

(Protection) Act, 1972. In order to discourage poaching of tuskers, a ban has been placed on the trade in ivory. For international control, the elephant has been included in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES), which

prohibits international trade among the signatory countries in ivory. In order to strengthen the protection of elephant populations and their natural habitats in India, the Government of India has launched Project Elephant to provide assistance to the elephant range states.

Statement

Sl. No.	State	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
		N	P	N	P	N	P
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	1	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	4	Nil	2	Nil
3.	Assam	20	4	24	3	14	6
4.	Bihâr	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
5.	Karnataka	3	12	4	18	—	10
6.	Kerala	6	6	33	3	34	3
7.	Meghalaya	Nil	1	7	1	9	10
8.	Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	6	8
9.	Orissa	—	12	—	13	6	10
10.	Tamil Nadu	—	2	—	4	—	7
11.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	—	19
12.	West Bengal	12	2	13	3	6	3
Total		41	40	85	46	77	77

Child Labour

1725. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are convening a meeting to discuss the strategy on the growing problems of child labour and street children;

(b) if so, the time by which a meeting is likely to be convened;

(c) whether the Ministry have also decided to set up a 15 member Committee to suggest the ways and means for making the functions of NGOs and other social organisations engaged in the rehabilitation programmes of children more effective and purposeful;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) to (e) The information is

being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Prices of Rice, Wheat etc. under P.D.S.

1726. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering a hike in the Central issue prices of rice, wheat and other essential commodities being distributed under the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of items and extent of increase in their prices during the last three years;

(d) whether any final decision to hike the prices of these items has been taken; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?