

जयराम रमेश
JAIRAM RAMESH



17-3/2009-PE
D.O.No.....MOS(I/C)E&F
राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)
पर्यावरण एवं वन
भारत सरकार
नई दिल्ली-110003
MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW DELHI - 110 003

My dear Dr. Raman Singh:-

25th January 2011

I was shocked to read in the Times of India of January 16th, 2011 that the Chhattisgarh government has decided to drop Lemru from its list of notified elephant reserves and has yet to notify Badalkol Tamorpingla elephant reserve.

Ironically, permission was given by the MoE&F in 2007 for notifying these two elephant reserves based on your request made vide your D.O.No. 878/CMS/2005 dated 28th March 2005. You had also requested for Chhattisgarh to be included in the Project Elephant which has been done. I understand that the state government has been repeatedly assuring MoE&F that the notification is under process but this has not happened.

I would like to add that Lemru and Badalkol Tamorpingla elephant reserves are **already** notified as either reserve or protected forests or as a sanctuary. Thus, statutory clearances from the Central Government under Forest(Conservation) Act, 1980 and or from NBWL under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 would be required for use of these areas for any non-forestry purposes.

Since elephant reserves are notified through only administrative orders of the state government, a declaration of elephant reserve would not result in any **additional** legal restriction or scrutiny on their use for non-forestry purposes. The very idea of declaring elephant reserves is to provide focused attention to and scientific elephant management in the area for the benefit of the local people and the elephants.

I would request you once again to review your decision and notify the two elephant reserves as you had originally wanted. As you know, the elephant is now our national heritage animal.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Jairam Ramesh
(Jairam Ramesh)

Dr. Raman Singh
Chief Minister
Government of Chhattisgarh