

LOK SABHA

Thursday, November, 19, 1970/Kartika 28, 1892  
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[ MR. SPEAKER in the Chair ]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**Role of Zoos in Educational, Conservational and Preservative aspects of Wild Life**

\*211. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any assessment regarding the role of zoos in the educational, conservational and preservative aspects towards wild life;

(b) if so, the result thereof; and

(c) whether such a study has been made in any other country and, if so, the name of the country and the result of the study made ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) Government is fully aware of the important educational, recreational and other values of the zoos and zoological gardens but no formal study or assessment of such values has been made.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) This Government has no such information.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : As a result of the growing human population and destruc-

tion of the habitats of wild life in this country and outside due to industrialisation and expansion and epidemics and other reasons, many species of rare and other animals have been wiped out from the face of the earth, many are on the verge of extinction, others are threatened and few are safe. With this background, last year the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources held their annual conference here in Delhi itself. And as a pre-conference study, for a week the role of Zoos was discussed at the FRI, Dehra Dun where even our Indian specialists took part, and it is really a pity that although the Government realised...

MR. SPEAKER : No speech please. Please ask your question.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : I am asking the question, Sir.

Although the Government realised the importance and role of zoos in the educational and other aspects and although the Conference of IUCN & NR was held here where papers were read and full reports were submitted to the Government, the Government have not come forward with any concrete proposal for the active participation of zoos in educational aspects as well as for creating breeding centres and studies for research and studies in the various zoos in India.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : It is not correct that Government is not taking any action in this regard. But it is also true that as a result of growing human population, and denudation of our forests, some of our rare species of animals, birds, etc. are getting scarce. This is a phenomenon practically all over the world where population is increasing fast and land-man ratio is adverse. In our country we have some of the best sanctuaries. We are trying our level best to see that some of the species of wild life are preserved. Some of the other suggestions made by the Hon. Member can always be considered.

**SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :** The Expert Committee on National Sanctuaries of the Indian Board for Wild Life have submitted a report sometime in August. The Minister must have participated in the session of the Indian Wild Life Board meeting held last month. The Expert Committee has come out with some of the difficulties like want of funds as the crux of the matter and they wanted to know why the role of the zoos and all these aspects cannot be gone into. Secondly, the planning of zoos in India is in such a situation that there is no coordination and no dissemination of information and there is no communication between any of the zoos in India. For example, the Madras Zoo and some other zoos are very near the Railway lines and the dust and smoke and other things are inhibiting the growth and propagation of the animals which are the last vestiges of wild life in this country. Therefore, may I know, what steps are the Government going to take for giving adequate funds for the development of zoos from this point of view and also from the point of view as expressed by the Expert Committee on Indian Board for Wild Life, because in the Fourth Plan....

**MR. SPEAKER :** Kindly put it as a question. Do not make long speech.

**SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :** I am putting a question. In the Fourth Plan there is no mention about the development of this particular aspect. Government says that they are serious about conservation and preservation of wild life. So, I want to have a categorical answer from the Minister on this point.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Don't make long speech along with the question.

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** The Board of Wild Life itself was constituted by my own Ministry and we attach the greatest importance to their recommendations. We have good experts who are Members of the Indian Board of Wild Life. We are trying our level best to make resources available. If there are some difficulties like the Madras Zoo and other Zoos being near the Railway lines, that has been due to historical reasons. But I would point this out that the Zoos are not under one common management. They are under State managements, some with

their Educational Departments, etc. We are trying our level best to have some coordination in this regard.

**SHRI RANGA :** May I know whether Government are aware of the fact that the condition of the Calcutta Zoo has been deteriorating for some time ? The young people, students and others who are going there do not find it interesting at all.

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** There are some difficulties in the Calcutta Zoo. But the Hon. Member should appreciate that it is not directly managed by the Government of India. We shall draw the attention of the West Bengal Government to this aspect.

**SHRI INDER J. MALHOTRA :** May I know this, whether for the better preservation of wild life and improvement of the various zoos all over the country, there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to transfer this Department to the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation, from the Tourists' point of view ?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** No, Sir.

**SHRI S. KUNDU :** I want to know from the hon. Minister whether on the basis of a national plan, the Ministry has formulated any programmes to have zoo in each small and medium town, to provide recreational facilities for the children.

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** It is a very expensive proposition. It would be very good for recreational purposes and for providing entertainment and education to children, if we can provide it in smaller places. But it is an expensive proposition. The State Governments will find it very difficult to provide such facilities in smaller towns.

**श्री कबरलाल गुप्त :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, दिल्ली का जो जू है, वह सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के अधीन है और यह काफी बड़े एरिया में है, एशिया में शायद सब से बड़ा जू है। तो मैं मन्त्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसको और ज्यादा अट्रैक्टिव बनाने के लिए, खास तौर से उसके अन्दर वह बहुत लम्बा है तो कोई गाड़ी

चलाने का या बच्चों के खेलने के लिए कोई प्रबन्ध करने का क्या सरकार के पास कोई प्लान है दिल्ली के जू के बारे में जिस में उसका डेवलपमेंट हो ? और उसके लिए सरकार कितना फंड कितना पैसा दिल्ली जू को दे रही है जिस में यह जू और अच्छा बन जाय ?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** We are doing everything possible to develop the Delhi zoo, and it may be of interest to the hon. Member that some of the international experts who have visited the zoo have actually certified that this is one of the very fine zoos in the world. I do not think that the development activities will suffer for lack of funds. We would make the necessary resources available.....

**SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA :** What is he doing at present ?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** The steps being taken are : collection of animals, development of lands, making necessary provisions for providing the necessary habitat, providing necessary facilities to the visiting tourists and children etc. There are annual as well as Five Year Plans for development of the zoo.

**SHRI PILOO MODY :** I believe that a question was asked earlier about the breeding of these animals in the zoos, and the hon. Minister replied to the effect that something was being done about it. We would like to know more specifically what steps he has taken to ensure that those breeds which are facing extinction do not disappear. I would like to add that the cheetah and the black buck have been all but extinct in India but are today flourishing in the United States. Therefore, I would like to know more specifically what steps have been taken, and whether the hon. Minister is prepared to provide the necessary finances to the various zoos in the country.

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** As far as the rare animals are concerned, we are trying to have breeding if the couples are there. As for the funds, the State Governments will have to provide the necessary finances. As far as the Delhi zoo is concerned,

we are making the necessary funds available for the development of the zoo.

**SHRI PILOO MODY :** There is a complaint from Delhi that the moneys that have already been allotted for the purpose are not being sanctioned by the Finance Ministry.

**SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA :** We have also received such complaints.

**श्री रणधीर सिंह :** स्पीकर महोदय, मुझे गीर-फौरस्ट जाने का मौका मिला। वहाँ मैंने पीलू मोदी के साइज के एलीफेंट देखे... वहाँ पर मैंने देखा कि बेहतरीन किस्म के लाइज टाइगर्स थे, बेहतरीन किस्म की वाइल्ड लाइफ देखी, लेकिन अब वह पैरिश हो रही है। मैं आपकी मारफत मिनिस्टर साहब से पूछना चाहूँगा कि इस बेहतरीन वाइल्ड लाइफ को पैरिश होने से रोकने के लिए क्या सरकार के पास कोई नेशनल पार्क की स्कीम है...

**MR. SPEAKER :** The main question relates only to zoos and not to national parks.

**श्री रणधीर सिंह :** स्पीकर साहब, दिल्ली मद्रास के जू उसके कम्पेरिजन में कुछ नहीं हैं, वर्ल्ड की बेहतरीन वाइल्ड लाइफ वहाँ पर है, मैं आप से कहूँगा कि आप खुद वहाँ जा कर मुलाहजा फरमायें इसलिए मैं मिनिस्टर साहब से जानना चाहूँगा कि गीर फौरस्ट को जू की शकल देने या नेशनल-पार्क की शकल देने और इस वाइल्ड लाइफ को प्रोटेक्शन देने के लिए क्या सरकार के पास कोई स्कीम है ? और है, तो वह क्या है, और नहीं है तो क्या आप इस सिलसिले में कुछ सोचेंगे ?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** There are schemes for protecting the rare species in the zoos and in the sanctuaries, and we are attending to the problem of the Gir lions.

**MR. SPEAKER :** There are many new rare species coming up now.

**श्री महाराज सिंह भारती :** अध्यक्ष

महोदय, देश के इन चिड़ियाघरों में न तो जानवरों की ब्रीडिंग हो रही है, न रिसर्च हो रही है। अगर यह सिर्फ शहरों के मनोरंजन का साधन है, तो क्या सरकार इस बात पर विचार करेगी कि कृषि विभाग का जो किसानों के हिस्से का पैसा है, उसमें से एक धेला भी इन पर खर्च न किया जाय, या तो शहरों के कारपोरेशन उसको मेन्टेन करें या टूरिज्म डिपार्टमेन्ट या अन्य किसी डिपार्टमेन्ट को सौंप दिये जायें। क्या सरकार इस सुझाव पर विचार करेगी ?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** Funds are provided out of general revenue.

**SHRI PILOO MODY :** Out of the 19 white tigers in our zoos, 13 are in the Delhi zoo. Such a concentration in one place is undesirable in as much as if an epidemic breaks out or something happens, it will seriously endanger the entire species. Therefore, something should be done to disperse them in some fashion or other. Will the Minister say what he proposes to do in this regard ?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** We shall consider the suggestion.

**MR. SPEAKER :** They may be dispersed to Punjab and Bombay.

**Level of D. D. T. in human body due to its use in food preservation**

\*213. **SHRI BABURAO PATEL :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the views of Shri O. S. Bindra, an Indian Entomologist of Punjab Agricultural University at Ludhiana that the level of DDT in the human body in certain parts of North India is much higher than in other countries because of the contamination of food grains through excessive use of chemicals for food preservation; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to counteract the DDT level in the human body; and if not, the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE,**

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) :** (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

*Statement*

(a) Dr. O. S. Bindra has not communicated to the Government any special views regarding the level of DDT in the human body but it has been known for years now that the level of DDT accumulation in human body fat was reported to be quite high in 1965 on the basis of survey carried out mainly in Delhi area and these findings have been included in the Report of the ICAR Special Committee on Harmful Effects of Pesticides, published in 1967.

(b) (i) Even before detecting the accumulation of DDT in human fat, the Government Scientists have been aware of this regard. Therefore, mixing of persistent insecticidal chemicals for the preservation of foodgrains has never been recommended. Also successful efforts have been made to evolve the storage technology without the use of hazardous chemicals and the Pusa bins and Pusa cubicles are the results of such investigations. Some of the State Governments have already taken up a campaign to popularise these storage structures.

(ii) The ICAR had appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. M. S. Thacker to go into the details of harmful effects of pesticides and make suitable recommendations. The Committee submitted its report in 1966 which was published in 1967. One of the major recommendations was to set up Analytical Laboratories for estimation of pesticide residues at various centres in the country. Consequently, such laboratories were set up and are operating at the Central Food Technological Research Laboratory, Mysore; Central Plant Protection, Training Institute, Hyderabad and Central