

17.30 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

ROLE OF ZOOS IN EDUCATIONAL, CONSERVATIONAL AND PRESERVATIVE ASPECTS OF WILD LIFE.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I consider this a rare privilege that I have been able to raise a discussion about the dump denizens of our forests who cannot plead for themselves as we can in this House and outside.

The term 'wild life' does not only mean wild animals. It also means the wild plants.

MR. SPEAKER: Everything is going wild these days, it seems.

SHRI P. K. DEO (Kalahandi): Even the Parliament.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: I will just come to that also. It does not mean wild animals alone. It means wild plants and their habitats—the forests, the deserts, the marshes, the mountains, the savanna—they all comprise, to enable the indigenous flora and fauna to survive and to have a continuous existence.

The main reason for raising this discussion was not that there was any lack of awareness in the Government. But the more important point is that there is lack of sense of urgency and lack of will to implement things for which we wax eloquent in this House.

In this regard I would like to mention that the preservation of wild life has even found a place in Kalidasa's works when the hunted deer ran into the Rishi's ashram. Then we find in Asoka's rock edicts of third century BC regarding promotion and preservation of wild life. As far back as 1952 Government of India constituted the Indian Board for Wild Life and here is a leaflet produced by the Indian Board for Wild Life—'Why Preserve Wild Life?' with a beautiful Foreword by our late respected Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. I would like to quote a few lines from this to corroborate what you said something ago that everything is going wild.

"Wild life? That is how we refer to the magnificent animals of our jungles and to the beautiful birds that brighten our lives. I wonder sometimes what these animals and birds think of man and how they would describe him if they had the capacity to do so. I rather doubt if their description would be very complimentary to man. In spite of our culture and civilization, in many ways man continues to be not only wild but more dangerous than any of the so-called wild animals."

Then, in 1965 the Indian Board for Wild Life brought out some bulletins. In 1966 Mr. P. D. Stracey, a Member of Indian Forest Service brought out a booklet 'Wild Life Management in India'. There are brochures containing a summary of the recommendations of the Indian Board for Wild Life and its Executive Standing Committees and the meetings held in 1961-65 and previous to that also, which have not been implemented yet.

Then, Sir, we had the special meeting between the Standing Committee of Wild Life Board with the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources held in 1965 in Corbett National Park. Then came the Estimates Committee's 76th Report on Forestry and Wild Life in October 1969. Then we had the International Union on Nature and Natural Resources annual conference held in Delhi last year, and the Report of the Expert Committee of IBWL.

Why I am taking pains to emphasize these points is the fact that in the meantime with our growing population steadily and gradually the habitate of the wild life is being destroyed and to various other reasons like industrialisation like opening of roads and communications in areas which were hitherto inaccessible, the advent of modern weapons, jeeps and vehicles, spotlighting and poaching traps and other forms of snares and, using of folidol and other insecticides is taking a heavy toll of wild life.

The other thing is this. There are various political parties in the country which take deliberate pride in cutting down forest trees indiscriminately, thus spoiling and

[Shri K. P. Singh Deo]

destroying the habitat of wild life which again interferes with the balance of nature.

AN HON. MEMBER : Which are those parties?

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: That everyone knows: the so-called progressive leftists and other parties. In my own constituency, Sir, in Dhenkanal, just outside the town, 400 acres of virgin sal forest was cut down by the opposition parties in Orissa. This deliberate spoiling of the habitat and the destruction done has brought us to such a situation where already many species of wild life have disappeared from the face of the earth and some others are on the verge of extinction; some are threatened and very few are safe.

In India, especially after the war and during the war years, with the posting of many trigger happy military officers, they indulged in poaching; even now many military officers do indulge in indiscriminate poaching. This has resulted in such a situation that within 35 years of wanton destruction, has crippled the evolution and the propagation of wild life which have taken centuries to grow.

It is with this background that I am emphasising the fact. We have had so much literatures; we have had so many foreign experts and Indian experts and so many conferences and discussion here in the country and outside, with organisations like the FAO, the World Wild Life Fund, the International Union of Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, and with the Fauna Preservation Society of Britain, who come here every 2 or 3 years. Also, we have had discussions in the Wild Life Preservation Society of India and the Bombay Natural History Society and other Conservation societies. But in spite of that, the fact remains that wild life is vanishing fast and is dwindling.

The flora and fauna are an inseparable part of nature; one cannot exist without the other. Both form very much man's environment without which he cannot exist.

The question of pollution and environmental pollution especially has assumed very

serious proportions recently. In Europe recently, 1970 was observed as the European Conservation Year, in which, pollution was one thing which was highlighted.

Some time back, in the month of July, in Nevada there was a conference regarding the Indian sub-continent *vis-a-vis* pollution and the other aspect of the vanishing wild life, such as education and ecology.

But, sir, I am sorry to say this that to a Question which I put last session, Government gave the reply that they were not aware that such a conference regarding India and its wild life was being held. If you give a minute, I will quote it. This was a Question which I put on the 6th August, and this is Starred Question No. 262. Government says, they are not aware of any such Conference being held whereas in Dehra Dun, in 1969 at the pre-conference study on Environmental Education it was definitely decided that in Nevada in July there will be a Conference on the Indian subcontinent.

This shows the interest which the Government are taking so far as preservation and protection of wild life is concerned and keeping ourselves abreast with the developments in other parts of the world with regard to this subject.

Even if we do our utmost for national parks, sanctuaries and game parks and other places of preservation, the fact still remains that it will be a veritable impossibility to guarantee and safeguard cent percent the wild life from the ravages of natural calamities like epidemics, disease, drought and floods. As the hon. Minister knows, in Bandipur, the whole bison herd was wiped out and lost; in the Gir forests, the lion population has severely come down and similarly, in Kaziranga, whenever the floods hit Assam, the wild life is severely hit. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary to establish breeding centres for threatened and rare species in the zoos. The zoological gardens and the zoological parks should have this aspect in the forefront that breeding and conservation of threatened and vanishing and rare species should be the watchword of the keyword in our policy.

Man began studying animals right from the caves, and will continue to do so till there is a single human being left in this civilisation of in this world. So, for that reason, conservation education takes on a very significant role in man's life, if we are to safeguard our vanishing wild life and leave it for posterity to judge and for our future generations to inherit this rich heritage.

I need not go into the various reports and articles which have been written and which were submitted during the last session which was held last year of the IUCN & N.R. Which I am sure the hon. Minister who is the pre-chairman of the Indian Board for Wild Life must have attended. There, important papers relating to the role of zoos *vis-a-vis* conservation, the important role which it fulfils in the aspect of rainfall were read out and discussed by no less a person than from the University of Malaya, namely Lady Medwa, a very well known conservationist from Malaya. Then, papers were read also on captive breeding as an aid to practical conservation on the question of re-introduction of species. Papers were read by conservationists from the UK and they give us knowledge which has special significance to India, because at the moment, we are breeding in captivity white tigers which have completely become extinct in India. For, apart from the Rewa forests which were the last heaven of the white tigers, Mohun, the white tiger which was the sire of the white tiger population is already dead, and, therefore, the breeding which we are doing in Delhi of white tigers takes on a special significance in this respect.

The same is the case of birds, fowls and geese. I do not want to go into the details. There are enough recommendations and suggestions if the Indian Board for Wild Life which have not been implemented even though eighteen long years have passed and much water has flowed down the Jamuna.

Regarding the cheetah, during the question hour on the 19th instant, in reply to a question on this very subject, it was brought out that although extinct here in India, the Indian cheetah, thrives in the Texas, because it has been given the protection it needs there, and correct and planned measures have been taken to reintroduce them in Texas.

So is the case of black bucks, chinkara and other Indian species which have been totally extinct here but find a ready home in the USA.

One of our Indian experts, Reuben, Daird, the Director of the Ahmedabad-zoo read out a paper on the role of zoos and therein he has made a very emphatic point and he has suggested for the propagation of zoological parks in India where in a larger area animals, reptiles and birds or wild life can be studied from the ecological point of view, from the research point of view, from the point of view of their habitat, from the point of view of the balance of nature, from the point of view of their adaptation to their habitat, which will go a long way in fulfilling the scientific and economic needs of society.

Like Taiwan, India is a country which is very much dependent on agriculture. Her economy subsists on agriculture. The part that birds and animals play *vis-a-vis* the agricultural economy was also stressed at the conference by Mr. Salim Ali. So it is not a question of pleading for a few birds and animals being kept in cages and people go round and see them on holidays and just get a kick out of it. These animals, birds and fishes play a very important part in our economy as well. As you know, Kerala, Orissa and other coastal States derive a lot of revenue from marine fish from their vast coastline.

In this connection, the problem of environmental pollution also assumes significance. According to the *Times of India* dated 23rd November 1970, at the recent conference in London of the Second Congress of World Wild Life, world-wide measures were discussed to prevent pollution of the atmosphere and ocean waters which had imperilled animal life and also the future of mankind itself.

The Japanese also have not been left far behind. They have also started taking measures regarding environmental and health hazards in their country to save mankind as well as their wild life and animal resources which include birds, fishes and animals.

[Shri K. P. Singh Deo]

It is also very clear that no amount of legislation whether here or in State Legislatures passed, no amount of conferences in Vigyan Bhavaor in any other airconditioned venue in any of the State capitals is going to solve the problems of vanishing life our national asset and heritage, without the active awareness, active interest and active co-operation and participation of the people.

If we are to bring these viewpoints into practical effect, zoos are the only places where the public comes in direct contact with these aspects of study, conservation and preservation. The ecology, ecosystem, behaviour attitudes of all these animals have to be studied. It is here that the children and the youth who will be the standard-bearers of the preservation and conservation of wild life and other allied national resources can be taken into confidence, by having more children zoos, by explaining to them in booklets, and other publications, and by *audio visual* aids, by creating an interest in them by the scientific display of animals in their natural surroundings.

For a population of 53 crores, there are only 25 zoos in the country, and they are also not well distributed in the country. In Rajasthan there are five zoos, started in pre-independence days, in Gujart four or five, in Maharashtra three and none in some States like Punjab, Orissa, Bihar and Nagaland and some of the Union Territories.

MR. SPEAKER : Half an hour is meant only for yourself? I do not mind if time is taken for subjects like this rather than other things.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : Conservation and preservation of wild life and kindness to animals should be included in the curriculum of studies for children from the very beginning. At the last meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Education and Youth Services at Mysore this was raised by me and they have shown a positive approach, and it is already with the NCERT for drawing up a syllabus. I hope the Minister can play his role usefully and try to hasten the process so that it finds a place in the curriculum.

For all this to succeed, we must make our zoos more presentable and create an interest and impact on the public. It is a source of revenue also. There should be such planning of landscape that the animals live in conditions as near as possible to their natural habitat. The only source of water in the Delhi Zoo is the contaminated water from the Jamuna. There we are talking about conservation of wild life and at the same time, we are giving them polluted water. It is the same in Madras.

SHRI.RANJEET SINGH (Khalilabad) : It is the same water they give us also.

MR. SPEAKER : They do not discriminate.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : We must look to the welfare of the zoo staff because they are the people who are with the animals all the 24 hours.

MR. SPEAKER : You have taken the full half hour.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : There is no dissemination of information exchange or communication among the various zoos. For instance, an elephant in captivity for the first time gave birth to a baby in the Mysore zoo. It was a caesarean, but there has been no documentation in the other zoos, so that if such a thing is repeated in any other zoo, they will be able to deliver the calf successfully. Veterinary science places an important role; because of lack of that in Mysore the baby elephant died. The Minister replied to my question last session that they were not aware of it and that they would enquire and the Statement would be laid on the Table. In an article by Mr. Desmond Morris, a well-known zoo specialist, which the Prime Minister sent to the Indian Board for wild Life for its deliberations last year, he brings out many aspects regarding the behaviour of animals in captivity, without companions, and when their cages are made small and unnatural. He has divided these animals into specialists categories and opportunist category. Opportunist category is the species of animal whom we can study

their behaviour, food habits, living habits and all that. In Delhi there is a chimpanzee who has no companion, for instance. He behaved the same way as the article suggests. Three chimpanzees were given to the Delhi zoo. I referred to them on the 19th. They were for safe custody. Now they are threatened to be auctioned off, sold off to the highest bidder, Indian or foreigner. Perhaps they will go out of the country. These are part of our national asset. You can play a constructive role. These chimpanzees should remain in Delhi zoo; they have proved a great attraction to the visitors of the zoo too.

In conclusion I should like to say that by saying we must grow more food we must not spoil the habitat of animals. We can grow more food by wise use of land, by modern methods of intensive cultivation and still preserve the habitat of wild life. On behalf of the animals and the birds and other creatures such as fish, who are dumb, who cannot speak for themselves, I should like to plead to the House and say: let us hold this land in trust for the generations to come so that we might preserve our national heritage for the generations who will follow us.

18.00 hrs.

SHRI S. KUNDU (Balasore): It is a very important problem and Mr. K. P. Singh Deo has dealt with this subject in depth and with its various aspects. I do not want to dwell on those things. I want an answer to a specific question. We received a memorandum, it was perhaps circulated to all Members and also sent to the Government, where it had been alleged that the ban on killing tigers had resulted in losing human beings. I do not know whether the Government has seen it. I agree that rare species should not be destroyed... (Interruptions.) We are really concerned with the rare species which are dying out in some areas. For instance, the white tigers, and particularly the lions in the Gujarat area. I want to know how this problem is going to be balanced, and what steps are being taken in that regard.

Then there is the question about national parks. I have visited some national parks, and I feel that due to certain political

considerations, perhaps national parks are being established in certain States in respect of which I am astonished to find why a national park should be there. For instance, in a desert, you cannot have national park.

SHRI P. K. DEO: Of course, you can. The wild ass is a vanishing species in the Rann of Kutch.

SHRI S. KUNDU: Well, I am not an expert. About these national parks, where wild life is preserved, I do not think that they could be preserved in a desert, at least the elephants, tigers and other animals. If human wild life can be preserved in deserts or not, I do not know.

SHRI P. K. DEO: The wild ass and the black buck are vanishing species in the Rajasthan desert and in the Rann of Kutch.

SHRI S. KUNDU: About the setting up of national parks and their maintenance, a close look has to be given, and there is need for some more national parks and game sanctuaries to be built.

A point was made about the zoos. I myself raised the question the other day, and I asked the Minister whether he has any programme to build zoos in small towns. These small zoos will not only serve as recreation spots but will have an educational potential. You can connect the parks and zoos together and see that at least children do not play in the streets in the afternoon or in the evening and get run over by the speeding vehicles, and instead, take advantage of these zoos and parks by way of recreation. At the same time, these zoos and parks can be of educational value.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): Why children alone?

SHRI S. KUNDU: We are all children in one sense. So, for small cities or towns with a population of about 25,000 to 50,000 a crash programme has to be drawn up by the Ministry so that they can spread over small zoos all over India.

[Shri S. Kundu]

In this connection, I have been pressing times without number the necessity to develop one beauty-spot in India, which is in Orissa, particularly the Simile park about which I have raised several questions in the House. I am given to understand that the Wild Life Board this time has recommended a small park there. It is situated at a height of about 5,000 ft., and extends to about 160 sq. m. and nobody has touched its vast area. It is of great tourist potential. I doubt whether wild life preservation and the development of national parks and game sanctuaries have been viewed from the point of view of tourist attraction. They could be a commercial proposition.

SHRI P. K. DEO : The PSP people should stop land-grabbing in Similipal National park.

SHRI S. KUNDU : Therefore, I would like the Government to give serious consideration to this aspect. What sort of co-ordination is there at present ? I feel that the forests and fisheries may continue to be under the Agriculture Ministry, while the preservation of wild life and development of game sanctuaries—the tourist aspect of it—may be tagged on to the Ministry of Tourism. These are some of the points which I would like the Government to consider.

MR. SPEAKER : Only those whose names have been successful in the ballot can ask questions.

श्री शिवचन्द्र झा (मधुबनी) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, जू और वाइल्ड लाइफ की अहमियत कितनी है, यह हम सब जानते हैं। मानव जाति के उद्भव का इतिहास ही वाइल्ड लाइफ पर आधारित है। पंडित जवाहरलाल नेहरू ने अपनी किताब "लैंटर्न फ्रॉम ए फादर टु हिज डाटर" में इन की अहमियत को बताया है। मैं इन बारे में कुछ सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ।

सिंहों के सम्बन्ध में हिन्दुस्तान शुरू से ही बहुत धनी रहा है। बंगाल टाइगर को संसार भर में जाना जाता है। हिन्दुस्तान के सिंह ईरान से ले कर मेडीटेरियन तक पाये जाते

थे। मेमसन और उमर खैयाम के सम्बन्ध में जिस गिंह की चर्चा की जाती है, वह हिन्दुस्तान का ही सिंह था। अफ्रीकी सिंह के मुकाबले में हिन्दुस्तान का सिंह किसी मानी में कम नहीं है। लेकिन वह स्पीशीज अब एक्स्टिन्क्ट हो रही है, कम हो रही है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि गिर फारेस्ट और दूमरी जगह जो लायन्ज मिलते हैं, उन को प्रिजर्व करने के लिए सरकार क्या कदम उठा रही है, ताकि वह स्पीशीज खत्म न हो।

जैसे सरकार के द्वारा वैरायटी क्राप पैदा करने के बारे में रिमर्च की जाती है, उसी तरह क्राग्रीडिंग कर के वैरायटी एनिमल्स पैदा करने के बारे में सरकार ने क्या योजना बनाई है और उस में कहां तक सफलता मिली है ?

हमारे यहां जूज की हालत अच्छी नहीं है। अभी माननीय सदस्य ने कहा है कि दिल्ली जू की हालत अच्छी नहीं है। जब श्री खुरचेव ने कलकत्ता जू में लोहे के बन्द पिंजरे में सिंह को देखा, तो वह हैरान हो गये। उन्होंने कहा कि जंगल के शेर को खुली जगह में रखा जाना चाहिए। उस के बाद ही बड़ी मोट बना कर शेर को एक खुली जगह में रखने की व्यवस्था की गई, जहां वह विहार करता है और लोग बाहर से देखने हैं। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि चौथी पंच-वर्षीय योजना में जूज के विकास के लिए क्या योजना बनाई गई है।

पटना में जू बनने वाला है। उस में अब तक कहां तक प्रगति हुई है और केन्द्रीय सरकार उस में कितनी मदद करने जा रही है और कब तक वह जू कम्प्लीट हो जायेगा ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI S. C. JAMIR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset I should thank Shri Singh Deo for several things. Firstly, he has brought out much light on the wild life, which he called flora and fauna.

Secondly, the kind of interest which he takes creates an interest in other members also which is very necessary. We are really benefited by the rich study he has made of wild life. Thirdly, it gives an opportunity for the government to give the House information as to how much we are doing for this. Fourthly, it gives an opportunity to a junior Minister like me to reply to this debate. So, I am really happy that Shri Deo raised this discussion. My only complaint against him is that he has not bothered about the half an hour and consumed the entire time leaving very little time to me.

MR. SPEAKER : He can have as much time as he likes.

SHRI S. C. JAMIR : I am thankful to you, Sir.

The hon. Member has very rightly pointed out that wild life plays a very important role in education. Here I would like to emphasize one thing about the improvement of the national parks and zoological gardens all over the country. Out of 24, only one zoo is under the charge of the Central Government. Sixteen of them are with the State Governments and seven with municipal corporations. So, our hands are tied so far as those which fall within the jurisdiction of the States and municipal corporations are concerned. The zoo which we have in Delhi comes under the direct management of this Government. I would like to inform the House how much we have done, what we are doing and what we are going to do for this zoo.

The hon. Member in his speech referred to the educational and conservational aspect. He has referred to the position obtaining in other countries like the United States, Great Britain, Switzerland and Germany. In Delhi also we have taken up certain proposals to improve the zoo.

We are doing this sort of a thing as far as educational aspect is concerned. We arrange for popular and technical lectures in schools, in colleges and in other educational institutions by your staff members. As the hon. Member has explained lucidly about wild life, our staff members also give lectures on the wild life. Secondly, we also show slides and film shows on wild life and its conservation in parks. We have also

radio talks and tele vision shows. Those people who witness television shows know that we also show wild life picture in the television. Again, we conduct tours of educational groups and we take them round and show them the zoos. Every year, we organise children's painting competitions on wild life which the hon. Member might have seen.

A part from that, for conservation of wild life, we have breeding centres. In Delhi alone, we have many rare species, and also, of course, the Nehru Zoological Park had the largest number of breeds. I would like to give you the figures about Delhi : Tiger (ordinary)-15; White Tiger-18; Lion (Mixed blood)-6; Four-horned antelope-10; Indian Gazelle-2; Brow antleved deer-12; Black Buck-16; Lion tailed monkey-4 and Nilgiri Langur-2. We are doing this sort of a thing in Delhi zoo.

Then, some of the Members have raised the question about the maintenance of national parks....

SHRI P. K. DEO : What about Jamuna waters being supplied to the Zoo ?

SHRI S. C. JAMIR : The water is quite good. We are taking care of it.

In order to facilitate our children, our tourists and visitors, in many of the national parks, we have provided trollies operated by diesel. We have found that these diesel-operated trollies make a lot of noise. In Delhi, we are going to introduce a trolley operated by battery for the benefit of visitors. It can carry 20-25 persons at a time. This facility will benefit children and visitors to see many of the species in the park. But there is one handicap. Since all the zoos fall within the jurisdiction of the States, we cannot do much for them.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : Where there is a will, there is a way.

SHRI S. C. JAMIR : We have a Sub-Committee, a Zoo Wing, which looks after the interests of all the Zoos. They give instructions and they give advice to improve the various Zoos in the country.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : In the Fourth Plan, there is no allotment for the development of Zoos. You can ask the State Governments to agree to your proposals and make the allotment in the Fourth Plan.

SHRI S. C. JAMIR : We shall bring it to the notice of the State Government to include it in the Fourth Plan and make available more funds for the improvement of the zoos.

Apart from that, the only thing I can do is to point out that this is really an important matter not only from tourists point of view, from the children's point of view, but from the . . .

AN. HON. MEMBER : The posterity also.

SHRI S. C. JAMIR : The posterity also will see the species. In order to preserve the rare species, specially in the hill areas, we have to enforce legislation. I have seen the people are so careless about wild life. In many of the hilly regions, the rare species are extinct. Unless we make people aware

of the importance of wild life, a day will come when we will have to import a large number of species from abroad which is a very costly affair.

With these words I once again thank you, Mr. Speaker, as well as the initiator of this half-an-hour discussion.

SHRI OM PRAKASH TYAGI (Moradabad) : What about the human zoo in the Andaman and Nicobar islands?

SHRI S. C. JAMIR : I think you better go and see.

MR. SPEAKER : I don't think there is anybody else left who wants to ask a question.

Now we adjourn till tomorrow.

18.16 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, November 24, 1970/ Agrahayana 3, 1892 (Saka).