

Government of Nagaland is likely to adopt the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972. Most of the States have framed rules for the proper enforcement of this Act which contains stringent penalties for any violations of the provisions for the protection of wildlife.

2. Since the implementation of the law is in the hands of the States, the Central Government has been urging the States and Union Territories to give this matter special attention and to enforce the legal provisions properly as well as firmly. Guidelines have also been issued for strengthening the wildlife organisations in the states, which are directly charged with the responsibility of wildlife protection and conservation. The Prime Minister has also written to the Chief Ministers of all the States emphasising the need of giving this matter personal and urgent attention. The Central Government has been extending financial assistance also to the States for the development of selected national parks and sanctuaries.

3. To safeguard the forests of the country, which constitute our most valuable natural wealth and also serve as the natural habitat of our wildlife, the Central Government has recently promulgated an Ordinance which makes it essential to obtain prior approval of the Central Government before putting any forest area to non-forest use. This would certainly help in protecting and conserving what remains of our natural forest wealth.

4. A new Department of Environment has been set up recently to handle all work concerned with ecology and environment. This new department will monitor the activities of all other agencies and departments which may have a bearing on matters relating to ecology and environment.

5. Efforts are being made also to educate the people in regard to conservation and environmental problems. It is hoped that this would also benefit greatly in the long run.

### **Taking away Publishing of Text Books from NCERT**

3916. SHRI SATYA SADHAN CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been urged to take away the publishing of text books from the NCERT and to give it to the private publishers; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

### **Paduck Logs Lying in Pearl Island**

3917. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of costly paduck logs are lying and rotting at Pearl Island extracted by WIMCO;

(b) if so the quantity thereof and since when lying and why it is not sold out; and

(c) what is the policy of the Government in relation to sale of paduck logs in the territory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b). Only about 11000 cubic metres are lying unutilised. This timber has been extracted from the coupes worked in 1979-80 and the present year. It is not a fact that this timber is rotting.

(c) The policy of Government is to take over all the paduck logs from the lease holders for departmental conversion in the Government Saw Mill. After conversion, timber is supplied to the Railways and the rest