

Shri Giriraj Singh
Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
Krishi Bhavan
New Delhi 110 001

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

23 January 2020

Dear Honourable Minister,

I am writing from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India, on behalf of our more than 1.5 million members and supporters, to request that elephants be added to the list of wild animals banned from being exhibited or trained for performances in India.

PETA India
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In 2008, based on the recommendations of the Wildlife Institute of India and the National Zoological Park, New Delhi, the Ministry of Defence decided to prohibit the use of elephants on 26 January during Republic Day parades (**Annexure 1**). The ministry concluded that there are safety concerns with respect to their use because of the risk of rampage – and that ambiguity exists regarding illegal ownership. Consequently, since 2009, the central government has instead used decorated military jeeps to carry children who have won a National Bravery Award in the parades. These concerns regarding their use for performances in public places are also highly relevant to their use in circuses, for festivals and events, and for "joy rides".

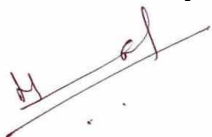
Through an advisory issued in 2016, the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) – the prescribed authority under the Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001 – recommended that the central government issue a notification in the official gazette conferring exercise of its powers under Section 22(ii) of The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960, to ban the exhibition or training of an elephant as a performing animal (**Annexure 2**). The study report (**Annexure 3**) that the AWBI submitted in support of the advisory describes the suffering endured by captive elephants in India when they are exhibited, trained, or used for performances, as proved by the reports of various AWBI and Central Zoo Authority inspections of conditions for elephants used in circuses, for temple festivals or events, and for joy rides.

In 2010, the central government declared elephants a National Heritage Animal in order to strengthen measures to protect them (**Annexure 4**). In 1998, it issued a notification that bears, monkeys, tigers, panthers, and lions must not be exhibited or trained as performing animals (**Annexure 5**). However, elephants, although protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, are excluded from this ban and continue to be abused for human entertainment.

We request that the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying immediately issue a central notification conferring exercise of its powers under Section 22(ii) of the PCA Act, 1960, to ban the exhibition and training of elephants as performing animals in India.

I can be reached at ManilalV@petaindia.org or on +91 9910817382. I hope to hear from you soon. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Manilal Valliyate, CEO
PETA India

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CIN: U74899DL2000NPL103217

cc: Shri Atul Chaturvedi, Secretary, Ministry of Animal Husbandry, and Dairying

Dr OP Chaudhary, Chair, AWBI, Joint Secretary (NLM), Ministry of Animal Husbandry, and Dairying

Dr. Sujit K. Dutta, Dy. Commissioner (NLM), Ministry of Animal Husbandry, and Dairying

Dr Neelam Bala, Secretary, AWBI, National Institute of Animal Welfare Campus

Dr SP Yadav, Member Secretary, Central Zoo Authority

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