

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a high powered Committee to review the functioning of the Food Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The working of Food Corporation of India is reviewed periodically by the Government. The bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) also undertook study of the cost audit of FCI's operations and submitted its report in June, 1990.

Export and Import of Ivory

6033. SHRI RAMNIHORE RAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a complete ban on the export and import of ivory since April 1, 1990;

(b) whether the imported ivory goods are being sold in the markets;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to implement the said ban?

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d): There is a complete ban on the export of all kinds of ivory since 1.4.1990. While the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act 1991 which

come into effect on 2.10.91 provided for a ban on trade in all kinds of ivory, the trade in imported African ivory, continued up to 22.5.92 and in case of mammoth ivory up to 26.5.92 when the stay orders from Delhi High Court were vacated. As of today trade in all kinds of ivory is prohibited and is an offence under the Wild Life (Protection) Act. Action against offenders is initiated by the law enforcement agencies.

The other measures taken by the Government for enforcing the ban include

i. Four regional and three sub-regional offices have been established by Government of India in major trade/export outlets in India to check illegal traffic in wild animal products.

ii. States have been advised to coordinate and liaise with the Directorate of Revenue intelligence, Armed Forces, Customs and Coast Guards authorities for better enforcement of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

iii. Through the State Governments action is being taken to Strengthen anti-poaching measures by providing arms and ammunition to forest guards, improving their communication capabilities, conducting raids on the basis of information about illegal trade in wildlife produce etc.

[Translation]

New Category of Class in Railways

6034. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI RAJENDRA AG-
NIHOTRI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to