

STATEMENT**THE MAJOR STEPS TAKEN TO PROTECT WILDLIFE INCLUDE**

- (i) Hunting of wild animals included in Scheduled 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) Raids are carried out by the wildlife authorities, whenever information of illegal trading in wildlife animals reaches them.
- (v) International Trade in Endangered Species of animals and articles made thereof is regulated under the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- (vi) Regional and Sub-regional offices of Wildlife Preservation have been set-up mostly at the main export centers of the country to prevent smuggling of wildlife products.
- (vii) Interdepartmental coordination has been enhanced with other enforcement organizations like Police, BSF, Customs, ITBP, Coast Guards etc. Training programmes on wildlife enforcement and implementation were also conducted for all these organizations at New Delhi and Dehradun during, 1995.

*[English]***Cancellation of Bogie**

4073 SHRI K.S. RAYADU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a passenger bogie which comes from Narsapur to Vijayawada and then joined to Hyderabad-Madras Express at Vijayawada has been cancelled;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to restore it, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Population of Wild Animals

4074. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :
SHRI SOHAN BEER :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

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

(a) the population of each of the major species of the wild animals in the country including in National Parks and Sanctuaries as per the last three census, State-wise.

(b) whether despite the stringent law, the number of these animals is gradually declining,

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial steps taken by the Government to protect these animals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Census of some major endangered species are conducted by the states once in four years and in some important protected areas once in two years. The figures for some such major wild animals are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The population of Tiger and Rhino has marginally declined. This decline is due to habitat destruction and poaching for illegal trade.

(d) A number of steps are being taken to safeguard wild animal populations. These include : 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 National Parks and sanctuaries within the resources available.