

Agenda Paper on Centre-State Relations

2091. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJAPYEE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has prepared any 'agenda paper' on Centre-State relations to meet the legitimate aspirations of the States;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to bring it up for discussion with various political parties; and

(c) whether Government will also consider eliciting public opinion on the aforesaid 'agenda paper'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MODH. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c). No such agenda paper has been prepared. It may, however, be mentioned that the Inter-State Council is, at present, considering the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State Relations. The Sub-Committee constituted by the Inter-State Council has so far considered 190 out of 247 recommendations made by the Sarkaria Commission. The Government proposes to appoint a High Level Committee to review and update the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission.

[Translation]

Unearthing of LPG Gang

2092. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have unearthed a gang earning crores of rupees in the name of providing gas connections and distribution dealerships;

(b) if so, the number of persons arrested and the action taken against them; and

(c) the steps taken to check such illegal activities in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MODH. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c). As per provisions contained in the Seventh Schedule to the constitution of India, 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects and, therefore, registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime, including the crime relation to 'illegal activities in LPG Gas', is primarily the responsibility of the State Government.

Seizures of Wildlife Products

2093. SHRI SOHAN BEER : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some skins and other wildlife products were recently seized at Kishanganj Railway Station in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received such reports from other States during the last one year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against the culprits and to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The staff of the Chief Wildlife Warden, Delhi seized a consignment of 11 leopard skins at Kishan Ganj Railway Station on April 3, 1996. The consignment had originated from Beharmpur, Orissa but it did not have any address of the consignor of consignee. The case has been taken up with the Railway authorities as well as Wildlife authorities in Orissa.

(c) and (d). This Ministry does not collate and compile the details of seizures of wildlife parts and products made by all the States. However, details of important seizures, as reported by some of the States in the last one year as well as seizure made through the Regional Deputy Directors of Wildlife of this Ministry located at Delhi, Calcutta, Mumbai and Madras are given in the statement enclosed. Action against the offenders in these cases is taken under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Customs Act, 1962 and other related laws.

(e) The steps taken to control smuggling of wildlife products includes :

- (i) Hunting of wild animals included in Schedules I to IV of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, has been banned by law.
- (ii) Special measures for protection and conservation of tiger, elephants and rhinos and their habitat are being implemented.
- (iii) A network of 441 wildlife sanctuaries and 80 national parks covering 1,48,000 sq. km. has been set up for conservation of wild flora and fauna. Financial assistance is provided by the Central Government for development of national parks and sanctuaries on request from the State Governments.
- (iv) This Ministry has set up a National Coordination committee consisting of representative of all major enforcement organisations such as: Customs, Revenue intelligence, CBI, Police, BSF, ITBP, RPF and foreign Post Office, Traffic-India and Wildlife authorities to enable effective inter-departmental cooperation and coordination to deal with the problem of illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products.
- (v) Training programmes on enforcement and implementation of wildlife and other related laws and international conventions have been organised for all the enforcement agencies in February and November, 1995.

- (vi) Raids are carried out by the wildlife authorities, in cooperation with other enforcement agencies if necessary, whenever information of illegal trading in wildlife is received.
- (vii) India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild fauna and flora (CITES) under which international trade in endangered species and their parts and derivatives is strictly regulated.
- (viii) Rewards are given to informers for gathering intelligence regarding illegal trade and smuggling of wildlife products.
- (ix) A committee set up by this Ministry to look into issues related to illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products has recommended specific measures to deal with this problem and these are being followed up with the States for implementation.
- (x) Regional and Sub-regional offices of Wildlife Preservation has been set-up mostly at the main export centres of the country to prevent illegal trade and smuggling of wildlife products.

STATEMENT

1. (i) On 4.5.95 the Uttar Pradesh Forest Authorities had seized 3 leopard skins from Haridwar range and one person was arrested.
- (ii) On 28.6.95, 2 leopard skins and 5 Kg. leopard bones were recovered in Mohand Forest Range of Rajaji National Park from two persons.
- (iii) On 6.7.95 one leopard skin was recovered from 2 persons in Shyampur Forest Range near Haridwar.
2. On 12.6.1995 police seized two rhino horns weighing 432 gms. and 225gms. respectively alongwith on Maruti Van and two bags from Siliguri (West Bengal). 5 persons were arrested in this connection. This Ministry has referred the case to Central Bureau of Investigation for further investigation because of certain international ramifications of this case.
3. On 22.8.95 a raid was carried out jointly by Northern regional Office, New Delhi with the Help of Divisional Director, Varanasi Forest Division in Varanasi and the following items were seized-One tiger skin, one leopard skin, 21 black buck skins and 2 pairs of black buck antlers. The owner of the said establishment was arrested.
4. On 9.10.95 Northern Regional Office, New Delhi and Director, WWF/Traffic India jointly

carried out an operation in Agra (UP) and seized on tiger skin, on leopard skin and 10 kg. of tiger and 5 kg. of leopard bones. One person was arrested in this connection.

On 10.10.95 the above team carried out another operation at Swaimadhapur (Rajasthan) and succeeded in seizing 4 fresh leopard skins, 9.5 kg. of leopard bones and about 30-40 claws of tiger. One person was arrested in this connection.

5. On 7.11.95 consignment containing two tiger skins which was being transported by a truck No. HA-38-7457 belonging to NITCO Transport Co. was seized in Jammu. Further investigation in the matter revealed that the addresses of the consignor and the consignee were false.
6. On 13.11.95, 10 nos. of leopard skins were seized by the J&K Police at Leh airport. The Consignment was booked at Delhi Through a courier agency NITCO Air Express by one Noor Mohd. of Majnu ka Tila. The addresses of the consignor and the consignee turned out to be false as in the previous cases.
7. A raid was conducted on 23.12.95 by officers of Northern Regional Office, New Delhi at a residential premises in Lajpat Nagar area in South Delhi and 172 shahtoosh shawls valued at about 1 crore were seized. One person was arrested in the connection.
8. On 20.1.96 the officers of Western Regional Office, Bombay carried out a raid at Wadsa and seized 1 panther skin. Three persons were arrested in this connection. On the same day, another raid was conducted in Brahmapuri town of Chandrapur District and seized one tiger skin. One person was arrested in this connection. On 21.1.96 the above team carried out another raid at Nagpur Railway Station and a private building in Vardhaman Nagar, Nagpur and seized three panther skin at Railway Station and two panther skins in the Vardhaman Nagar, Nagpur and two persons were arrested in this connection.
9. On 14.3.96 the officials of Wildlife Department of Delhi seized large number of wild animal skin at Old Delhi Railway Station. The details of the Seized animals are as below:

Civet skin	703 nos.
Jackal skin	230 nos.
Common Fox skins	87 nos.
Desert Cat skin	1 no.
Jungle Cat skin	84 nos.

Inquiry into the matter revealed that the consignment was booked from Dabra in Madhya Pradesh. The consignment had no address on it either of the consigner or of the consignee. The matter has been taken up with the Railway Authorities and the Wildlife Authorities, Madhya Pradesh.

[English]

Intensive Cotton Development Programme

2094. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the States where the Intensive Cotton Development programme has been undertaken;

(b) the details of the areas brought under the programme in those States during the Eighth Five Year Plan so far. State-wise;

(c) the Central assistance extended to those States to increase areas under the programme during the said period, till date State-wise and year-wise; and

(d) the financial assistance proposed to be given during the current financial year for implementation of the said programme, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The names of the States implementing the Centrally Sponsored scheme on Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) are Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu and Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c). During Eighth Five Year Plan the Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) is being implemented in 43 (forty three) identified districts in the above mentioned States; selected on the basis of having potential for increasing productivity and production of cotton. State-wise details are given in statement-I. For increasing production and productivity of cotton, funds released to various States under the ICDP scheme during first four years of Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-93 to 1995-96) are given in statement-II)

(d) The Statewise details proposed to under the Scheme during current year i.e. 1996-97 are as under :-

(Rs in lakhs)		
S.No.	State	Outlay (GOI Share)
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	177.75
2	Gujarat	84.36
3	Haryana	97.45
4	Karnataka	58.99
5	Madhya Pradesh	69.11

1	2	3
6.	Maharashtra	325.54
7.	Orissa	15.79
8.	Punjab	304.57
9.	Rajasthan	128.21
10.	Tamil Nadu	187.61
11.	Uttar Pradesh	10.62

STATEMENT-I

List of Districts under Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) for training & Demonstrations.

State	Districts
1	2
1. Punjab	1. Bhatinda 2. Faridkot 3. Ferozpur 4. Sangrur
2. Haryana	1. Hissar 2. Sirsa
3. Rajasthan	1. Sriganganagar
4. Madhya Pradesh	1. Khandwa 2. Khargone (Khargona) 3. Dhar
5. Gujarat	1. Baroda 2. Surendranagar 3. Broach (Bharuch) 4. Sabrakantha 5. Ahmedabad 6. Rajkot 7. Mehsana
6. Maharashtra	1. Akhola 2. Dhule 3. Yeotmal 4. Amravati 5. Parbasni 6. Nanded 7. Jalgaon 8. Jalna 9. Aurangabad 10. Buldhana 11. Wardha 12. Nagpur
7. Andhra Pradesh	1. Guntur 2. Prakasam 3. Kurnool 4. Adilabad
8. Karnataka	1. Dharwad 2. Raichur 3. Bellary 4. Bijapur 5. Balgaum