RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 19th July, 1996/28th Asadha, 1918 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*141. [the questioner (Shri Chimanbhai Haribhai Shukla) was absent. For answer vide column. 28 infra.]

Preservation of GIR Lions

*142. SHRI RAJUBAHI A. PARMAR:† SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report captioned, "Sanctuary becomes a trap for the Lion", appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated the 11th June, 1996;
 - (b) if so, what is the latest assessment about e number of wild cats (Gir lions) in the Sasan ir Forest Sanctuary and how it compares with e animal population there in January, 1991; ad
- (c) What are the reasons for the fast dwindling population of wild cats in the Sanctuary and what steps are being taken for better preservation and promotion of wild life in the Sancutary?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) As per latest assessment of 1995 the lion population in Gir sanctuary and national park was 304. The corresponding figure for the previous census done in 1990 was 284.
- (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(c) There is no decline in the population of wild cats in Gir as in evident from the above †The question was actually asked in the house by Shri Rejubbai A. Parmar.

figures. The State Wildlife Authorities are undertaking all necessary protection, conservation and habitat improvement activities for the development of the Gir sanctuary and national park and its wildlife. In addition, this Ministry is also providing financial assistance to the State for the development of Gir and for ecodevelopment in its vicinity. The funds provided so far during the VIII Plan are as follows:

Name of Scheme Rs. in lakhs

(i) Development of national 17.10

parks & sanctuaries

(ii) Ecodevelopment around national park & sanctuary

16.40

कैंग्टन जय नारायण प्रसाद निषाद: सभापित महोदय, "क" का जवाब "ख" में है। ऐसा नहीं है कि सेंक्अिर लॉयन के लिए ट्रेप बन गई है जैसा कि न्यूज रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है। जो घटनाएं हुई हैं उन पर कार्रवाई भी की गई है। वर्ष 1995-96 में कुल तीन घटनाएं हुई गुजरात सरकार के मुताबिक, जिसमें 9 व्यक्तियों को गिरफ्तार किया गया, तीन फॉरेस्ट अफसर को निलम्बित किया गया। यह घटना

मार्च, 95 में दो लॉयनों को सेंक्अरि के बाहर क्षेत्र में लगे वायर हाई वोल्टेज के द्वारा इलैक्ट्रोक्यूट कर दिया गया ...(व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, supplementary question has not been put yet. Mr. parmar, please put your first supplementary.

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Sir. the Asiatic lions which were once distributed and available throughout the country are now restricted to the Gir forests of Gujarat. Though the population of Gir lions has increased from 284 in 1990 to 304 in 1995, that is, an increase of 20, the growth seems to be too small compared to the increase in the preceding five years. Between 1985 and 1990 the population of Gir lions had increased from 239 to 284, that is, an increase of 45. This seems to be against the law of demography. Sir, from recent reports it appears that a number of carcasses and skeletons of lions without nails and paws have been unearthed from the villages near the Gir Forest Sanctuary. These findings represent only a tip of the ice berg. I would like to know how many carcasses/skeletons or skins of lions have been unearthed during the past six years. I would like to know the details of the findings. I would also like to know how many animals are found to have been eliminated as per investigations made during the period. I would like to know whether the Government proposes to impose more deterrent penalties like rigorous imprisonment for long terms to provide an effective deterrent against poaching of the royal beast, preservation of which goes with national honour.

श्री जनार्दन यादव : मंत्री जी तो तैयार होकर आए ही नहीं हैं।...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: A forest of supplementaries!

कैप्टन जय नारायण प्रसाद निषाद : माननीय सभापति महोदय, सवाल फिर से किया जाए।...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your question briefly this time.

श्री राज्भाई ए॰ परमार : सर, हमने बहुत क्लीयर-कट-पूछा है कि कितने शेरों के स्केलेटन और बॉडी पाए गए हैं और इसके बारे में मिनिस्टर के पास क्या जानकारी है और पिछले छह वर्षों में ऐसे कितने शेरों की चमड़ी और उसके कैरकैसेज़ वहां पर बरामद हुए है और उसको बंद करने के लिए गवर्नमेंट क्या उपाय कर रही है?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, the question is regarding skeletons/carcasses found in Gir forests. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: Sir, the Minister should not be hassled too much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thanks you for your consideration.

कैप्टन जय नारायण प्रसाद निषाद : ऐलिफॉट्स लेपर्ड्स के स्किन, हेड आर्टिकल्स 89 इसमें हैं, 94-95 में टाइगर स्किन 23 प्राप्त हुए हैं और 1995-96 में 5, टाइगर नेल्स 290 प्राप्त हुए हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री राजूभाई ए॰ परमार : सर, मेरा क्वेश्चन शेरों के बारे में हैं।....(व्यवधान).....

श्री एस॰ एस॰ अहलुवालिया : चेयरमैन साहब, इनको चताइए कि बाघ में और शेर में फर्क होता है, टाइगर और लॉयन में फर्क होता है।....(व्यवधान).....

CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD: Animal skins seized in Delhi, Rombay, Calcutta and Madras during the last pro years(Interruptions).... Tiger skins with head-44 in 1994-95(Interruptions).... and 35 of 1995-96.

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Sir, no reply has come. (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Parmar, do you want to put your second supplementary?

श्री राजूभाई ए॰ परमार : मैंने गिर फाँरेस्ट के शेरों के बारे में पूछा है मगर टाइगर के बारे में बताया जा रहा है।....(व्यवधान)..... टाइगर और लॉयन में फर्क क्या फर्क नहीं होता?.....(व्यवधान).....

CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD: These figures are maintained by the State Governments.. (Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you find out from the State Governments and inform the hon. Member? (Interruptions)..

CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD: I have already given the information received from the State Governments ...(Interruptions)... It is about the tiger skin .. (Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is asking about lions ...(Interruptions)...

CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD: I do not have any information about the lions ... (Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can give the information later ... (Interruptions)...

श्री त्रिलोकी नाथ चतुर्वेदी: श्रीमन्, पहले भी राज्य सरकार से सवाल का उत्तर मंगाने में काफी पैसा खर्च हुआ है तो क्या वे इसके बारे में उचित इन्फोरमेशन देंगे? इनके मंत्रालय ने पहले ही स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को सही-सही क्यों नहीं लिखा ताकि पूरी इन्फोरमेशन स्टेट गवर्नमेंट दे? मंत्रालय यह जानता है कि किस प्रकार से उत्तर आना चाहिए।

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: These matters are with the Central Government ...(Interruptions)... उन्होंने स्टेट गवर्नमेंट से इन्फोरमेशन ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary.

SHRI RAJUBAHI A. PARMAR: The lion nails are said to be much in demand. A pack of ten nails can fetch Rs. 10,000 in India and several times this amount in foreign countries, especially the Gulf countries. The lion skin fetches anything between Rs. 50,000 and Rs. 1,00,000 in India and quite a few lakhs abroad. May I know whether any well-Knit

5

gang of poachers and smugglers have been found trading in lion skin and parts? If so, the detials thereof and their modus operandi. How many of them have been punished for the offence? Are any special squads being sent to prevent poaching?

CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD: In 1994-95, one lion was poached. In 1995-96, three lions were poached. The lions are killed by the people only to save their cattle. (Interruptions)...

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: There is an orientation course for Members of Parliament in the Parliament House Annexe. I feel that there should be an orientation course for Ministers also so that they know how to answer questions ...(Interruptions)...

श्री राजभाई ए॰ परमार : जब तक आपके पास इन्फोरमेशन नहीं आती ... (व्यवधान) ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is new Minister. Please bear with him ...(Interruptions)...

श्री सुशील कुमार संभाजीराव शिन्दे : चेयरमैन साहब, माननीय मंत्री जी कहते हैं कि लॉयन्स की आबादी में कोई कमी नहीं है। लेकिन यह बात सही है कि गीर फारेस्ट में वहां श्वनी के जरिए लॉयन्स को, शेरों को पॉइजनिंग किया जह रहा है। यह बात सही है कि हाउस में यह बात उठी है कि झाँयन्स की संख्या कम होती जा रही है। इस वजह से भारत सरकार ने 1970 में एक टाइगर प्रोजेस्क्ट अपने अण्डर ले लिया था। उसमें यह प्रपोज किया था कि उसकी प्रोटेक्शन हो जाये। वैसे ही गिर लायन्स हमारे लिए एक प्रेस्ट्रेजस प्रोजेस्ट है, देश के लिए बहुत बड़ा प्रोजेक्ट है। आप शायद टाइगर के बारे में ज्यादा जानते होंगे। लेंक्झे अभी लाइन्स, गीर फारेस्ट जो प्रसिद्ध है वह केवल लाइन्स के लिए है। शेरों के लिए प्रसिद्ध है तो जैसे टाइगर प्रोजेक्ट 1997 हो गया क्या वैसे ही भारत सरकार लाइन्स-को बचाने के लिए, उनको प्वाइजन से बचाने के लिए, जो उनको मारकर उनके नाखुनों को बेचते हैं, इसको रोकने के लिए और उनकी संख्या में बढोत्तरी करने के लिए कोई नेशनल पालिसी बनाना चाहती है? यह बहुत सादी बात में पूछ रहा हूं और चाहता हूं कि मंत्री जी इसका अच्छा जवाब दें।

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a good question.

कैप्टन जय नारायण प्रसाद निषाद : यह क्वेश्चन बहत ही अच्छा है और हम लोग उसके बारे में सोच रहे हैं और पालिसी बना रहे है।

SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Sir. the Minister has mentioned about the number of lions. What I would want to know, how much money was spent for the maintenance of these lions in the last year so that we can assess whether the lions are living above the poverty line or they are living below the poverty line.

केप्टन जय नारायण प्रसाद निषाद : सर, उनके लिए 1993-94 में 36 लाख रुपया. 1994-95 में 29.50 लाख रुपया और 1996-97 में 27.59 लाख रुपया दिया गया 1 र्ह

SHRI M.A. BABY: Is there any insinuation? During this period it was Mr. Simha who was the Prime Minister. You know what 'Shinha' means!

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think that we should pass on to the next question. Question No. 143.

Hubli-Ankola Railway Project

- *143 SHRI H HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Hubli-Ankola Railway Project was conceived and included in the Railway Budget earlier; and
 - (b) if so, what is its present status?

रेल मंत्री (श्री राम विलास पासवान): (क) जी नहीं।

(ख) 1992 में किए गए सर्वेक्षण को 1995 में अपडेट किया गया है और उसे योजना आयोग के विचारार्थ भेजा गया है उनका मुल्यांकन प्राप्त हो जाने पर, इस कार्य को रेल बजट में शामिल करने से पहले अन्य अपेक्षित स्वीकृतियां प्राप्त करने के संबंध में आगे कार्रवाई ही जाएगी।

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Sir. I do not know why the Railway Minister fights shy of this question. The question is about conception and delivery. Even though in the second part of the question, he replies that it was conceived, yet in the first part, he has said, 'No'. This is a project which was conceived 120 years back. It was first surveyed in 1876 and it was a viable project..... (Interrruptions)

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: There has been miscarriage.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: He has to say whether there was an abortion or a miscarriage. Sir, it was a viable unit in 1876. It was sidelined because of Goa overlooking it. So, for the last 120 years, the State of