

the development of Gir and for ecodevelopment in its vicinity. The funds provided so far during the VIII plan are as follows :

Name of Scheme	Rs. in lakhs
(i) Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries	17.10
(ii) Eco-development around National Parks and Sanctury.	16.480

[Translation]

Building for Cooperative Banks

2218. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Cooperative Banks in Uttar Pradesh not housed in Government buildings, and

(b) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to provide Government buildings to Zila Sahakari Banks particularly in Lalitpur District and also to ensure that there is no violation of the agreements already signed between the landlords and these banks?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and a Statement will be laid on the Table of the House.

Smuggling of Wildlife Articles

2219. SHRI RAM SAGAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that wildlife articles are being smuggled out from the country, particularly from Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh to China, Nepal and other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government to check the smuggling of wildlife articles.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of wildlife articles being smuggled out of the country which were seized in the last 1 year by the Regional Deputy Directors of Wildlife of this Ministry located at Delhi, Calcutta, Mumbai and Madras, are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) The action taken to check the smuggling of wildlife articles include :

(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 have been set-up mostly at the main export centres of the country to prevent illegal trade and smuggling of wildlife products.