

(c) Members of the Committee are as follows :—

- (1) Shri R. G. Deo, Director General of Mines Safety, Dhanbad— Chairman.
- (2) Shri S. K. Sinha, Coal Mines Welfare Commissioner, Dhanbad—Member.
- (3) Shri S. R. Bhise, Director General, Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes—Member.
- (4) Shri K. T. N. Nambiar, Deputy Director of Employment Exchange, New Delhi—Member.
- (5) Shri Satpal Singh, Development Officer, Directorate General of Technical Development, New Delhi—Member.
- (6) Shri B. R. Pai, Chief Mining Engineer (Hq), National Coal Development Corporation Ltd., Ranchi—Member.
- <1) Shri R. K. Jaggia, Mining Engineer, National Mineral Development Corporation, New Industrial Township, Faridabad— Member.
- (8) Shri K. N. Dutt, M/s. Associated Nandi Colliery, 18, Netaji Subhas Road, Calcutta—Member.
- (9) Shri S. K. Aggarwalla, Dhansar, (Dhanbad)—Member.
- (10) Shri Kanti Mehta, General Secretary, Indian National Mine-Workers Federation, Calcutta-20 —Member.
- (11) Shri S. Das Gupta, Secretary, Indian National Mine Workers Federation, Dhanbad—Member.
- <12) Shri Sunil Sen, Organising Secretary, Colliery Mazdoor Sabha, G. T. Road, Asansol —Member.
- <13) Shri Sudhir K. Rudra, Colliery Mazdoor Congress, Bengal Hotel, G. T. Road, Asansol (W. B.)— Member.
- <14) Shri J. Tobias, Officer on Special Duty P. O. Devchandnagar. (Burdwan)—Member.

- (15) Shri T. C. Anand, Deputy Chief Mining Engineer, M/s. I. I. S Co. Ltd., Chasnalla Colliery, P. O. Pathardih, Dhan bad-Member.

A Joint Director of Mines Safety, appointed by the Director General of Mines Safety, acts as Secretary to the Committee.

#### GIR LIONS

\*396. SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIAMENON : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there has been a fall in the number of Gir lions in recent years:
- (b) if so, what are the reasons for this fall; and
- (c) what steps are being taken to conserve the species ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNA-SAHEB SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Madam. Compared with the Gir lion population arrived at in the last census held in 1963, the figure now arrived at in June, 1968 census is less by 108. It may, however, be mentioned that the previous lion census were earned out by indirect count method i.e. by counting their pug marks which is considered to be a very rough and approximate method whereas the present census was carried out by the direct count method i.e. by actually counting the lions congregating on kills, which is comparatively more reliable and accurate.

(b) In addition to the decrease in the number caused by deaths on account of natural causes, there was a decrease of 27 lions during the period 1963-68 on account of various reasons detailed below :

Sent out for Zoos or sent outside the State	12
Died by accident ...	4
Poisoned or shot dead . . . .	11
Total reduction	27

(c) The following steps have been taken by the Gujarat Government to conserve the population of Gir lions :

(1) An area of 1265-01 sq. km. (488 42 sq. miles) of their Gir forests, has been constituted into a Wild Life Sanctuary since 18th September 1965 ;

(2) The shooting of ail the species is prohibited in the Sanctuary area, so as to prevent any disturbance to the lion population ;

(3) In order to dissuade the cattle owners from poisoning the lions out of vengeance, when the lions kill their cattle, the State Government have made a provision for award of cash compensation to them ;

(4) All possible financial help is provided by the State Government for the development of the Gir Sanctuary. During the year 1968-69, an amount of Rs. 1,90,000 has been sanctioned for the development of this sanctuary which includes the prevision for welfare of Fauna, providing water facilities, repairs to roads, etc.

#### PROCUREMENT OF FOODGRAINS

\*397. SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the foodgrains procured by the Food Corporation of India after the crop season ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the prices of foodgrains came down steeply because the Food Corporation of India failed to set up adequate marketing machinery; and

(c) whether in view of the reduced prices of food grains, Government propose to offer some support price or producers' incentives to the farmers?

(d) whether the storage capacity of Government was adequate for storing the foodgrains according to their procurement target; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) After the current Rabi Harvest, the Food Corporation of India purchased a quantity of about 17.7 lakh tonnes of rabi grains out of which 16.7 lakh tonnes represents wheat. The figures of wheat purchases by the Corporation also include a quantity of about 9.7 lakh tonnes of wheat which was procured by the States or State agencies, other than the Food Corporation and were handed over to it for the central pool.

(b) No, Madam.

(c) The Government through the agency of the Food Corporation, Cooperative marketing societies and State Governments purchases all foodgrains of approved quality offered at procurement prices. This price support operation of the Government prevents foodgrains prices from falling below the level of the procurement prices, which are at such a level as to provide incentive to the producers.

(d) Yes, Sir; after taking into account overall storage capacity available with the Central and State Governments, the Food Corporation of India and the Central Warehousing Corporation.

(e) Does not arise.

\*398. [Transferred to the 13th August, 1968.]

#### ATOMIC ENERGY LABORATORY

\*261. SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to para 2 of page 77 of the annual report of the Atomic Energy Department for 1967-68 and state when the Atomic Energy Laboratory came in'cc operation and at what cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Transferred from the 1st August, 1968.