

ment to encourage trade to enhance its export.

[English]

Widening of Ambit of Freight Equalisation

302. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to widen the ambit of freight equalisation in view of differences of opinion on its abolition amongst the States;

(b) if so, what further action has been taken/proposed in the matter for an agreed solution on Consignment tax;

(c) whether there is a proposal to call Chief Ministers conference in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) It was decided in the Inter-State Council meeting held on 10th October 1990 to convene a meeting of Finance Ministers of all States to work out a consensus on the issue of guidelines for grant of exemptions from the levy of consignment tax. Further action in the matter will be taken in the light of the decision to be taken in that meeting.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (c)

Preservation of Wild Life

303. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fast vanishing wild life in the country;

(b) if so, the main factors responsible therefor;

(c) whether Government proposes to initiate any special action plan to save the precious wild life from the poachers and illegal, ivory traders; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI):

(a) and (b) Habitat degradation along with poaching and illegal trade has affected the wildlife, particularly in areas outside national parks and sanctuaries.

(c) and (d). (i) Government of India has been assisting the States under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife", An amount of Rs. 100 lakhs was provided as assistance under this scheme for strengthening anti-poaching infrastructure in the States during the VII Five Year Plan. During 1990-91 Rs. 15.4 lakhs has been sanctioned under the scheme so far.

(ii) Under the provisions of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, total protection is provided to rare and endangered species of wildlife particularly Indian rhino, elephant, musk deer, snakes, fur bearing animals and such other species which are seriously affected by poaching and trade. Hunting of and trade in other