

to wildlife. The "Project Tiger" has been launched in nine selected habitats to afford protection to this threatened species.

(4) For ensuring effective and scientific management of sanctuaries, national parks and other wildlife areas, separate wildlife wings within the Forest Departments are being established in all States and Union Territories.

Ban on Hunting of Wild Animals

1880. SHRI UGRASEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to put a total ban on hunting of certain species of wild animals lest these might become extinct; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (b). The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for a total ban on the hunting of such wild animals and birds specified in Schedule I to the Act which are considered to be endangered.

Steps to save Elephants and Rhinoceros in the Country

1881. SHRI UGRASEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether elephants and rhinoceros are struggling hard for survival and due to poaching these are becoming extinct;

(b) the approximate number of elephants and rhinoceros in the country; and

(c) the steps taken to save them from extinction?

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

(b) The approximate estimated number of elephants in the country are 10,000 and rhinoceros are 700.

(c) The following steps have been taken to ensure their protection.

(i) Both the elephants and the rhinoceros are included in the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, affording them strict protection.

(ii) Both the rhinoceros and the elephant are included in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, which strictly regulate international trade in both these species.

(iii) A national Park at Kaziranga and Lakhawa Sanctuary in Assam and a Sanctuary in Jaldapara in West Bengal have been constituted to provide all possible protection to the habitat of the rhinoceros. Elephants also receive protection in such reserves as the Corbett National Park in Uttar Pradesh, Manas Sanctuary in Assam, Mudumalai Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu, Palamau National Park in Bihar, Periyar Sanctuary in Kerala, etc.

राजस्थान के किसानों को ऋण दिया जाना

1882. श्री मीठा लाल पटेल : क्या कृषि और सिंचाई मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) केन्द्रीय सहकारी बैंकों ने 1975-76 के दौरान राजस्थान के किसानों को कितनी वित्तीय सहायता दी है ; और

(ख) भूमि विकास बैंक राजस्थान के विकास के लिए 1976-77 में योजना-वार, कितना ऋण दे रहा है ?

कृषि और सिंचाई मंत्री (श्री सुरजीत सिंह बरनाला) : (क) राजस्थान में केन्द्रीय सहकारी बैंकों ने किसानों को वर्ष 1075-76 में 69.8 करोड़ रुपए के ऋण जारी किए हैं।

(ख) वर्ष 1976-77 में भूमि विकास बैंक, राजस्थान द्वारा दिए गए योजना-वार ऋणों का व्यौरा मांगा गया है और प्राप्त होने पर एक विवरण सभा-पटल पर रख दिया जाएगा।

Bulgarian Aid for Agro-Industrial Centres

1883. SHRI D. D. DESAI:

SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up two agro-industrial centres with Bulgarian help; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (b). Two agro-industrial complexes are proposed to be developed, one each in Bihar and Karnataka, under Indo-Bulgarian Joint Cooperation programme. The projects aim at integration of production, processing and marketing of selected fruits and vegetables, which would contribute to improvement in the economy and development of the areas to be covered by them. The project proposals are yet to be finally cleared by the Government.

Export of Wheat and Wheat Products

1884. SHRI D. D. DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to export wheat and wheat products during the current year; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (b). The Government have so far not taken any decision regarding the export of wheat and wheat products during the current year, and the whole matter is under consideration.

Change in Role of F.C.I

1885. SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is going to be any change in the role of Food Corporation of India and whether any structural change is thought of; and

(b) if so, the gist thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Research in Disease of Coconut

1886. SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether century old disease had crippling effect on coconut production and research had not yet been able to counter fully the effect of the disease; and

(b) if so, the efforts of Central Government made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Yes, Sir, a disease of the coconut palm known as root wilt has a crippling effect on the production of coconut in Kerala and the researches have not yet been able to fully counter the effects of this disease.