

been taken to punish the guilty persons responsible for this poaching?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The Government of Assam have reported that during the current year, till the end of October, 32 Rhinos have been killed in the Kaziranga National Park.

(b) The Central Government has been emphasising to the State Government the need for utmost vigilance in the matter. In addition, the Central Government had deputed a team of experts to study the problem and recommend measures for control of rhino poaching. The report of the expert team with the recommendations was sent to the State Government and financial assistance has also been provided to implement some of the recommended measures. It has been reported by the State Government that based on these recommendations, anti-poaching camps have been set up and patrolling has been intensified in the national park. Steps for control of grazing and fishing inside the national park are also being taken. Cases of poaching detected by the State machinery are reported to have been prosecuted in the Courts or are under investigation.

Planning Commission's Directive to State Electricity Boards for enhancing Electricity rates

1942. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:

SHRI RAMESHWAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any directive has been issued by the Planning Commission to the State Electricity Boards for increasing the electricity rates;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

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(c) what is the comparative ratio between increased electricity rates during the last three years; and

(d) whether the Planning Commission has also issued any directive for improving the electricity production, its distribution system and other defects if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The increase in the average rate per unit of energy sold differs from one Board to the other and this increase has ranged from about 24 percent to 70 per cent depending upon the rise in the material cost and the losses incurred by State Electricity Boards) over the last three years.

(d) As a follow up of the decision taken at the meeting of the National Development Council held on 14th March, 1982, the Ministry of Energy requested all the States to set up high level committees in each State to review the working of the State Electricity Boards and to take effective measures for their improvement.

Safety and Economy Factor in Having Fast Breeder Reactors

1943. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the criticism that the fast breeder reactors are unsafe and if made safe they would be uneconomical;

(b) whether Government have taken care of the safety and economy factor before committing to the nuclear fast breeder projects for the production of electrical energy; and

(c) what are the specific steps Government are taking to ensure safety and economy in the matter?