

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will now put the main motion to vote: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the protection and improvement of environment and for matters connected therewith, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up the clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 26 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula, the Preamble and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE: SUPPLEMENTARY BUSINESS

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to inform hon. Members Shri V. N. Gadgil, Minister of Information and Broadcasting, will make a statement today on the recommendations made by the Second Press Commission. Thereafter, Shri M. Aruna-chalam, Minister of State in the Department of Industrial Development will make a statement on the decision of a U.S. court on form-non-conveniens—Bhopal gas disaster.

The statements will be made at the end of the Business, entered in today's agenda.

I have also to inform the Members that before we take up the next item on the agenda, a newly nomi-

nated Member of the Rajya Sabha will be taking oath.

MEMBER SWORN

Shrimati Amrita Pritam (Nominated).

THE WILD LIFE (PROTECTION) AMENDMENT BILL, 1986

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The wild Life (Protection) Act, enacted in 1972, provides uniform legislation for wildlife conservation efforts throughout the country, with the exception of Jammu and Kashmir which has its own act enacted in 1978.

Since 1972, with the changing times, the Wild Life (Protection) Act has been found wanting to deal with various aspects of wildlife conservation. While comprehensive proposals for amendment of the Act are being finalised, the aspect of trade or commerce relating to endangered species of wild animals is causing serious concern and needs urgent attention.

Next to habitat destruction, the major cause of wild life depletion has been its commercial exploitation. This is true of India as it is elsewhere. The most serious offences today under the Wild Life (Protection) Act are those which pertain to poaching for purposes of sale, or trade offences. A ban on the trade and taxidermy of animals and articles therefrom, which are endanger-