

Aaranyak expresses concern over transportation of elephants in summer heat

Guwahati 22 June: Attention of Aaranyak is being drawn over series of news items in print and electronic media in past few days with regards to transportation of four so call captive elephants from eastern Assam to Ahmedabad when the whole northern and even North East India is witnessing severe heat waves. It is learnt from media reports that necessary needed permission for transport of a Schedule-1 animal is being obtained from competent authority in Assam as per Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972. It is learnt that the four elephants are being sent to Ahmedabad to attend the Jagannath Rath Yatra.

Aaranyak feels that the transportation of four so called captive elephant by train or even by truck in this high temperature climate may prove fatal to the elephants. Elephants are regarded as Lord Ganesha in Indian ethos and as such Aaranyak feels that elephant – although an animal, needs decent treatment from humans and feels that the transportation of four elephants when severe heat wave is hitting India is not conducive to the health and welfare of the elephant which is also India's Heritage Animal. If the elephants are needed just for few days, Aaranyak wonders why the needed elephants are not sources from other states close to Gujarat? That could reduce stress of elephants during transportation. Aaranyak feels that the good sense would prevail upon all the people/agencies associated with the proposed transportation of four elephants from eastern Assam to Ahmedabad by train or truck and would avoid taking these elephants out of Assam keeping in mind the heat wave prevailing in parts of India and the long distance travel which is not advisable in such harsh environmental condition.

For further comments and clarification please contact the following:

Dr.Bibhuti P. Lahkar, Head, Elephant Research and Conservation Division, Aaranyak (+91 9435017687)

Dr.Bibhah Kumar Talukdar, SG & CEO, Aaranyak (+91 9435113139)

[Issued by Udayan Borthakur, Publicity Secretary, Aaranyak]

Communicated by:

Munmita Boruah, Manager, Media Production & Communications Division, Aaranyak
Mobile: 9476692003