

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) The wildlife week is observed every year starting from 2nd October to coincide with the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. As in previous years, the Prime Minister's message on the eve of wildlife week, was widely circulated. The State Governments were requested to organise various wildlife awareness generation programmes involving the relevant departments, non-governmental organisations and the youth. Nature camps and group visits by school Children to nearby national parks and sanctuaries and zoological parks were organised. The mass media was utilised for spreading the message of wildlife conservation. In Delhi, the National Zoological Park Organised the main function on behalf of this Ministry, wherein various activities like painting competition, essay writing, clay and mask modelling, wildlife cartoon drawing, wildlife quiz, fancy dress competition and wildlife photography contests were organised.

(b) and (c). Census of major species of wild animals is conducted periodically by the States and not specifically during the wildlife week.

The comparative figures of the last 2 census in respect of the major endangered species is given below:

S. No.	Name of Species	Year	
		1989	1993
1.	Tiger	4334	3750
2.	Leopard	6763	6828
3.	Elephant	17635 Min. to 24090 Max.	22796 Min. to 28346 Max.
4.	Rhinos	1591	1566 (1995)
5.	Lion	284 (1990)	304 (1995)

Although no new schemes were launched during the wildlife week by this Ministry, all the ongoing central sector and centrally sponsored schemes for wildlife conservation were continued.

[Translation]

Irregularities in Sindri Fertilisers Plant

612 SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaint regarding the irregularities in Sindri Fertilisers Industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action being taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Indian Fertilisers Workers Union has demanded a C.B.I. inquiry into the working of Sindri Fertilisers Industry; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (c). A number of complaints containing allegations of financial irregularities in the Sindri unit of the Fertiliser Corpn. of India Ltd. were received. These were examined to assess whether there was a prima-facie case warranting a further probe. None of the allegations could be substantiated by facts.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Attack on Elderly Citizen

613. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the incidents of attacks on the elderly citizens and couples in Delhi have been increasing;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents reported during the last one year; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to reduce such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b). 24 cases of attacks on elderly citizens/couples have been reported in Delhi during the period from 1.11.95 to 31.10.96 as against 25 such cases reported during the corresponding period from 1.11.94 to 31.10.95. The details of such crimes are as under :

Crime Head	1.11.95 to 31.10.96		1.11.94 to 31.10.95	
	Alone	Couple	Alone	Couple
Murder	11	2	16	5
Dacoity	2	-	1	1
Robbery	6	-	1	-
Hurt (Grievous)	2	-	-	-
Culpable homicide (u/s 304 IPC)	1	-	-	-
Attempt to culpable Homicide (u/s 308 IPC)	-	-	1	-

(c) The steps taken to prevent/reduce such crime are as under :

(i) A Senior Citizens' Security Scheme is in

vogue under which senior citizens are identified, beat-wise and division-wise in every police Station. Beat staff of the Police Stations visits these senior citizens to offer them advice on security measures that should be taken.

- (ii) During the beat and division patrolling, special vigil is maintained around the residences of senior citizens.
- (iii) The antecedents of servants and others employed by elderly persons are verified.
- (iv) The Chowkidars of the area have been briefed to keep an eye on the residences of this category of persons.

Illegal Entry of Sri Lankan Citizens

614. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Sri Lankan citizens living in Delhi illegally without any valid documents were arrested in July, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the manner in which they entered India;

(c) whether these citizens have since been deported to Sri Lanka, and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Delhi Police arrested 10 Sri Lankan citizens on the 11th July, 1996 from a hotel where they were found to be staying without valid travel documents. During investigation, it was found out that they had reached Delhi on their way to Canada from Sri Lanka. They had travelled by ship to Madras and from Madras to Delhi by air.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. Since all the accused are facing trial in the court, they could not be deported. They were, however, released on bail in September/October, 1996 under the orders of the court. Look out cards in respect of them have been opened by the Foreigner Regional Registration Office (F.R.R.O.) to prevent their escape from the country.

Environmental Development Schemes

615. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased state :

(a) whether the Government propose to undertake the environmental development schemes in wild life centres in the country with the assistance of World Bank and Universal Environmental Fund.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the norms adopted for the selection of Wild Life Centres for implementing the development schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). The India - Eco-development Project, with assistance from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the International Development Association (IDA) is in the final stages of clearance. The project covers 7 wildlife protected areas, namely Buxa National Park (West Bengal), Gir National Park (Gujarat), Nagarhole National Park (Karnataka), Palamau National Park (Bihar), Pench National Park (Madhya Pradesh), Periyar National Park (Kerala) and Ranthambore National Park (Rajasthan). The total cost of the project over a 5-year period is US \$ 67 million. The project will support eco-development activities in and around the selected protected areas to reduce the negative impacts of human activities on these areas. In addition, another eco-development project with assistance from IDA is under implementation in the Great Himalayan National Park (Himachal Pradesh) and Kalakad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (Tamil Nadu) with a total outlay of US \$ 5.3 million over a period of five years.

(c) Selection of project sites has been done on the basis of their biodiversity values and the availability of infrastructure and capacity to implement such projects.

Prices of Wheat and Rice

616. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA :
SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the main reasons for increase in domestic prices of wheat and rice despite the bumper crops; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to check the domestic prices of wheat and rice?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) The increase in prices of wheat and rice in the open market is due to the following factors :-

- (i) Periodic Increase in Minimum Support Prices of Wheat and paddy for 1996-97 Rabi and Kharif Seasons
- (ii) Increase in transport cost on account of hike in petroleum products.
- (iii) Lower production of wheat in 1995-96 by 3.1 million tonnes
- (iv) Holding back surplus stocks at the village level in anticipation of higher prices in lean months.
- (v) Holding back of stocks by exporters/traders anticipating higher prices.