

[English]

Conservation of Rhinos in Assam

671 SHRI PROBEN DEKA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Union Government for the conservation of Rhinos in Assam.

(b) the total amount provided to the State under the centrally sponsored scheme "Conservation of rhinos in Assam" during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government of Assam has submitted new schemes in this regard;

(d) if so the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (e) The Rhino has been included in Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby giving the species maximum possible legal protection and imposing a complete ban on hunting of the Rhino in India. The act provides for stringent punitive measures against poaching of this animal.

The Government has also taken various other measures to conserve Rhinos in Assam e.g.

(i) Assistance under centrally sponsored scheme "Conservation of rhinos in Assam" is provided for strengthening measures against poaching, floods, fires and encroachments and for acquisition of land to expand its area. Under this scheme additional protection squads equipped with arms, wireless sets, vehicles, boats etc., have been cre-

ated. This scheme covers all the natural habitats of Rhino in Assam.

(ii) India being member of the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna) prohibits international trade in Rhino and its products.

(iii) With a view to provide an alternate home for the Rhino, some of them have been translocated from Assam to Dudhwa National Park in Uttar Pradesh. The project has proved to be a success in establishing a new home for Rhino.

The total assistance provided to state Government of Assam under the centrally sponsored scheme "conservation of Rhinos in Assam" during last 3 years is as follows:-

	(Rs. in Lakhs)
1990-91	97.97
1991-92	169.20
1992-93	75.00

The scheme has now been transferred to the State Government from the financial year 1992-93. Possibility of securing external assistance for conservation of Indian Rhinos is also being explored.

Violation of Weights and Measures Acts in Delhi

672. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to State:

(a) whether there is a sharp increase in the cases of violation of the Weights and Measures Act, 1976 and the Weights and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of cases relating to the violation of these Acts registered during 1992 and 1993 till date; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER FOR CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

(c) and (d). During the period under reference No. of cases registered in Delhi are as under:

<i>Period</i>	<i>No. of cases registered under Weights and Measures Laws</i>
Jan. to Dec. 1992	8462
Jan. to March, 1993	1781

Action has already been initiated by the Delhi Administration against persons found guilty by registering cases and compounding the offences in some cases.

Protection of Cuminseed Crop

673. SHRI DILEEPBHAI SANGHANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the main diseases generally damaging the cuminseed crop;

(b) whether the cuminseed crop has been damaged, particularly in Gijarat, by the

(c) If so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to save the cuminseed crop from such diseases?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) (a) Cumin Blight, Cumin Wilt and Powdery Mildew.

(b) and (c) Out, of 2,09,766 ha. covered under the crop during current year, 68,544 ha. have been affected by the above diseases in Gujarat.

(d) Steps taken by the State Government to save cuminseed crop from the diseases are as under:-

(i) Timely advice to the cuminseed growers for undertaking required plant protection measures.

(ii) Guidance by extension functionaries about preventive measures to minimise the problem of these diseases.

(iii) Use of Radio, T.V., Press and other media for education of farmers.

(iv) Assistance to farmers under Central State Government Schemes for adopting plant protection measures.

[English]

Calamity Relief Fund

674. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted a separate fund to meet expeditiously the demands caused by natural calamities;