

species are allowed only under a licence issued under the Act.

- (iii) Government of India is a party to the "Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora" (CITES), under which the international community helps to ensure that wildlife and its products collected illegally are not exported from India.
- (iv) Government of India has set up a Central Wildlife Directorate with four Regional Officers to oversee the implementation of the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act by the State Governments. The Directorate is responsible for helping the Custom authorities in ensuring that no wildlife and its products are exported in contravention of provisions of the Export Policy of the country.

Trade in Coffee

304. SHRI JOSS FERNANDEZ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to allow free trade in Coffee; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDASPATEL):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

National Savings Organisation

305. SHRI H. C. SHRIKANTIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of agents working to promote various schemes of National Savings Organisation in the country;

(b) whether there is any proposal to scrap the National Savings Organisation; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH):

(a) There are about 2,34,000 agents working in the country to promote the various schemes of the National Savings Organisation.

(b) and (c). There is no proposal to scrap or wind up the National Savings Organisation.

Irregularities in Modernisation of RSP

306. SHRI SIVAJI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any irregularities have been noticed in the purchases and construction works for the Rourkela Steel Plant in the process of its modernisation;

(b) if so, the total amount of money involved therein; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BASAVARAJ PATIL): (a) No such irregularities have come to the notice of Government.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Opening of Bank Branch at Koombara, Kerala

307. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: