

Bonfire of furs, skins and stuffed animals in the capital

1215. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wild life articles including costly furs, skins and stuffed animals were burnt in a bonfire in the capital on 18th April this year to create awareness about preservation of wild life;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the bonfire was lit by a Central Minister;

(c) if so, the details of the articles burnt in the bonfire and the source of their collection for the specific purpose;

(d) whether any arrest was also made for being in possession of these wildlife articles;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(f) whether Government propose to burn all such wildlife articles in future also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Number of skins and articles were seized by the Chief Wild life Warden, Delhi, over the years from the violaters of provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Skins and animal articles relating to 480 cases which had already been decided by the Court of Law and were lying in the stock of the Chief Wildlife Warden, Delhi, were burnt in public. The articles and skins burnt were mainly derived from the following species:

tiger, panther, clouded leopard, snow leopard, lynx, leopard cat; golden cat; marbled cat, caracel, fishing cat, desert cat, jungle cat;

desert fox, red fox, Tibetan fox; common fox, Indian wolf, Jackal; civet, otter, hog-badger, chinkara, black buck; monitor lizard; phython and other protected species of snakes.

(d) and (e) In the cases referred above, 96 arrests had been made by Delhi Administration.

(f) Most of the skins and articles came under the category of scheduled articles under Section 49A of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Commercial dealing in these articles is strictly prohibited. There is always a chance of contraband items finding way to illegal trade. Government of India has, therefore, requested the State Governments to consider burning and destroying of such articles.

Afforestation in the Indravati Project in Orissa

1216. SHRI BASANT KUMAR DAS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer the answer to Starred Question 7 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th August, 1990 and state:

(a) whether the afforestation process has commenced in the Upper Indravati Project in Orissa as scheduled; and

(b) if so, what is the extent of plantation done there are a-wise and district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):

(a) and (b) A sum of around Rs. 43 lakhs has been allocated for compensatory afforestation in Kalahandi and Koraput Districts. An area of 406 ha. has so far been identified in Koraput District for undertaking afforestation. The State Government is formulating a detailed compensatory afforestation scheme.