

(a) the number of applications seeking approval of the Government for setting up of wood based industries in the forest area received, considered, accepted and rejected during last three years, State-wise;

(b) the criteria adopted for evaluation of such applications;

(c) whether prior approval is also necessary for setting up of industry in the private forest area; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (d) The details are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

"Allotment of Land for Arforestation"

506. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred question No. 711, dated November 26, 1996 regarding "Allotment of forest land" and state :

(a) whether about 71 bighas of gram sabha land in village Dera Mandi (Mehrauli Block) has been allotted to M/s. Godfrey Phillips India Limited for afforestation in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the said land falls within the boundary lines of the Southern Ridge Area;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to cancel the memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and to hand over the land to the Forest Department for afforestation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Malpractices by Delhi Police

507. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Caps make Hay While Killers Stalk Roads, Agents Collect Bribes, Seniors Aware, give into Graft" appearing in 'The Hindustan Times', dated December 22, 1996;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the positive measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check such malpractices by the Delhi Police ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There have been instances where individual Traffic Police personnel were found involved in malpractices but there is no indication that there exists any organised connivance. During 1996 alone, over 6 lakhs trucks were challaned by Delhi Traffic Police which was almost twice the number challaned during 1995. Besides, the Delhi Traffic Police carried out a major anti-corruption drive amongst its own men as a result of which 161 Traffic Policemen face departmental inquiries and other 202 officials were transferred to non-sensitive units.

IV Fluid Purchase

508. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "IV fluid purchase; Former Add. D-G Chargesheeted" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times', dated January 8, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the Super Bazar sold IV fluid to Safdarjung Hospital at double the normal rates;

(c) if so, the rates at which the Super Bazar sold the IV fluid to Safdarjung Hospital and the rates prevailing in the market;

(d) the reasons for charging such high rates;

(e) whether there is any proposal to inquire into the matter and to bring to book the officers responsible;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Damaged Goods

509. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the large quantity of damaged goods have accumulated in the Super Bazar awaiting replacement from the suppliers/manufacturers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the procedure adopted in the disposal of damaged goods ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a)

According to the information furnished by the Super Bazar, Delhi, the value of the damaged stocks as on 31st March, 1996 was Rs. 1,27,454.15.

(b) and (c) The damaged stocks are more in the groceries and toiletries Departments of Super Bazar. In order to avoid its accumulation, the Super Bazar takes regular steps to get these damaged stocks replaced from the suppliers.

Killing of Rhino

510. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Rhino killed in Assam" appearing in the 'Pioneer', dated the 24 September, 1996;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether poaching has come down in Assam;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the concrete steps taken/being taken by the Government to arrest poaching completely ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Chief Wildlife Warden of Assam has informed that during 1996, a total of four rhinos were killed by poachers in the Pabitora Sanctuary in Assam. However, Constant vigil is being maintained through day and night patrolling by wildlife staff, armed Home Guards and Assam Forest Protection Force battalion to control the poaching of rhinos.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. As compared to 70 rhino killed by poachers in Assam during 1993 the number in 1996 was only 40.

(e) The steps taken by the Government for protection and Conservation of rhinos are given below :

(i) Rhino is placed in Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 thus getting the highest level of protection against hunting and commercial exploitation.

(ii) India is a party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and abides by the regulations of International trade in endangered species of animals and articles made thereof. Under the provisions of the convention, rhino is placed under Appendix I of CITES which bans international trade in the species, products and derivatives.

(iii) Cooperation of Police, BSF, DRI, Customs, Army and other enforcement agencies is also taken, as and when required, in apprehending the poachers and illegal traders.

(iv) With a view to providing alternative home for Rhinos and also rehabilitating them in their erstwhile habitat programme for 'Rehabilitation of Rhinos' has been started in Dudhwa National Park and Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary of Uttar Pradesh.

(v) A network of 5 Wildlife sanctuaries and 4 national parks has been set up for conservation of the species and its habitat. Financial assistance is provided by the Central Government for development of these national parks and sanctuaries, on request from the State Governments.

(vi) There is a scheme for payment of rewards to the informers, which among other things, helps in getting intelligence regarding smuggling of wildlife products.

Development of Livestock

511. SHRI BHIM PRASAD DAHAL : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any specific request for pilot project to develop livestock as a major means of livelihood for the people for hilly areas including Sikkim, Darjeeling and Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of answer to (a) above.

Shortage of Urea in Andhra Pradesh

512. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is acute shortage of Urea in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether State Government has been requesting the Union Government since 1995 to supply additional quota of urea to meet its demand;

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(e) the total supply made during 1996 and likely to be made in 1997; and

(f) the reasons for the short supply of the urea, if any ?