

- (3) Restriction on Commercial Exploitation and export of endangered species through regulations in pursuance of the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

### Regional Conference of Ministers

\*328. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a regional Conference on the Minister of Food and Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution was held recently at Bangalore;

(b) if so, the subjects discussed thereat;

(c) whether the recommendations of the high powered committee to revamp the Public Distribution System were also discussed; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The status of implementation of the Public Distribution System (PDS)/Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS), availability and prices of essential commodities, supply of subsidised foodgrains for SC/ST/OBC Hostels and Management Information System for monitoring the PDS were discussed in the meeting.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

### Kerosene Oil

\*329. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the kerosene oil meant for domestic consumption is being diverted to commercial use;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have recently reversed their decision to sell kerosene oil through Public Distribution System, in two colours to an uniform colour; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). Central Government has not received any report from State Governments and UT Administrations regarding diversion of kerosene oil meant for domestic consumption to commercial use. Kerosene is a highly subsidised product and due to the

difference in the prices of kerosene and diesel oils, there have been reports of adulteration of diesel with kerosene. The distribution of kerosene from the wholesalers to the retailers and further to the consumers under the Public Distribution System is a responsibility of State Governments and UT Administrations. Central Government has advised State Governments and UT Administrations to enforce the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and take stringent action against persons indulging in such malpractices.

(c) and (d). The Government has no proposal to reverse the decision to supply only blue-dyed kerosene for the Public Distribution System.

### Flowers

\*330. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any data in regard to the production of flowers during 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) if so, the details thereof, variety-wise;

(c) the status of Indian flowers in the International Market; and

(d) the details of adequate arrangements for storage of flowers made by the Government in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Out of annual world trade worth 5 billion US dollars in floriculture products India's share in 1994-5 was 10 million US dollars.

(d) Assistance is provided for setting up of cold-storage facilities in production areas as well as at selected airports for perishable horticultural commodities including flowers. So far assistance has been released for 54 cold stores in the production areas and 6 walk-in-type cold stores at Delhi, Bombay, Bangalore, Madras, Calcutta and Trivandrum airports.

### Wild Animals in Zoos

\*331. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether wild animals kept in various Zoos in the country are facing death because of poor maintenance in zoos and some of these animals are also being sold to the various circuses to show off their feats;

(b) if so, the details thereof;