

(a) the names of the species of animals and birds which are on the verge of extinction in the country;

(b) the names of the species of animals and birds which have become extinct; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to protect the endangered species of birds and animals?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Although a number of animal and bird species are endangered in the wild, they can not be considered to be on the verge of extinction. Some of the highly endangered species are: The Manipur Brow-Antlered deer, Hispid-Hare, Pigmy Hog, Mrs Hume's Barred Back Pheasant, Burmese Peafowl, Siberian Crane, Hooded Crane, Forest Spotted Owlet, Masked Finfood and Jerdon's Courser.

(b) The animal and bird species which are known to have become extinct are: Hunting Leopard or Cheetah, Lesser-one-horned Rhinoceros, Argiatri Two-horned Rhinoceros, Mountain Quail and Pink-headed Duck.

(c) A number of steps are being taken to protect endangered species. These include; Providing legal protection against hunting and commercial exploitation under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972; providing assistance to the States for development of national parks and sanctuaries; implementing special projects for endangered species such as tiger, elephants, rhino etc; controlling poaching and illegal trade of wildlife through interdepartmental co-ordination and providing antipoaching infrastructure in specified areas. Besides, amendment of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Indian Forest Act, 1927 has been taken on hand to make the penal provisions of these Acts more stringent.

Capturing of Boat by BSF

3296. DR. A.K. PATEL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a boat was taken into custody by the soldiers of BSF on the bank of river in Kuchh Bhuj in Gujarat in January, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the material seized from the boat; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a)

to (c) On 17th January, 1997, a fishing boat was seized by BSF near Koteswar in creek area containing the following arms and ammunitions:—

(i) Pistol	:	19 Numbers
(ii) Revolver	:	01 Numbers
(iii) AK 56 rifle	:	05 Numbers
(iv) Sniper rifle	:	06 Numbers
(v) Ammunition assorted	:	1320 Rounds

The following steps have been taken to check the smuggling of arms and ammunition and infiltration through the Indo-Pak border.

- (i) Additional Battalions have been sanctioned and deployed under expansion plan to reduce the gaps between the Border Out Posts.
- (ii) Patrolling and Nakas have been increased and intensified.
- (iii) Border patrolling on horses, camels and tractors is being done.
- (iv) OP towers have been erected.
- (v) Binoculars, goggles, twin telescopes, PNV binoculars and hand held search lights have been provided for enhanced vigilance on the border.
- (vi) Border fence/flood lighting has been erected in Punjab and Rajasthan. Feasibility studies for a modified type of fencing in Rann area of Gujarat have also been undertaken.
- (vii) Boats and Motor boats have been provided for patrolling riverine area.
- (viii) Border roads/tracks are being constructed and developed for vehicular patrolling in Punjab and Rajasthan sectors.

[English]

ULFA Activities

3297. SHRI K.S. RAYUDU : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ULFA rebels have set up camps in the forests inside the territory of Bhutan for launching violent activities in Assam;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been taken up with the Government of Bhutan; and

(c) the response of the Bhutanese Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter has been taken up with the Government of Bhutan and they are extending cooperation.

[Translation]

Allocation of Funds for Tribal Development

3298. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated by the Union Government for the Tribal Development in Rajasthan during 1995-96 and 1996-97; and

(b) the amount out of it spent by the State Government for the upliftment of the STs and the amount laying unutilised in this account?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) According to the information available with the Ministry, during 1995-96 an amount of Rs. 2983.18 lakhs was allocated to the Government of Rajasthan for tribal development which includes the Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan of the State and grants under Art. 275(i) of the Constitution. The entire amount has been spent by the State Government.

During 1996-97, an amount of Rs. 3067.32 lakhs has been allocated out of which the State Govt. has reported utilisation of Rs. 226.31 lakhs so far.

[English]

Training for Development of Animal Husbandry

3299. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have finalised a scheme to train people of 50 most backward districts of the country in the improved animal husbandry practices;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme; and

(c) the steps being taken for its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) A scheme of intensive livestock development in 50 backward districts of the country is at an advanced stage of consideration of the Government. Training of people in improved animal husbandry practices forms an integral and important component of the proposed scheme. The State Governments have been requested to identify the districts where such a programme can be implemented.

[Translation]

Pollution in Yamuna

3300. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :
SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken steps for reducing the level of pollution in the Yamuna river in Delhi during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and amount spent during the said period, year-wise;

(c) the extent to which the level of pollution has been reduced in the Yamuna river during the said period; and

(d) the time by which the Yamuna river is likely to be made completely pollution free?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yamuna Action Plan is being implemented to reduce the pollution of river Yamuna. The estimated cost of works for Delhi is Rs. 20.61 crore. Works proposed under the plan are construction of two million litres per day capacity sewage treatment plants, an electric crematorium, low cost community toilets, improvement of bathing ghats, afforestation and public participation. The yearwise break-up of funds released by the Government of India during the last three years towards its 50% share is as under:

Year	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	Total
Amount in Rs. lakhs	0.0	182.82	462.50	645.32

Apart from these works, the Delhi Government is constructing 13 sewage treatment plants from their own resources. Industrial pollution is being tackled through legislative measures. The Central Pollution Control Board has issued directions on 14.7.1997 to all the State