

of the National Parks and Sanctuaries including Tiger Reserves.

10. The Pench National Park has been brought under Project Tiger Scheme in the year 1992-93.

11. 18 Integrated Wastelands Development Projects have been taken up by the National Afforestation and Eco-Development

Board (NAEB) of the Ministry in the state during the last three years at a cost of Rs 29.33 crores. Out of this, 2 projects costing Rs 2.03 crores have been transferred to the National Wastelands Development Board in the Department of Wastelands Development.

12. Other afforestation projects of NAEB taken up in the state for implementation during the last three years are as follows:

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Amount released (Rs lakhs)</i>
i)	Minor Forest Produce and Medicinal Plants	75.54
ii)	Seed Development	11.86
iii)	Aerial Seeding	45.53
iv)	Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder scheme	568.65

[English]

#### **Prices of Essential Commodities**

677. SHRIMATIDIPIKA H. TOPIWALA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have issued instructions to the State Governments and Union Territory administrations to keep a close watch on the prices of essential commodities;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to reduce the prices of essential commodities; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) The Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution for monitors the prices of selected essential commodities on a regular basis. As an integral part of monitoring system, consultations with the State Governments are held from time to time regarding the monitoring of prices of essential commodities in the States and the supply of statistics relating to the retail and wholesale prices of these commodities.

(b) and (c) There has been a significant decline in the rate of inflation in respect of sub-groups like primary articles, food articles including cereals, pulses, fruits and vegetable etc. During the year 1992-93 (upto 27.3.1993). Infact, negative rate of inflation has been recorded in respect of articles like rice, jowar, bajra, arhar, moong, masoor, urad, chillies, vanaspati, rape and mustard oil etc. The Government has

been taking appropriate measures in regard to the prices of essential commodities through providing relief in excise duties, liberalisation of imports and improving the public distribution system. As a result of all these measures, the annual rate of inflation during 1992-93 remained at 6.7% as against 13.6% in the previous year.

### **Endangered Himalayan Species of Wild Animals**

678 SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the endangered Himalayan species of wild animals;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up major Zoological parks with the World Bank assistance to save several endangered and exquisite Himalayan species;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government to protect and conserve them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d). As per the categorisation by the Zoological Survey of India the Himalayan species of wild animals that are endangered include:-

1. Wolf (*Canis lupus*)
2. Himalayan Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos*)
3. Musk deer (*Moschus moschiferus*)
4. Tibetan Gazelle (*Procapra picticaudata*)
5. Takin (*Budorcas taxicolor*)
6. Himalayan Tahr (*Hemitragus*

*jer. ilahicus*)

7. Ibex (*Capra ibex*)

8. Himalayan Newt (*Tylototriton verucosus*)

At present there is no proposal with the Government for setting up any major zoological park with the assistance of the World Bank. However, several measures have been taken by the Government to protect and conserve the endangered wild animals and their habitat. These include:

i. Several national parks and sanctuaries have been set up in the Himalayan region to conserve and protect the wildlife and its habitat.

ii. All of the above mentioned endangered species of Himalayan wild animals have been included in the Schedule I except the Himalayan Newt which is included in Schedule II of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to provide them necessary legal protection.

iii. The Central Government is extending assistance to State Governments for conservation of protected areas.

iv. While captive breeding of some of the endangered Himalayan species like the wolf and musk deer has been done successfully, the recently constituted Central Zoo Authority proposes to develop coordinated efforts for captive breeding of endangered species at specified centres through out the country.

### **Non Formal Education for Fishermen's Children**

679. SHRI GOPINATH GAJAPATHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any