



It is submitted that the functions of the Central Zoo Authority are specified in Section 38C of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (Act). The CZA is a statutory authority constituted to regulate and monitor functioning of zoos in the country that are recognized under Section 38H (1) of the Act, as per the standards and norms specified in the Recognition of Zoo Rules, 2009 (Rules).

4. I state that the "Zoo" is defined under Section 2(39) of the Act, which reads as, "*zoo means an establishment, whether stationary or mobile, where captive animals are kept for exhibition to the public [and includes a circus and rescue centres but does not include an establishment] of a licensed dealer in captive animals*".

5. I state that the Government of India, keeping in mind the interests and welfare of the animals in captivity, had enacted the Recognition of Zoo Rules, 2009. In the Schedule under Rule 10 of the Rules, standard and norms are prescribed for the better management, housing, upkeep and healthcare of the animals kept in captivity. Relevant provisions of the Schedule are extracted below for

reference:

Para 1(2) of the Schedule under Rule 10 of the Recognition of Zoo Rules, 2009 reads as below:

*"Every zoo shall, through proper landscaping and planting of appropriate species, provide a naturalistic environment within the zoo*



*Prof. N.*

*to enable the visitors to have communion with nature and get motivated for living in harmony with nature.”*

Further, Para 3(4) of the Schedule under Rule 10 of the Recognition of Zoo Rules, 2009 reads:

*“Atleast 30% of the area earmarked for the zoo shall be kept under green belt and natural vegetation and the area for animal housing shall not exceed 30% area of the zoo.”*

6. I state that as per the Guidelines for Establishment and Scientific Management of Zoos in India (2008), with respect to providing naturalistic environment in the zoo the relevant paragraph of these guidelines reads as,

*“Zoo should endeavour to maintain the basic naturalistic features of the zoo site such as water bodies, natural ridges and vegetation there on intact. Planting of bushes, hedges and trees should also be done wherever vacant space is available and maintain the same to serve as habitat for free ranging species of wild animals and birds.”*

With regard to display of animals in nature immersing enclosures the relevant paragraphs of these guidelines reads as,

*(1) Landscape around every animal exhibit/ enclosure should comprise of plantations of appropriate tree and shrub species of adequate extent and such shape that the enclosure should not be visible to the visitors from any place other than the animal viewing areas.*



*Baral*

- (2) *All the hard exteriors of the enclosure i.e. the enclosure barrier and the frontage of the feeding cells, feeding kraals should be effectively camouflaged through planting of bamboo, dwarf tree species and shrubs.*
- (3) *Planting of appropriate trees and shrubs should be done around the animal viewing areas to break up the visitors into small viewing groups.*
- (4) *Visitors should be made to move through the green landscape around the enclosure for reasonable distances.*
- (5) *Planting, appropriate trees species should be done in the enclosure to ensure that entire animal enclosure is not visible to the visitors from any of the viewing points. The animal should be seen to the visitors in near natural settings."*

1. I state that the Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalūr, Chennai obtained approval of the Master Plan from the Central Zoo Authority, for long-term development of the Zoo for period 2013 to 2023. As per the approved Master Plan of the zoo (Chapter – VI, Page 98 of the Plan) the following excerpt is reproduced below as ready reference,

*"Every effort will be made by the zoo to maintain the forest character of the zoo premises. To achieve this goal the exotic species particularly eucalyptus, Prosopis and non- indigenous flowering plants/trees would be phased out in a phased manner and replaced with species endemic to the region. The trees in animal enclosures will be replaced with the species*



*Rmta*

forming part of the animal habitat. Clearance of extensive areas for creating visitor facilities Large number of small sized lawns shall be preferred than having very large lawns.

2. All the buildings and masonry structures would be painted in light green colour and camouflaged with green vegetation and it will be ensured that the natural ambience of the area is not affected " .

It is therefore humbly prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to record the above-mentioned facts and pass such order (or) any other orders as this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and proper in this case and thus render justice.

*Sury*  
Identify the Deponent who has signed/put T. in my presence

### VERIFICATION

I, *Ravinder Singh Rawat*, s/o *Man Singh*, aged *57*, working as the Finance Officer, Central Zoo Authority, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, with office at B-1 Wing, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Pandit Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110 003 do hereby verify that the above-mentioned contents are true to my personal knowledge and that I have not suppressed any material fact.

Dated at New Delhi on this the *26* day of November, 2021



I solemnly sworn before me read over & explained to the deponent admitted to be correct.  
*[Signature]*  
Oath Commissioner, New Delhi

*[Signature]*

**DEPONENT**

R.S. RAWAT  
Finance Officer  
Central Zoo Authority  
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change  
Govt. of India, New Delhi-110003

*[Signature]*

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26 NOV 2021