

(b) if so, whether there are several hundred research proposals of vital importance which are lying unattended due to financial crisis;

(c) whether the University Grants Commission has been able to fund less than 1/5 of the proposed major research projects in humanities and social science during 1995-96 and whether UGC would give grants to around 8 per cent of the proposed major research projects during the same period;

(d) if so, the projects which could not be provided fund because of shortage; and

(e) whether Government have decided to provide sufficient funds to the UGC so that atleast recommendations of the Expert Committee which had recommended 154 & 232 projects are implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKLA): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by University Grants Commission (UGC), 1182 Major Research proposals were received by the Commission in Sciences, Humanities & Social Sciences, and Engineering & Technology. Out of this, 459 proposals were recommended for financial assistance. The Commission, however, could not provide requisite funds for implementation of 274 proposals in Sciences and Humanities & Social Sciences due to constraint of financial resources.

(c) and (d) The Commission has provided funds for implementation of 80 Major Research Projects out of 154 projects in Humanities and Social Sciences recommended by the Expert Committee.

(e) It has not been possible for UGC to fund the remaining 200 Major Projects in Sciences and 74 in Humanities and Social Sciences mainly due to the resource constraints.

Destruction of Wildlife

2042. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Govt. are aware that illegal trade in wildlife has been flourishing in the absence of sufficient machinery coupled with lack of meaningful follow-up action against offenders?

(b) if so, what action Govt. have taken to save the wildlife?

(c) What is the total number of persons arrested for the wildlife destruction during the last three years, together with the details of machinery and other items recovered from them;

(d) How many of them have been actually convicted in the court so far, and

(e) The number of forest officials involved in these cases and action taken against them?

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) A number of cases relating to illegal trade in wildlife have been detected in recent years, which is the result of increased level of detection due to sensitization and effective coordination, initiated by this Ministry with the other law enforcement agencies. This has also helped to overcome the inadequacy of the machinery available with the state Forest & Wildlife Departments. The State & Union Territories have been advised to ensure effective follow-up of the cases detected.

(b) The major steps taken to protect wildlife are given in the enclosed Statement. (See below)

(c) to (e) Information is being collected from all the states and UTs and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Major steps taken to protect Wildlife include

- (i) Hunting of wild animals included in Schedules I to IV of the wild Life (Protection) act, 1972, has been banned by law.
- (ii) Special measures for protection and conservation of tiger, elephants and rhinos and their habitat are being implemented.
- (iii) A network of 441 wildlife sanctuaries and 80 National Parks covering 1,48,000 sq. km. has been set up for conservation of wild flora and fauna. Financial assistance is provided by the Central Government for development of national parks and sanctuaries on request from the state Governments.
- (iv) Raids are carried out by the wildlife authorities, whenever information of illegal trading in wildlife animals reaches them.
- (v) International Trade in Endangered Species of animals and articles made thereof is regulated under the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- (vi) Regional and sub-regional offices of Wildlife Preservation have been set-up mostly at the main export centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wildlife products.
- (vii) Interdepartmental coordination has been enhanced with other enforcement organisations like Police, BSF, Customs, ITBP, Coast guards etc. Training programmes on wildlife enforcement and implementation were also conducted for all these organisations at New Delhi and Dehradun during, 1995.

Milk Powder and Butter Oil received as Aid

2043. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state:

(a) details of milk-powder and butter oil received as aid and the price thereof in the last year and countries from whom it was received; and

(b) whether Government also arrange to send abroad the above it, if so, the names of the countries alongwith the price at which it was sent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH):

(a) Skim milk powder and butter oil was being received as aid under Operation flood-III project. These commodities were, however, not received during 1995-96.

(b) Country-wise details of Registration-Cum-Allocation Certificates (RACC) for export of Skim milk powder during 1995-96 issued by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is enclosed as statement. (See below).

Butter oil was not exported.