

### **6.3 Functioning of Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi**

Central Zoo Authority (CZA) functioned only as a grant releasing agency instead of an agency to ensure conservation of endangered species of animals in zoos. CZA failed to ensure effective protection of animals/breeding programmes in the zoos. It had not fully identified the list of endangered species and undertook conservation breeding programmes for only three of the identified 63 endangered species. There was decrease in the number of endangered animals in the zoos all over the country due to high mortality. There was over-crowding of animals such as tigers, sambar/spotted deer, leopards etc., in a large number of zoos, much beyond the optimal number of animals prescribed under CZA guidelines. CZA was unaware as to whether the zoos were following the norms and regulations introduced by it for upkeep etc., to ensure the proper health of animals in zoos as it did not conduct any regular monitoring of the functioning of zoos. The system of financial management in CZA was also weak with CZA unable to monitor whether the funds released by it were actually being spent by the state zoos for the sanctioned purpose.