

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) and (b). No comprehensive survey of teak growing areas of the North Eastern region, particularly the Manipur-Burma border has been made so far

(c) and (d). There is no proposal from the Government of Manipur regarding formulation of a time-bound programme for protection and nurturing of teak wood in the Manipur-Burma border areas. The State forest department is responsible for protection and nurturing of the forest lands.

Illegal Trade in Skins and Bones of Wild Animals

*298. **SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH:** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a flourishing business in skins and bones of the wild animals in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken to put an end to this trade; and

(c) the number of persons, State-wise, arrested during the last 12 months indulging in this illegal trade and how does it compare with the arrests made during the preceding three years?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) Occasional cases of illegal trade in skins and bones of wild animals are detected.

(b) Major steps taken to put curbs on this trade are as follows:—

(i) Regulation of hunting and trade of wild animals is provided for

under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

(ii) International trade in respect of wild animals and products derived therefrom, is strictly regulated with reference to provisions given in Export Policy and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES).

(iii) The Wildlife Division under Government of India has been suitably strengthened by creation of 4 regional and 3 sub-regional offices.

(iv) Assistance is provided to state Governments under a centrally sponsored scheme for development of infrastructure to apprehend poachers and illicit traders.

(v) Scheme of cash rewards for providing intelligence about poachers and illegal traders has been introduced.

(vi) Better coordination has been established at the State level between police and wildlife officials and at the Centre with officials of Custom Department and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence.

(c) State-wise information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

Ban on Smoking In Indoor Work Places

*300. **SHRI P.R.S. VENKATESAN:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that