

**National Institute for Mentally Retarded**

3099. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to set up a National Institute for the Mentally Retarded; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main object of the Institute will be to sponsor or conduct research into all important aspects of the education and rehabilitation of the retarded and to train personnel. It may also have provision for producing instructional materials and teaching aids.

**Periyar Sanctuary as a Tiger Sanctuary in Kerala**

3100. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the suggestion of the Steering Committee, Project Tiger that the Periyar Sanctuary in Kerala should be included as the 10th tiger sanctuary has been accepted by Government; and

(b) if so, from what date the decision is likely to take effect?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) The proposal is under active consideration of the Government.

(b) In view of (a), question does not arise.

**National Park in Kashmir**

3101. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposals for setting up a national park in Kashmir specially devoted to the rapidly vanishing Kashmir stag (Hangul); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Extinction of the Bird Named Great Indian Bustard**

3102. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the bird named as 'Great Indian Bustard' is badly threatened to extinction in India and the areas where it is located today;

(b) the causes of decay in its population and whether Government propose to protect it; and

(c) if so, the estimated population of this bird at present?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) The Great Indian Bustard is endangered.

It is now found in a very scattered population in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Gujarat.

(b) The causes of decrease in its population are due to the increasing human pressure on land for cultivation etc., which has reduced the habitat available for the bird and also their

large size makes them an easy target for the trapper and poacher.

Government have included this species in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 which affords legal protection to the bird. There is a sanctuary for the Great Indian Bustard in Karnataka and proposals for other sanctuaries are being actively pursued.

(c) As no census has been carried out so far, it is not possible to estimate its population.

### Desert National Park )

3103. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of Desert National Park is shelved and if so, reasons therefor;

(b) how many times Central agencies toured the proposed venues of the park in Rajasthan along with their name and gist of their recommendations; and

(c) when this scheme is likely to be finalised and its salient features?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) A proposal for the creation of a Desert National Park is under consideration of the Government.

(b) Central Government representatives visited Rajasthan on three occasions. Their names and gist of recommendations are given in the attached statement.

(c) The scheme can be finalised only after a scientific survey of the area, tentatively identified by the Inspector General of Forests, is carried out next winter.

The salient features of the scheme is the selection of a representative desert area having adequate remnant population of desert fauna and flora.

### Statement

1. Shri Ranjit Singh, formerly Deputy Secretary, in the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (Department of Agriculture), visited Rajasthan in January, 1974 along with other officers of the Rajasthan Government. They proposed a rectangular area of land east of the Barmer-Jaisalmer road situated north and south to Devikot village which is 43 km. east of Jaisalmer on the above road as a suitable site for the Park.

2. Shri K. S. Sankhala, Director Project Tiger, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (Department of Agriculture), visited Rajasthan in December 1975 and proposed the area to the west of a line connecting Sahgarh in the North and Danana in the South extending to the International border.

3. Shri S. K. Seth, Inspector General of Forest, visited Rajasthan in February, 1977 and identified a tentative area between Sam in the east and Shahgarh in the West which will require to be floristically and faunistically surveyed next winter before the proposed boundaries can be finalised.

### दिल्ली दुग्ध योजना के घी का मूल्य

3104. श्री ईश्वर चौधरी : क्या कृषि और सिंचाई मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या सरकार का विचार दिल्ली दुग्ध योजना से मिलने वाले घी का मूल्य कम करने का है ?

कृषि और सिंचाई मंत्री (श्री सुरजीत सिंह बरनाला) : जी नहीं। दिल्ली दुग्ध योजना द्वारा विनिर्मित घी के मूल्य में कमी करने का कोई प्रस्ताव विचाराधीन नहीं है।