

[English]

KHO-KHO CHAMPIONSHIP

1308. **Shri A. Venkatesh Naik** : Will the Minister of Human Resource Development be pleased to state :

(a) whether the First Asian Kho-Kho Championship is proposed to be held in Calcutta during December, 1995 ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to give international status to the game?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Youth Affairs And Sports) and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Mukul Wasnik) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is for the Indian Olympic Association and the Concerned federation to take necessary steps for this.

IODISED SALT SALE UNDER PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

1309. **Shri Mullappally Ramchandran** : Will the Minister of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution be Pleased to State :

(a) whether provision has been made for the sale of Iodised Salt through Public Distribution outlets; and

(b) if so, the time by which this is likely to be introduced?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution System) (Shri Venod Sharma) : (a) and (b) The Central Government makes bulk allocation to rice, wheat levy sugar, imported Edible Oil, Kerosene and Soft Coke to States/UTs for distribution through the Public Distribution System (PDS). The State Government/UT Administrations have been advised to add additional items of mass consumption like iodised salt for distribution through PDS depending upon the local needs and customer's preferences. It has been reported by some States/UTs like Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Maghalaya, Sikkim, Tripura and Dadra and Nagar Haveli that they are distributing Iodised Salt in Revamped PDS areas.

[Translation]

AMENDMENT IN FOREST (CONSERVATION) ACT, 1980

1310. **Shri Sushil Chanda Verma** : Will the Minister of Environment and Forests be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and National Forest Policy, 1988 for making available forest land to the industries/private organisations for undertaking plantation and for any other activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government so far in this direction?

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (Shri Rajesh Pilot) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A proposal for involvement of industry in afforestation of degraded forest and is under consideration of the Government.

[English]

DENOTIFICATION OF SANCTUARIES

1311. **Shri Syed Shahabuddin** : Will the Minister of Environment and Forests be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of animal and bird Sanctuaries in various States have been partially or wholly denotified during the last few years;

(b) if so, the total area denotified since 1st April, 1991 Sanctuary and State-wise;

(c) whether the denotification was done with the consent of despite disapproval of the Union Government and such denotification has been judicially struck down in some cases;

(d) whether the Union Government have been consulted by the State Government before taking such steps;

(e) if replies are in affirmative in regard to parts (c) and (d) the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government propose to strengthen the legislation so as to curb such denotification by the State Governments;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (Shri Rajesh Pilot) : (a) and (b) The cases of partial/whole denotification of protected areas which have come to the notice of this Ministry are as follows :

(i) The area of Cotigaon wildlife sanctuary in Goa was reduced from 105 sq. kms. to 85.65 sq. kms. in 1993.