



D.NO. 2-5/2006-PE/50

Dear Hoodaji -

I would like to draw your kind attention to the fact that Ministry had sanctioned Rs.90.75 lakhs for creation of an Elephant Rehabilitation Centre in Ban Santoor, Haryana in the year 2006 and first instalment of Rs. 50.00 lakhs was released in the year 2006-07 which was further re-validated in the year 2007-08.

While my Ministry was considering release of further funds, it was reported by Chief Wildlife Warden, Haryana that Forest Department had started construction of eco-tourism huts in the area ear-marked for the Elephant Rehabilitation Centre in violation of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980. My Ministry is of the view that creation of eco-tourism facilities very close to centre is **not** desirable and therefore, the State Government was requested either to remove illegal structure or convert the half constructed eco-huts for operational facilities of the Rehabilitation Centre. However, the Department is keen to retain the eco-huts. The State has been again requested to reconsider the decision. Till now my Ministry has not received any final response from the State Government pending which the further funding for the Centre is **not** possible.

You will be glad to know that this is the **first** Elephant Rehabilitation Centre sanctioned by my Ministry in the country and, therefore, the matter needs to be resolved immediately. I solicit your kind intervention in the matter.

With regards,

Shri Bhupender Singh Hooda,
Chief Minister of Haryana,
Chandigarh

Yours sincerely,

(Jairam Ramesh)