

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) The Central Government does not propose areas or States for setting up sugar mills. The applications forwarded by parties through the State Governments with the latter's recommendations are considered subject to favourable agro-climatic conditions and techno-economic feasibility.

(b) Two applications have been received from the Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Orissa Ltd., Bhubaneshwar for grant of industrial licences for establishment of 1250 tonnes daily cane crushing capacity sugar factories to be located at the following two places in Orissa:—

(i) Banki, District Cuttack.

(ii) Nayagarh, District Puri.

(c) The applications are in the final stages of consideration.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Sir, the sugar industry, which is one of the agro-based processing industry, requires certain incentives. If it is done in a cooperative sector, the NCDC and other institutions should also help. But there is no provision for soft loans by the NCDC and other institutions. Will the Government recommend that for such agro-based industries there must be provision for soft loan and other facilities for the sugar industry to be set up in future?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: The financial institutions of the Government of India are giving a lot of help to the sugar industry for setting up new mills. The loans are obtainable from Industrial Development Corporations, financial corporations and also from the NCDC for the cooperative sector. But the proposal regarding the conditions to be made more

favourable for soft loans would require lowering the rate of interest and the period of recovery. That is a suggestion which we shall consider.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Sir, I would like to know when these two petitions from the Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Orissa Ltd., were forwarded by the Orissa State Government for giving licences by the Government of India, and whether it is expected that within a short time the decision will be taken finally so that the industries can be set up.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: They were recently screened by the Screening Committee, Sir, and I hope that decision will soon be taken.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nobody else seems to be interested in this question. Next question No. 244.

Preservation of Wild Life

*244. SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDEY:†
SHRI KALPNATH RAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the schemes which are being implemented at present to preserve wild-life including elephants in the country.

(b) whether any species of wild-life is facing the threat of extinction; and

(c) if so, what is the name of the species and what steps Government have taken to preserve such species?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) The Centrally sponsored Schemes being implemented at present and the Sixth Plan outlays schemewise are as follows:

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Narsingh Narain Pandey.

Sixth Plan Outlay

	Rs.
(i) Assistance for development of National Parks and Sanctuaries	400 lakhs
(ii) Assistance for development of Zoos	50 lakhs
(iii) Project Tiger	500 lakhs

In addition the State are implementing schemes for wildlife conservation as per provisions made in their budget each year. The total outlay in the Sixth Plan for all States and Union Territories is Rs. 3141.72 lakhs.

(b) and (c) 253 species have been included in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, thus providing total protection from hunting, which includes killing, poisoning, capturing, snaring and trapping. Trade and commerce is also not permitted in regard to these species. A list of these species is placed on the Table of the House. (See Appendix CXX, Annexure No. 51), along with a statement giving the main steps taken by Government to preserve them.

Statement

The following main steps have been taken:-

(1) The Wildlife (Protection) Act was adopted in 1972 and is now applicable throughout the country except in Jammu & Kashmir which has a similar law with the same name enacted in 1978. Schedule I of the aforesaid Act is intended to provide total protection from hunting, trade and commerce to species included therein. Hunting includes killing, poisoning, capturing snaring and trapping. So far, 253 species have been included in this Schedule.

(2) Commercial exploitation of these species and their products is

under strict regulation under the provisions of the aforesaid Act.

(3) Export of these species is not being permitted. This applies to the products of these species, as well, except in the case of peacock-tail feathers, which are permitted for export within a limited ceiling.

(4) To provide better protection to the habitat of these species and wildlife in general, a net-work of National Parks and Sanctuaries has been set up throughout the country. At present, there are 23 National Parks and 205 Sanctuaries.

(5) Special projects have been taken up with Central assistance for the conservation of certain species like the Tiger and the Crocodiles. In addition, schemes for species like the Asiatic Lion, the Great Indian Rhinoceros, the Brown-tailed deer of Manipur, etc are being supported.

(6) Status surveys have been undertaken for certain endangered species like the Indian Elephant, the Indian Bustard, etc.

(7) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, is aimed at preserving the existing forests in the country, which are the real habitat of wildlife in India.

(8) The State Governments have been advised from time to time to give special attention to wildlife conservation and to ensure enforcement of the law and rules on the subject.

(9) The Indian Board for Wild-life is now headed by the Prime Minister, thus giving special status and importance to this highest advisory body in the field of wild-life conservation in the country. The Board has set up three Expert Committees on Birds, Flora and Zoos.

SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDEY: Sir, the wild life extinction is very much. It has created a problem all over the world. An international conference was also held in Delhi and the Minister was pleased to state the some positive steps would be taken to see that the extinction of wild animals is avoided. May I know from the Minister whether he is aware that tigers, specially white tigers, are now not available in our forests and the tiger population has gone down from 40,000 to 1800. Likewise, other animals also are in extinction. What positive measures Government is taking and what were the main recommendations and Resolutions passed in that international conference which the Government is going to implement?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Sir, it is true that the population of tigers in the country has reduced as compared to the period of some 10, 20 or 30 years back. But during the recent years, since the Government has started paying particular attention to the protection of tigers—and the Prime Minister herself, as you know, Sir, is the Chairman of the Project—the Government is taking very keen interest and 11 tiger parks have already been set up and some more are proposed to be set up. The population of tigers, I am happy to say, has increased since 1972 when it was estimated to be 1,827 in the country, and according to the census taken in 1979, the population has increased to 3015. And we are told that the population has further increased over and above the last figure of 3,015 in the country.

SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDEY: Sir, I have asked about the international conference held here and whether any action has been taken to implement the recommendations of that conference.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They have put the full scheme on the Table of the House.

SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDEY: Sir, I have said that there was an international conference and the Minister was pleased to address that conference. And that conference has taken some decisions. I wanted to know exactly what the Government did about those decisions, whether they were implemented or not, and to what extent they were implemented.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Sir, I believe the hon. Member is referring to the conference that was held here on protecting the wild life through ban on trade of skins and other items that come from hunting or killing wild life, particularly endangered species. India has become a signatory to that conference, and we agreed with most of the proposals that were put forth by that conference. The Prime Minister also addressed that conference. Most countries of the world are signatories to that convention and India being one of them, in future years we will implement the decisions that have been taken; and India has already banned trade and export in most of the endangered species of wild life and also skins, hides, etc.

SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDEY: May I know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware that rhino horn and musk fetch a lot in the international market? A kilo of rhino horn costs 25,000 dollars in the international market and it is weighed in gold and the musk is also eight times more costlier than even the rhino. So, I want to know

exactly what the hon. Minister is doing for the preservation of these two types of species.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Sir, rhino and musk deer are included in the Schedule I of our Act. That means, there is a complete ban on their hunting or killing, and they have got full protection.

श्री कल्पनाथ राय : क्या सरकार यह बतलाने की कृप करेगी कि जंगलों का व्यापक पैमाने पर काटा जाना और वाइल्ड लाइफ का एक्सप्लोइटेशन होना यह दोनों एक ही सिक्के के दो पहलू हैं। यू. एन० स्टैंडर्ड के मुताबिक 33% जंगल होने चाहिए लेकिन आज हमारे देश में 20% फारेस्ट हैं। तो क्या सरकार वाइल्ड लाइफ एंड सरवाइवल के लिए फारेस्ट को कन्वेंट लिट में लाने के लिए विचार कर रही है ?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Sir, I entirely agree with the hon. Member that wild life can exist only if we can preserve our forest areas. The Central Government has been discussing the matter with the States. Some action has already been taken and an Act of Parliament has been passed by which States have to seek the Central Government's permission before diversion of any forest areas for non-forest purposes. There is also a comprehensive Bill that we are planning to bring forward. We have invited the comments from the State Governments and we shall see what can be done in this matter. 'Forests' already is a Concurrent subject. (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Verma first, then Mr. Khushwant Singh. (Interruptions). I do not want wild life in the House.

श्री बुद्ध प्रिय मौर्य : मैं तो बहुत कम पूछता हूँ।

SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: Sir, it is true that in the last few years the

Government has taken some corrective measures and there is a certain protection to the wild life. But it would be an over-statement to say that all these species have been properly protected and there is no danger to the flora and fauna as well as to the wild life. Sir, the way things are happening in this country, soon books like "Kim" and "Jungle" and "The Maneaters of Kumaon" will become mythologies. The Government must have a comprehensive plan. It must go to the details. It must see that at the district level there is proper conservation of the wild life. I think there is some lacuna because despite the statement of the hon. Minister that there is no commercial exploitation of these species, one can go to Connaught Place and see what beautiful products of crocodile skin and snake skin are available. Then there are reports coming from Rajasthan and Kutch that the Sheikhs have been invited to kill the bustard, not the bastard, but the bustard.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, I know. It is just a question of inflection of the voice. But what is your question?

SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: Sir, my question is whether the Government would confiscate the goods, the commercial products, made of these prohibited items available in the market, in whichever part of India they may be found. I want to know whether the Government would take steps in that direction. It is not enough to say that commercial exploitation has been ended.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Sir, the law already prohibits...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is very strict.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: ...and is very strict and wherever we find that there has been any violation of the law not only are the goods confiscated but people are also prosecuted. Hundreds of cases are launched every year in various States and a

large number of animal skins have also been seized. You hear about it every day through the Press. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just a minute, please. I have already settled the line. After Mr. Khushwant Singh, Mr. Appa Rao first, then the lady there, and then...

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY: What about me?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then Mr. Maurya. (*Interruption*). Mr. Salve, I am trying to choose the newer Members.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY: Sir, you cannot make a choice. That means you are invidious. The Chair cannot make a choice. Whoever catches the Chair's eye, he must be allowed to ask the question. I take exception to your choice and I leave the Chamber.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can go.

(*At this stage the hon. Member left the Chamber*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: This sort of thing would not cut any ice with me.

SHRI KHUSHWANT SINGH: Sir, I have certain amount of personal information of a few sanctuaries, like Siriska Siliser, and particularly Bharatpur sanctuary where I noticed that there is extensive grazing of the cattle which is depriving the wild life, the deer life, of its natural resources. Particularly in Bharatpur sanctuary, road is now running right through the sanctuary on which heavier and heavier passenger traffic is going on, which again is disturbing the wild life. Has the Minister any plans by which this cattle grazing is to be restricted or altogether abolished? Has he any plans of moving villages out of these national parks? Are there any plans to prohibit roads being driven through such areas where heavy passenger traffic goes through?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I am thankful to the hon. Member for his concern about the wild life. It is very true that disturbing the natural habitat of wild life goes against...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Breeding.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Yes breeding, and it reduces the area...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The concrete question is, are you going to prevent construction or driving of arterial roads because there is more disturbance due to this?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Government is not in favour of construction of roads for traffic in not only the sanctuaries but in all forest areas. The roads should be only for purposes of supervision of the forests and not for traffic for general people. The matter raised by the hon. Member regarding Bharatpur Sanctuary is already in the notice of the Government and we are taking steps to persuade Rajasthan Government to see whether alternative arrangements can be made for grazing of the large numbers of cattle that disturb the wild life there in the sanctuary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Apparow: Some of these people have not asked a question in this session; and I must give chance to them. Those who have not been allowed a chance in this session will be given preference and they will catch my eye, to the people who have been asking dozens of questions. My discretion will prevail. Mr. Apparow is asking a question once in his life time.

SHRI M. R. APPAROW: May I know from the Minister, Sir, whether Kolleru lake which is one of the biggest natural lakes has been declared a bird sanctuary? Has the Minister made it obligatory for everybody who possesses skins of wild life and other products, to declare their possession as in the case of antiquities?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I do not know the intention behind the question

put by the hon Member. When we have banned certain items in which trade cannot be carried on, that covers everything. But there is licence also provided for trading in wild life products. Without that nobody can deal in them. Products belonging to species covered under Schedule I are completely banned as I have already stated. Possession of even the wild animals needs licence.

SHRI M. R. APPAROW: For example, I myself have got tiger skins for the last 30 years. You must ask people to declare these possessions so that the Government may know who is having what.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are 131 items here.

SHRI M. R. APPAROW: People possessing skins, tiger skins and other things, should declare so that the Government may know what they have. I had also asked about Kolleru lake.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: So far as I know, it is obligatory on the part of traders to declare what they possess. But I think there is some restriction—I am not sure what the law provides in this particular aspect, whether everybody who possesses such skins,—even if a person possesses such skins for a long time, for about 20-30 years and so on—even before this Act had come into force, has to declare it.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: This is the law. You have to declare it.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: It is true that declaration has to be made for possession of wild life products which are covered under Schedule I.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Wild life products would include even ivory snuff boxes, which you have got for three generations. Do these things also have to be declared?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Tiger skins and so on. Not carved. But skins,

trophies and other things. (*Interruptions.*)

SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY: Sir, can I catch your eye? (*Interruptions.*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us not run wild ourselves.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that the musk deer hunting has been banned. Sir, these two species, musk deer and black deer, are getting extinct and musk, not only in the international market, is ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: This has been asked already.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: I would like to know, what are the steps Government is taking, not only to protect these two species but to increase their population as well? This is essential because musk is specially used for medicinal purposes and so on. House, musk is a very...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You were not here. Mr. Pandey had asked the same question. His very first supplementary was this. You were not here.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: I was here. He only said that this has been banned. But my question is, how to increase the population? What are the steps Government is taking, what are the incentives Government is giving, to increase the population?

MR. CHAIRMAN: To whom should the incentives be given, to the musk deer, or...

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: To the jungle people. They should specify the areas. Some special step have to be taken. That is why, I am asking this question. I know there are some special steps which can be taken not only to protect these two species but to increase their population well so that musk can be used for medicinal purposes and so on, without killing the deer.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: We are setting up a large number of sanctuaries and national parks both for the purpose breeding as well as protection. This is the only way whereby the number of wild animals can be increased. As regards musk deer, musk deer farming has been taken up in U.P. and Jammu and Kashmir for increasing their number.

श्री बुद्ध प्रियमौर्य : माननीय सभापति जी, आपका दिली शुक्रिया कि खादिम को सवाल पूछने का मौका दिया ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am giving the chance to all persons who have never asked a question up till now.

SHRI BUDDHA PRIYA MAURYA: I have not asked.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I know that.

SHRI BUDDHA PRIYA MAURYA: During this Session, I have not put any supplementary.

माननीय सभापति जी, जंगल जंगली जीवन या जंगली जानवर और शांतिपूर्ण वातावरण—इन का तालमेल होना बहुत जरूरी है । मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा इन तीनों का तालमेल है या नहीं ? अगर जंगल हैं तो आपके कागज पर लाखों एकड़ ऐसी जमीन है जो आप ने जंगल के नाम दिखा रखी है लेकिन एक भी पेड़ वहाँ पर नहीं है । वहाँ किस तरह से जंगलों को आप लाएँ, एक तो यह मैं जानना चाहूंगा । दूसरे, मैं जानना चाहूंगा, कि वाटर पाल्यूशन, दूषित पानी . .

श्री सभापति : अब यह वाटर पाल्यूशन का सवाल तो . . .

श्री बुद्ध प्रियमौर्य : जंगली जीवन से सीधा ताल्लुक रखता है । श्रीमन्, वाटर पाल्यूशन सीधा-सीधा जंगली जीवन से संबंध रखता है । एयर पाल्यूशन सीधे-साधे जंगली जीवन से संबंध रखता है । एरर पाल्यूशन, वाटर पाल्यूशन वातावरण, का दूषित होना

जंगली जीवन से सीधे-सीधे सम्बन्ध रखता है । इस में हमने लापरवाही बरती है । तो पहला मेरा सवाल माननीय मंत्री जी से है कि क्या वे वाइल्ड लाइफ और फारेस्ट्स को सेन्ट्रल लिस्ट में डालेंगे ? अभी वह काकरेंड लिस्ट में है । क्या उसे वह प्रदेश से केन्द्र में लायेंगे ? यह मेरा पहला सवाल है ?

श्रीमन्, इसी से जुड़ा हुआ एक और प्रश्न है । पिछले दस वर्ष से जो हाथीदांत वाले हाथी होते हैं उन की संख्या, शेरों की संख्या, टाइगर्स की संख्या और—जैसा मेरे एक मित्र ने सवाल किया—बारह सिगा और कस्तूरी के हिरनों की संख्या का ग्राफ नीचे जा रहा है ? क्या इस के बारे में आंकड़े माननीय मंत्री जी दोगे ? अगर ग्राफ लगाता नीचे जा रहा है तो इस को रोकने के लिए और जानवरों की संख्या को बढ़ाने के लिए सरकार के पास क्या योजना है ?

राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह : चेयरमैन साहब, फारेस्ट तो हिन्दूस्तान थे स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स की प्रापर्टी हैं । कुछ ट्राइबल्स के फारेस्ट्स होसेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट का तो अपना एक भी जंगल नहीं है । कानून हम ने जंगल की हिफाजत के लिए बना दिया । जैसा मैंने हाउस को बताया, हाथी, शेर और बहुत जंगली जानवर जिन की सूची टेबिल पर रख दी गयी है उन को पहले ही पूरा प्रोटेक्शन मिला हुआ है । उन का शिकार करना किसी तरीके से पकड़ना या अपने पास रखना मना है ।

श्री सभापति : सब जुर्म होगा ।

राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह : पानी के लिए और दूसरे साधनों के लिए व्यवस्था सेक्चुररीज और नेशनल पार्क्स में होगी, जिन के लिए सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट सहायता करती है । जैसा मैंने पहले बताया, उस के लिए 4 करोड़ की रकम छोटे प्लान में रखी है । उस से यही काम होना जो माननीय सदस्य चाहते हैं जैसे कि पानी के साधन वहाँ किये जाये । पानी हो और साफ

पानी न हो तो जाली जानवरों के जीवन को खतरा हो सकता है। इन सारी बातों का प्रबन्ध नेशनल पार्क और सेक्चुरीज में किया जाता है, जिन के लिए सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट सहायता देती है। वहाँ इन बातों को खास तौर से ध्यान में रखा जाता है।

श्री बुद्ध प्रिय मौर्य : श्रीमान, मेरा केवल एक ही प्रश्न था, जेप का उत्तर नहीं आया। पोल्ग्रुन होने का वजह से, नेगलीजेंस की वजह से, प्रदेश के पास यह काम होने की वजह से जानवरों की संख्या का ग्राफ गिरना चला जा रहा है चाहे वह टाइगर है, चाहे वह हिरन है, चाहे वह वारहीजा है, चाहे वह कस्तूरी वाला हिरन है, चाहे हथोदात वाली हाथी है, यह जो ग्राफ गिर रहा है उस को रोकने के लिए भारत सरकार का क्या योजना है? इस का तो जवाब दिया नहीं, इधर-उधर जाने लगे।

राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह : मैं पहले बता चुका हूँ कि टाइगर की संख्या बढ़ रही है। टाइगर की सेक्चुरीज 11 हैं, 2-3 और बायी जा रही हैं। एलीफेंटा की पूरी हिफाजत दी जा रही है, उन को मरने नहीं दिया जाता। हथियों की तादाद, शरों की तादाद, बब्वर शरों की तादाद, मौर्य जी, पिछले दिनों में बढ़ती जा रही है। काले हिरनों की भी पूरी हिफाजत है। पिछले 10-12 साल से जब से सरकार ने ध्यान देना शुरू किया हिफाजत की वजह से इन जानवरों की संख्या बढ़ रही है।

SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY: Will the hon. Minister tell us whether he is aware that although poaching is not allowed, the unscrupulous traders allow the elephants and tigers to be killed by other processes—either poisoning the food that the tiger or the elephant takes, or by poisonous arrows? So the system of auctioning the elephant or the tiger when dead is also responsible, because the same traders who come for auctioning are the traders who are responsible for the murder of these

wild animals. Has anything been done to improve the method of auctioning the dead animals?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Sir, I am very happy that even ladies are taking so much interest in wild animals.

SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY: Because we have a few specimens here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: After this, I think I should have a lady Vice-Chairman to take charge of the wild animals.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Sir, Wild life, along with forests, is in the Concurrent List—as I have already said.

SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY: I have not talked about the Concurrent List.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: If it is established that a protected animal has died an unnatural death, then there is always an inquiry conducted and we try to catch hold of and punish the offender. It is only in the case of natural death of an animal that we cannot do anything. It has to be disposed of. But whenever we find that there has been an offence committed and the law has been violated either by poisoning or some other means, whether it is an elephant or tiger or some other endangered species that is protected, or even if an animal is hunted, there is enough safeguard in the Act and very stringent punishment is provided for. Also we are trying to increase our patrolling system in the wildlife sanctuaries.

SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY: The question I asked is about disposal of the carcass of the animal.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Disposal of a dead animal does not mean that no inquiry is conducted into the causes of death, but once an animal is dead naturally it will have to be disposed of.

SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY: The crux of the whole thing is that in collusion with the traders who are on your list to get the carcass or the skin or the teeth of the animal there are people who cause the murder—I won't say death. So, what is your improvement in auctioning or selling that? The inquiry part of it I understand, but I asked about disposal how you do it.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: The disposal is done by the State Government which owns the forests and the wild life and they have their own rules for the purpose in the different States.

MR. CHAIRMAN: May I put forth the implication of the question of the hon. Member? It is if you are satisfied that the animal has been poisoned, do you still auction it or do you destroy it?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Sir, the skin can always be sold even if the animal has been poisoned or hunted with a poisoned arrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, the hon. lady Members suggestion is that the same people who poison the animal come forward and buy it.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Sir, I very much appreciate the concern of the hon. lady Member. What she wants is full measures to be taken by the Government to see that there is no collusion between the trader and the hunter so that thereby wildlife is not destroyed. Similarly we are also concerned about this matter and whatever case comes to our notice we always try to see that the offenders are brought to book—whether they are traders or the hunters themselves. Collusion also is an offence.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA PANT: She has suggested removal of the profit motive. Why not consider her suggestion?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Supposing you have a poisoned deers skin, don't sell the skin, rather destroy it, cremate it.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I don't know what purpose it will serve.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Because, people will not then be able to get a poisoned animals skin.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: The suggestion is good, we shall consider it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is what the hon. lady Member is implying. Have I understood you aright, madam?

SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY: Yes, Sir.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: What really is required according to the hon. lady Member—and that would serve the purpose—is that we should scrutinise the list of traders and other people who are likely to benefit from such auction.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, not that if the animal has died a natural death, by all means auction the carcass and the skin, but if the animal has, to your knowledge, been deliberately killed by poisoning or shooting or any other means, don't dispose of that body. That is the implication.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Sir, I would not like a valuable tiger skin to be destroyed just because it has been poisoned.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY: Once you do it, that will be providnig motive for the killing of tigers, etc., for profit.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is it. You please consider it.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: If there are any such instances in the notice of the hon. Member and if she can also name some places where traders have benefited from this malpractice..

SHRIMATI P J RABI MUKHOPADHYAY: Everywhere this clandestine thing is going on—not because you are the Minister. For a long time it has been in practice all over the world. So our contention is that..

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a suggestion worth considering.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Sir, I appeal to the hon. Members to help the Government in this matter. If there are any specific instances which they can bring to our notice, we shall make inquiries to the satisfaction of the hon. Members. we shall send a special officer in such a case.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not that Mr. Minister.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA PANT: Why doesn't the Minister say that he will consider the suggestion?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I am thankful for the suggestion and we will see that malpractices are stopped.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I may put it the other way. If you are satisfied that the animal has been killed with improper motives, do not sell its skin; it is better to lose it.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Sir, it is a suggestion well taken, but at the same time, as I have already said—and I think you would kindly agree with me in that—we should take care to see that advantage does not go to the people who might be suspected of causing the death of such animals, but it would not serve any useful purpose if a valuable skin is destroyed completely.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Salve.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: Sir, why are we going wild with the wild life? What has Mr. Salve to ask about it? He comes from Maharashtra. Has he ever seen a tiger?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Sir, you had said that you would give a chance to new people.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: That is all right. He is better qualified. He has at least shot a tiger. Mr. Salve has not even seen a tiger. He has only seen wolves and jackals. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: The first person who caught my eye was Mr. Salve.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: I am not raising that point. I am on the point raised by Mrs. Mukhopadhyay. It is well known by poachers, traders and hunters. The point that she was making was that something has to be done to prevent poaching.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And not that it becomes profitable.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: So far as hunting is concerned, that has been regulated and licences are issued. The real point is: What happens to the illegal destruction of animals? Apart from the suggestion that Mrs. Mukhopadhyay has made that there should be no on-the-spot sale, I would say that if the hon. Member is so keen to preserve the skin of a tiger who may have been poisoned, she could have cured by the State Government, then sold in the market and not to the trader. That is the point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have made that clear. Last question by Mr. Salve. I think we are going wild over it. (*Interruptions*). I am sorry There is nothing left.

SHRI HARI SHANKAR BHABHRA: Sir, you had stated that you won't allow those who have been asking questions and that you would allow new Members...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I made the distinction. This was the first hand I saw and I have put him last; and that is because he is a lawyer, he might be able to throw some light on it.

SHR ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: Sir, this is a wrong premise. What can a lawyer do? He can go to the Income-tax Commissioner and plead the case. What can he do here?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think at this rate soon you will be skinnig and selling his skin.

SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY: Sir, I am also a lawyer. So I should also be given a chance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You were not there. (Interruptions) I am the judge to say whose hand I had seen. I do not keep a photo camera which is used at races.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: I am grateful for your indulgence because of my interest in the wild life preservation. Undoubtedly, the Government . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not bring in income-tax.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Sir, the Government undoubtedly has taken measures, belatedly though, which are helpful in prohibiting wanton destruction of flora and fauna in this country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Flora does not come into this.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Both go together.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They may go together, but the question is about fauna.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Sir, it is obvious from the answer given by the Agriculture Minister that even now large quantities of skins of species which are prohibited from hunting, were still found and confiscated, etc. It is known to everyone, Sir, that if you want to buy a tiger skin, a leopard skin, a crocodile skin, those are available in the country for a price. Therefore, Sir, what I want to ask the Finance Minister . . . I

mean the Agriculture Minister is whether he is aware of the fact . . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is a vegetarian Minister.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: He is a vegetarian. I want to know whether he is aware of the fact that purely putting certain species in Schedule I of the Act which is intended to provide total protection from hunting, is not adequate in a field like this. Therefore, would he consider two aspects of the matter? One is whether for a couple of years he would consider prohibiting hunting altogether, completely?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: It is almost so.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Hunting of species is one thing. You have given the hunting permission. They go in a jungle, shoot and bring an animal. Another aspect of the matter is the one pointed out by Mrs. Mukherjee. For ten years I represented the Betul Constituency. The Betul forest has a magnificent wild life. But I did not see a single leopard or tiger there. But once a forest contractor brought a huge tiger. I asked, "How did you get it?" He replied, "It was killed by my truck." In a few months, a beautiful leopard was killed. Someone asked him, "How did you get it?" He replied, "It was killed by the truck."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why do you not arrest him?

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: What happened was that the matter was reported to the Collector and the police. It was pointed out that the contractor never had a truck. But he claimed to be the lawful owner under the law of the beautiful tiger skin and the leopard skin. He was let off with a fine. This is a great drawback. She has raised a very valuable point. Would he consider amending the law for confiscation? The skin is valuable. It must not be destroyed. But would

he consider also amending the law. While banning the hunting, there should also be outright confiscation of the skin even if a person gives a valid reason for possession of the skin. Even if prospectively, this law should be so amended.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I shall consider the suggestion. But confiscation of any goods can take place only with the permission of the court. (Interruptions). If there is a claim from the other party, Sir, that party is a lawful owner.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: How is he a lawful owner?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I can explain to you, Mr. Minister. When there is poaching done and the caracas is lying there, it is nobody's property.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: In case of violation of law, confiscation is still permitted, it can still be done.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not necessarily, Mr. Minister. You come to me, and I will tell you exactly what the position of a poached caracas is. It is nobody's property.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Yes.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Whenever poaching or illegal hunting takes place, it is generally the practice to confiscate the goods. But then people can always go to court.

Another matter that comes is the way is this, Sir. It is not only the spot confiscation, but somebody might have possession of the prohibited skin or trophy. In that case then the question of claim arises, and the people sometimes go to court.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you combine the hon. lad Member's question with what Mr Salve has said, suppose an elephant is poisoned. You know it is poisoned. Will anybody come and say, "Oh, I poisoned it; it is my property"?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: In all these cases, it is already laid down in the law that it will be Government property.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, confiscate everyone of these.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: What is laid down is, where the offence is proved, any skin of the species mentioned here would be Government property.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, let us go to Question No. 245.

May I take leave of the House? I have to go away to Visakhapatnam.

[Mr. Deputy Chairman in the Chair.]

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question No 245. Shri Gurudev Gupta.

Supply of wheat, rice and sugar at the Fair Price Shops

*245. SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA:†
SHRI RAMCHANDRA
BHARDWAJ:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that adequate quantity of wheat, rice and sugar is not being supplied in Delhi for distribution through fair price shops;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to ensure adequate quantity of wheat, rice and sugar at fair price shops so that the ration card holders are not put to any inconvenience due to non-availability of these items?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Gurudev Gupta.