

(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;