

(a) whether poaching of wild animals is continuing unabated which is testified by frequent seizures of animals skins, furs, tiger bones etc.; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) It is not a fact that poaching of wild animals is continuing unabated, although there is some poaching of wild animals in the country. The frequent seizures of wildlife products testify increased detection, due to greater vigilance and enforcement activities.

(b) The measures taken to control poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and their derivatives include :

- (i) Hunting of wild animals included in Schedules I to IV of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, has been banned by law.
- (ii) Special measures for protection and conservation of tigers, elephants and rhinos and their habitat are being implemented.
- (iii) A network of 447 wildlife sanctuaries and 83 National Parks covering 1,50,000 sq. km. has been set up for conservation of wild flora and fauna. Financial assistance is provided by the Central Government for development of national parks and sanctuaries on request from the State Governments.
- (iv) This Ministry has set up a National Coordination Committee consisting of representatives of all major enforcement organisations such as : Customs, Revenue intelligence, CBI, Police, BSF, ITBP, RPF and Foreign Post Office, Traffic-India and Wildlife authorities to enable effective inter-departmental cooperation and coordination to deal with the problem of illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products.
- (v) Training programmes on enforcement and implementation of wildlife and other related laws and international conventions have been organised for all the enforcement agencies in February and November, 1996.
- (vi) Raids are carried out by the wildlife authorities, in cooperation with other enforcement agencies, if necessary, whenever information of illegal trading in wildlife is received.
- (vii) India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) under which international trade in endangered species and their parts and derivatives is strictly regulated.

(viii) Rewards are given to informers for gathering intelligence regarding illegal trade and smuggling of wildlife products.

(ix) A Committee set up by this Ministry to look into issues related to illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products has recommended specific measures to deal with this problem and these are being followed up with the States for implementation.

(x) Regional and sub-regional offices of Wildlife Preservation have been set up mainly at the major export centres of the country to prevent illegal trade and smuggling of wildlife products.

Militant Activities at International Border

1717. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :
SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken up the matter of militant activities being carried on by ISI of Pakistan at Indo-Nepal border with the Government of Nepal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to check the sneaking in of the militants across the border ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) The Government is in regular touch with His Majesty's Government of Nepal on various issues including security issues. During the visit of the Foreign Minister of Nepal to India in August, 1996 the subject of security and measures to counter militancy/terrorism was discussed. Both sides reiterated their commitment not to allow militant activities in territory of either country prejudicial to the security of each other. It was also decided that in order to discourage movements of undesirable elements across the border, there should be a more effective system of monitoring of movement across the border. Regular exchange of views takes place between concerned authorities in India and Nepal to tackle specific issues.

(d) All concerned specially in bordering areas have been alerted to keep strong vigil to prevent frequent entry and exit of undesirable elements. Some of the measures adopted are as follows :—

- (a) The Government have taken steps to check the efforts of the Pak ISI by increasing the number of Police posts and intelligence network on the border and by advising the concerned States to intensify

police patrolling so as to check infiltrators and militant elements.

- (b) The enforcement agencies have been instructed to maintain the utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts under the provisions contained in various Acts.
- (c) Training is being imparted to officers to improve their effectiveness. Vehicles and communication equipments have been strengthened. Reward Scheme for the informers and enforcement officers is being implemented zealously under the NDPS Act.
- (d) Field level contact points in all Central and State Government enforcement agencies have been established to provide inter-agency cooperation in enforcement work.
- (e) Coordination meetings are being held periodically at the Central and State level to review the working of enforcement agencies and to exchange intelligence on various illegal activities.

Rural Godowns

1718. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have a proposal to construct Rural Godowns in every State particularly in the poor and backward States during the Ninth Five Year Plan;
- (b) if so, the number of such godowns proposed to be constructed in different States; and
- (c) the fund provision made therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Central Government has a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to assist the State Governments/UT Administrations for construction of small godowns of the capacity upto 2000 MTs in interior areas where it is necessary to maintain adequate stocks to ensure regular supplies under PDS. This scheme is being implemented to supplement the resources of State Governments/UT Administrations to augment their storage capacity in remote/inaccessible/hilly areas covered in the identified RPDS Blocks. The Scheme is proposed to be continued in the 9th Five Year Plan. For the Annual Plan 1997-98 an outlay of Rs. 12.50 crores has been approved by the Planning Commission.

Tenure of Employees of FCI and Super Bazar

1719. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to fix a tenure of three years for the employees of the Food Corporation of India and Super Bazar in view of the Fifth Pay Panel Report;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of employees in the FCI and Super Bazar who have been at one assignment for more than three years; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to rotate them ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions have informed that the Fifth Pay Commission have, *inter-alia*, made recommendations in Chapter 25 Section-III (Vol. I) as regards tenure and transfer policies applicable to posts in the Central Government. These recommendations are not applicable in the case of Food Corporation of India and Super Bazar employees.

Condition of the Jails

1720. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Seventh Finance Commission (1978) had observed that a certain minimum standard of upkeep of prisoners, improvement in diet and amenities and to certain extent, addition to jail capacity are urgently called for but even after 19 years there has been practically no improvement in the environment and the living conditions of prisoners are deplorable;

(b) if so, the reasons for not taking any action to improve the condition of the jails; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) The Seventh Finance Commission had observed that a certain minimum standard of upkeep of prisoner improvements in diet and amenities, and to a certain extent additions to jail capacity were urgently called for. Though there is scope to improve environment and living conditions in jails, it would not be correct to say that no improvement in this regard has been made during the last 19 year

Under Entry 4, List II of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, 'Prisons' is a State subject. It is primarily for the State Governments to take steps to improve the conditions of jails within their respective jurisdiction. To supplement the efforts of the State Governments, the Central Government, under the Scheme of Modernisation of Prison Administration, has been providing financial assistance to the State Governments to improve living conditions in prisons. The Finance Commissions have also been regularly providing financial assistance to the state