copy to:

1. Shri Dr Sharad Singh Negi, Director General of Forest & Special Secretary, MoEFCC
2. Shri B S Bonal, Additional Director General (Wildlife), MoEFCC
3. Shri Dr S K Khanduri, Inspector General of Forests, MoEFCC
4. Shri RK Srivastava, Inspector General of Forests and Director, Project Elephant Division, MoEFCC
5. Shri Anil Sant, Joint Secretary, MoEFCC
6. Dr DN Singh, Member Secretary, Central Zoo Authority, MoEFCC
7. Shri S Gowri Shankar, Deputy Secretary, Animal Welfare Division, MoEFCC
8. Chairman and Vice-Chairman, AWBI


Secretary
06/09/20