

तक वह उस से काम न लें। हम ने पावर जो दी है वह इसलिए दी है कि

Within the scope of the Act they can frame rules and regulations and then we will be in a position to examine them and see whether the delegated powers have been properly used or misused.

श्री इ. प्रसाद सिंह बिल आप लेकर यहाँ पर आए हैं। इस लाइसेन्सी का विना नहीं होगा। देश में अगर ऐसी समस्याओं का विनाश होगा तो उस से देश का चरित्र ऊँचा होगा और देश के लोगों के ज्ञान में वृद्धि होगी। लेकिन दुःख की बात यह है कि लाइसेन्सी की ओर कोई ध्यान नहीं देता है। अब हमारे नए शिक्षा मंत्री जी आए हैं, शायद वे वहाँ पर जाकर देखें कि क्या काम वहाँ पर हो रहा है, उस में क्या कमियाँ हैं और उस में क्या सुधार किए जा सकते हैं तो मैं समझता हूँ बहुत अच्छी बात होगी।

17.31 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

BAN ON HUNTING OF BIRDS

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up the discussion on the points arising out of the answer given to Starred Question No. 2 on 23rd Nov. 1981 regarding ban on hunting of birds.

SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD (Baroda): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for allowing me to raise this half-an-hour discussion. This country enjoys a lot of wild life in

its territory and the question of preserving it is very important for this country and for any country for that matter. As the answers given to my Starred Question No. 2 on 23rd November, 1981 were not found satisfactory, hence my request for this discussion.

From the answers given one could make out that the attention given by the different State Governments to his matter is not adequate. The programmes that have been undertaken to preserve the diminishing species of wild life are not being implemented properly. There are mainly, I think, two reasons direct and indirect which are responsible for the diminishing species of wild life.

We start with the indirect reasons. Wild life prevails mostly in forests. These forests which are situated in many parts of the country are being cut down for industrial development and several other reasons. I would give you an example. In the northern part of the country in the Himalayas specially, there are a lot of exotic birds which habitate there. There is a certain type of tree, known as the cerpine. These pines are used for getting resin which in turn is used for making turpentine and cosmetics. Turpentine to the tune of 400 thousand tonnes is manufactured in this country and a large amount of resin is needed for manufacturing turpentine and cosmetics, and hence you can imagine how much resin must be extracted from these trees for the manufacture of turpentine. There is nothing wrong in that, but various smaller countries, which do not have such extensive surplus land, as we have, have regulations that whenever one tree is felled, five new sapplings have to be planted. Not only that if a tree is felled without permission, there is a very big penalty for that. Why can't we have such stricter measures

[Shri R. P. Gaekwad]

to ensure that our wild life still lives on for years to come; not only that, but it flourishes also for years to come.

Another good example of diminishing species is the Indian wild elephant. The habit of the wild elephant is to travel towards cool places when it becomes warmer in the plains and come down to the plains when it becomes cool in the hills. The habitate where these elephants live, roam, have again been broken up for industrial development to benefit man to such an extent that the groups of elephants have got separated. Hence their population growth has come totally to standstill. If these interests are not looked into, the Indian elephant in a few years will become an extinct species.

There are other species of animals as well as birds which are also facing similar dangers due to cutting down of forests where it has not become necessary to do so. Many birds, which are found only in this country, are fast diminishing because they have not been able to pick up the habits of the human being who has managed to flourish in all types of conditions and has managed to double or triple itself under any circumstances. Hence, unless it has a favourable habitate and atmosphere and surroundings, these species cannot live.

Some time back at the Bombay Port, 17 crates holding wild animals were caught by the Customs Officers. I offer felicitations to them for being alert in their job. They were the animals which had been totally prohibited from being caught.

AN HON. MEMBER: Name them.

SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD: They were tigers, lions, rhinoceros, hippopotamus and some deer and Barasingha. Mr. K. P. Singh Deo, one of our colleagues was present when the crates were found and opened. In spite of the steps

being taken these mal-practices are still going on. Hence more stricter measures have to be taken to see that our heritage—I call it our heritage—does not go out of our hands. Unfortunately for us, it is only when outsiders came and recognised our cultural heritage, that we awakened to the fact that we have much more to offer to the world than what they have. And I think this wild life is a very important factor in the well-being not only of this country, but also for the well-being of every country in the world. Otherwise why would have Nature created them?

Some time back, I also had put a question to the Hon. Minister about the Wild Life Committee that has been appointed. In my question, the Committee has been mentioned. I feel it necessary as the Committee has several knowledgeable people sitting on it, it should be given more powers to see that no harm is done to our perishing wild life, specially the species which are fast perishing and to save them before they perish and then make a big hullabaloo. You should take their recommendations and have a very extensive programme, and bring in awareness to our non-knowledgeable people. I will tell you a short story: my nephew was studying in school. His father is a very knowledgeable naturalist. Naturally, some of the knowledge has come on to the son. He was studying in the third standard. He was given a test—to write down several names of birds, which naturally he wrote down according to his knowledge, and the names included those not given in the text-book. The teacher turned round and failed him, because the teacher did not know the various names which the boy had written. The teacher is an average educated person of this country. At least he should have bothered to find out about what that boy had written.

So, this is what I mean when I say that we do not bother to know about our heritage. We take interest only

when other people start recognizing our good points. Why wild life? Even about the arts, after they were all taken out of our country, our people suddenly woke up to the fact that we have here a great art, and that that should be preserved. I personally think that it is a good thing that they have gone out, because they at least know how to look after them. I hope our wild life will not go out of our country in the same way, for good.

People who are keen in this respect and who have spent years for it without gaining anything by it, should be encouraged and heard through programmes. They should be given full power—because I don't think Government can look into so many matters. There are people who are keen and knowledgeable and whom we accept as knowledgeable. They should be used for such projects. Not only that. There are several Trusts. In various States, there are reserves. In my own constituency in Baroda, we have a black bird reserve just five miles outside the city area. Government has been trying to take it over. Why? The Trust has been looking after it for several years. Why not allow them to continue to do it? Why take the burden when some-body is doing it well? They should be encouraged to do it. Not only that. Government should come forward and help them to publicize the good work done by Trusts and the individuals. With this encouragement and with these programmes, our wild life will still have some hope of survival in this country.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh): I want some information, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You give your points to Mr. Ramavatar Shastri. The Minister can reply to Mr. Gaekwad now. Then the other four hon. Members will ask for clarifications, and then the Minister can reply to them.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): I am very thankful to Mr. Gaekwad for drawing the attention of the Government, Parliament and people to this very important subject of wild life protection. Government has been aware of the neglect, from which our rich heritage of wildlife, which is a gift of God to India, has suffered during the past many years, particularly during the foreign regime under the British. They did not care if all the species of our wildlife became extinct. They indulged in hunting indiscriminately and very large parties were organised. But since we attained independence, we have paid adequate attention to it. As you would be aware, even the Prime Minister herself is so concerned about it that she has very kindly agreed to head the Indian Wildlife Board. For a Prime Minister to take this much of interest and to find out time in the cause of wildlife is something about which we should all feel happy and satisfied. She has also accepted the Chairmanship of the Project Tiger on our request; and this itself gives a lot of encouragement to the friends of wildlife and inspires people also. So, the Indian Wildlife Board has already set up three committees, one of which under Dr. Saleem Ali, is looking into the need for finding ways of protecting our birds, particularly the rare species.

This particular question relates perhaps only to two species of birds—partridge and quails. The hon. member has talked about other forms of wildlife like the Indian elephant. I welcome his views. Elephant is already protected. Tiger is also protected fully. They are included in Schedule I of our Wildlife Act. But the position is not the same about partridges and quails which at the present moment receive our attention.

SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD: As human beings have managed to live and breathe profusely in all conditions, the wildlife has not been able to do it.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: That is all covered under conservation and protection. There are 22 species of quails found in India, as I have learnt and 8 species of partridges, but at least one species of partridge, that is Assam Bamboo Partridge is protected by inclusion in Schedule I. There is a complete ban on its killing, hunting or trapping. The same position is about one variety of koel, that is mountain koel; that is also fully protected.

These are birds which are generally found all over India almost in all the States. Some States have been taken the lead over other States like my State of Haryana. It has banned black partridge completely. Black partridge is a State bird of Haryana; it is a very beautiful bird; it is also becoming extinct there. I hope other States will take the lead, but much depends upon the cooperation of the States because licences for hunting and hunting season is also prescribed by the States under their laws. We have a separate Wildlife Protection Act passed by Parliament in 1972 which is quite a stringent Act. The imprisonment ranging from a minimum of 6 months to 6 years is provided for offences against this Act. Again, the enforcement of the provisions of the Act depends upon the State Wild Life Departments. Some States have Wild Life Departments, some States have one department looking after wild life as well as forests. Some States have separate departments. But we are keen that there should be special training for Forest Officers in Wild Life, Protection and management also. We are also trying to look after better our zoos and im-

prove the conditions of our zoological parks. All these steps have been stated and enumerated before Parliament several times in answer to many questions put by hon. Members.

The hon. Member has also mentioned a particular case about some crates containing wild life having been detected at Bombay Port. Immediately it came to our notice we took action. We wrote to the Customs authorities and I have personally written a letter to my colleague the Minister of State in charge of Revenue in the Ministry of Finance, requesting him to see that there is no recurrence of these things and the Customs authorities are asked to be more vigilant and that strict action should be taken in such cases.

Hon. Member would also be aware that in the past few years we have not allowed any skins of animals, birds or reptiles to be exported. There are pressures upon Government that there are large stocks of skins valued at crores of rupees with certain people. In the past from time to time the Government agreed to allow export of these skins to be cleared out of India but our experience is that every time a stock was cleared, other stocks accumulated because there was again indiscriminate collection, hunting and killing. I myself have been fond of shooting in my younger days but when I became a Minister in Punjab in 1957 and Wild Life Protection also came under my charge, since then, I stopped shooting, hunting altogether and the first Wild Life Protection Act was prepared by me and it was passed by the Punjab Legislature. That was in 1957 and all these Acts which have been passed in India and even by Parliament are more or less copies of that Act which I presented in the Punjab Assembly in 1957. It was also a very stringent Act. We had even allowed the officers of the Forest Department, Police and Wild Life to search even

'diplomats' cars in the Punjab area. We fixed a maximum of ten birds to be shot per gun and all such things. Some of these things are not followed and sometimes there has been some laxity, but what I try to say is we take notice of these things, at my level and we take action. There is no reason why I should not be thankful to hon. Members whenever they offer suggestions for further protection being provided to wild life.

The danger to wild life as I said mostly comes from poaching, unlicensed killing, hunting and trapping. It is a sad story—and I know from personal experience—that sometimes the officers who are in charge of the protection of wild life or of the enforcement of the Act in the Department, the Police, or Forests or Wild Life, they are the biggest offenders. I do not know what to do about it, but we will try and if any such officers are found anywhere in the States in the forest departments or wild life organisations, they should be made an example of!

Another danger to wild life is trapping. I do not think so much damage is done by licensees who shoot in season as by poachers or by trappers. Some of the tribals and even other people belonging to weaker sections of society try to earn a living by trapping these birds. Trapping has to be stopped everywhere in India if our birds are to be saved. Hundreds of birds can be trapped by nets in one day, whereas with a gun it is difficult to shoot a bird and the bird has a fair chance to save its life. Therefore, I hope the concern that hon. Members are expressing will percolate down to the people in general in the country. A very large percentage of our population is strictly vegetarian, which loves animals and birds and which is against taking of life. They are friends of animals and birds already. But others also, even though they may be taking meat, would realise that unless wild life

is protected, all fun would be lost. They would not be able to shoot and hunt. Therefore, this should be of greater concern to shikaris and hunters who like games.

One more danger to wild life is the large number of crop protection licences. Most of the people in the villages who work as chowkidars in the villages have been getting licences in the name of crop protection. The district authorities have been issuing licences in the past forty or fifty years on a very large scale. They have been acting as shikaris or as guides to shikaris going from towns to interior areas in villages where there are licensed guns for crop protection. They come to know the habitat of birds and animals and lead the shikaris to the proper places. They play havoc just for a small sum of money which they get as reward at the end of the day. There is very little wild life left against which to protect our crops. Large species of deer have disappeared. Wild boar is hardly to be seen. Bulbuls are very few. Birds generally are friends of farmers; they do not damage the crops, except vermins like crows and parrots. But all wild birds generally help the farmer by eating away the worms and insects that damage the crops. Therefore, I would urge that States should take action for withdrawing these licences which have been indiscriminately issued to irresponsible type of people who shoot deer and other wild birds and animals and sell their meat to earn their living.

18.00 hrs.

They must be able to find some better occupation, instead of doing this great damage to our national wild life. It is very true that wild life and its conservation depends upon the preservation of its habitat. As the hon. Members know, we have already passed an Act of Parliament whereby we are trying to save all our

(Rao Birendra Singh)

forests. We do not want the forest area to decrease. It will require the permission of the Government of India even for a State Government to try to convert forest land to some other use. We are also spending large sums of money for regenerating our degenerated forests. Our targets have been set quite high, and we hope we shall be able to increase our forest area, which at present stands at about 22 per cent of our total land area, to 30 per cent of the total land area.

With these steps which the Government of India have been taking, with the interest that the Government of Mrs. Indira Gandhi is showing in the preservation and protection of wild life, I am sure the hon. Members would be satisfied that enough is being done. Again, I say that I am thankful for the concern for wild life which the hon. Members have shown. This will serve the objects that we have in view. There was a Wild Life Week that was being celebrated in India. If Parliament discusses a subject like this, it will come to the notice of people.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY (Mangalore): Conservation of wild life in the present day context is a social necessity. At least 7.5 million birds are trapped in Asia, Africa and Latin America. 40 per cent of these birds die on their journey, in transit. Out of the 1,060 identified species which India has got, out of 88 families—it is the largest exporter of birds.—India is exporting 1.85 million birds every year out of 289 species of 60 families. Most of them go to Japan and the European Community. The highest mortality occurs when the birds are in transit from the trapper to the exporter, due to the involvement of the middlemen, who are often ignorant of the needs of the various animals.

The hon. Minister referred to our Prime Minister and her concern for wild life. I will draw your attention to what her father said. Jawaharlal Nehru began the Foreword for a pamphlet on Wild Life on September 16, 1956 with these remarks:

“Life would become very dull and colourless if we did not have these magnificent animals and birds to look at and play with. We should, therefore, encourage as many sanctuaries as possible for the preservation of what yet remains of our wild life.”

On July 30, 1955, Nehru replied as follows to an eminent naturalist:

“Thank you for your letter and lovely book that you have sent me. It is a good production. I am happy to see that more and more interest is being taken in wild birds in India and suitable books are being produced. I am interested in this but even more so my daughter is interested in birds. We shall both enjoy this book.”

Of his younger days he said:

“I indulged in some diversion like *shikar* but I had no special aptitude or inclination for it. I liked these outings and the jungles and cared little for the killing. Indeed, my reputation was a singularly bloodless one, although I succeeded more or less by fluke in killing a bear in Kashmir. The harmless animal fell down at my feet, wounded to death and looked up at me with its great big eyes full of tears. Those eyes have often haunted me since.”

On February 20, 1964, Nehru contributed Forward to a book on India's Wild Life. The concluding paragraph—probably the last words he ever wrote or uttered on wild life—ran like this:

“I agree with the author that it is much more exciting and difficult to ‘shot’ with a camera than with

a gun and wish that more and more adventurous young men would give up the gun in favour of the camera. We must try to preserve whatever is left of our forests and the wild life that inhabit therein."

I have given these quotations to show the concern of the late Jawaharlal Nehru and the concern of the present Prime Minister in her younger days for the preservation of wild life.

Now many species have become extinct in the world, including India and unless we do something positive and quick enough, the entire species will be extinct. In that context, may I know what steps have been taken by the Government of India, after the formation of the pool, to preserve wild life in India? May I also know from the hon. Minister whether he is going to have an amendment to the Wild Life Preservation Act, enhancing the maximum punishment to at least five years? What Central assistance has been given to the State of Karnataka to preserve the sanctuaries, since they have got a lot of sanctuaries? Coming to my constituency of Mangalore, what Central assistance has been given to preserve the Mangalore Deer Park?

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, पक्षियों की दुनिया का हाल तो मैं नहीं जानता। पक्षियों की दुनिया बहुत ही सुन्दर और शानदार है। मेरे खयाल से हमारे जीवन से भी उनका जीवन सुखद और सुन्दर है, ऐसा मेरा अनुमान है। इधर थोड़ी मेरी भी दिलचस्पी चिड़ियों से हो गई है क्योंकि मेरे घर में तोता पला हुआ है, जिसको भ्रमण भी कहते हैं और उसको जो सिखाइये वही बोलता है। उसका नाम मीठु है और वही बोलता भी है। मेरी बेटो का नाम गुड्डो है वह भी बोलता है, और डाक्टर चाचा, जिनके साथ मैं रहता हूँ जो एम० एल० ए० हैं उनको वह डाक्टर चाचा

कहता है। तो कहने का मतलब यह है कि इस तरह के जानवर भी हैं, जिन्हें जो सिखाइये वही करेंगे। पता नहीं इनके मारने पर बंदिश है कि नहीं। मैं हिन्दुस्तान की बात कर रहा हूँ खुश की नहीं। तो तोता है कबूतर है। कबूतर तो हमारे देश में शांति का प्रतीक माना जाता है।

राव वीरेन्द्र सिंह : कबूतर नहीं, फास्ता।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : फास्ता नहीं कबूतर, मैं कबूतर की बात कर रहा हूँ। कबूतर मीके पर उड़ते भी हैं। खुद कभी-कभी हमने देखा कि जो वर्तमान प्रधानमंत्री हैं, उन्होंने लाल किले से कबूतर उड़ाये भी शायद 26 जनवरी या 15 अगस्त को। तो कबूतर को भी लोग मारकर खाते हैं, इस तरह के भी पक्षी हैं इन पक्षियों की रक्षा के लिए सरकार कुछ करती है या नहीं?

वैसे तो जंगली जानवरों की बात सरकार ज्यादा करती है और करनी भी चाहिए। मैं इस सिलसिले में यह जानना चाहूँगा कि राज्य सरकारें जो इस दिशा में काम कर रही हैं, क्या आप उसको पर्याप्त समझते हैं, अगर नहीं तो फिर उनको अपनी तरफ से आने कोई ठोस हिदायतें दी हैं या नहीं? क्या आप इस स्थिति में हैं कि यह बतला सकें कि जिन पक्षियों का नाम आपने लिया है, हमारे देश में उनकी संख्या कितनी है? मैं सब पक्षियों की बात नहीं कर रहा हूँ इसके साथ ही जंगली जानवर भी हमारे देश में कितने बच गए हैं, शेर, चीता, बाघ इत्यादि, जिस शक्ल में भी हों?

[श्री. रामावतार शास्त्री]

आप ने यह भी कहा है कि इसके लिए हम सजा देते हैं 6 महीने से 6 साल तक। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या कभी किसी को सजा हुई है? कभी ऐसा मौका आया है कि जिन्होंने कानून का उल्लंघन किया, उनके खिलाफ कार्यवाही की गई? अगर की गई है तो ऐसे कितने लोग हैं?

अगर आप बताने की स्थिति में हों तो बताइये, नहीं तो बाद में बताइये कि इस जुल्म में, इस अपराध में इतने लोगों के खिलाफ कार्यवाही की गई, तब आप जंगली जानवरों, चिड़ियाओं व पक्षियों की हत्या न करने की भावना लोगों में पैदा कर सकते हैं।

श्री हरश चन्दा सिंह रावत (अल्मोड़ा): एन्वायरमेंट पर जो तिवारी कमेटी बैठी थी, उसने बर्ड सर्वेयूअरी और टाइगर प्रोजेक्ट बनाने की सिफारिश की थी, उस पर कितना काम हुआ है और कहां-कहां के लिए उस कमेटी ने सिफारिश की थी? उसने कुछ जगहों को एलोकेट भी किया था, उनके बारे में बताने की कृपा करें।

दूसरी बात बर्ड्स से संबंधित नहीं है, लेकिन वाइल्ड लाइफ से संबंधित है। जहां जहां आपके टाइगर प्रोजेक्ट्स हैं, उन से लगे हुए एरियाज में हिमालय टाइगर निकल आते हैं और वह लोगों की गाय को मारकर खा जाते हैं। गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से उस के लिए लोगों को 15, 20 रुपये का कम्पेंसेशन भी दिया जाता है जो कि बहुत कम है। इस से परिणाम यह हो रहा है कि लोगों में आतंक हो रहा है। जब शरों की संख्या बढ़ रही है तो वह गायों को खाएंगे ही खाएंगे क्योंकि वह

सरलता से उनको मिल जाती हैं। जहां तक गौर का जंगल है गुजरात में वहां लोगों की गाय-भैंस को शेर मारते थे, तो वहां के लोगों ने शेर को विष दिया, जिस से बहुत सारे शेर मर गए। इस प्रकार की पोजीशन और जगह भी टाइगर प्रोजेक्ट्स में है। जो कार्बिड नेशनल पार्क, राम नगर का प्रोजेक्ट है वहां और ऐसी ही पोजीशन नैनीताल में भी पैदा होने जा रही है। वहां बहुत सारे जानवर मर गए हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि जो कम्पेंसेशन है क्या इसकी रेशियों को आप बढ़ाएंगे ताकि जिसके जानवरों को शेर वगैरह मारें, उनको प्रापर कम्पेंसेशन मिल सके? क्योंकि इसका भी डायरेक्ट इन-डायरेक्ट सम्बन्ध उस से है।

जो आपके फारेस्ट हैं, यह किस तरह से प्रीजर्व किए जायें, किस तरह से बढ़ाये जायें यह तो लम्बासवाल है और इसके लिए लम्बी बहस की जरूरत है, लेकिन सीधा प्रश्न मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि लाइफ प्रोटेक्शन एक्ट और फारेस्ट प्रोटेक्शन एक्ट में आप किस तरह से प्रावीजन करना चाहते हैं जिस से जो इन-डिस्ट्रिक्मिनेशन फैल रहा है, उनको दूर किया जा सके?

श्री मूलचन्द डागा (पाली): वाइल्ड लाइफ प्रोटेक्शन बिल, 1972 जो पास हुआ है, उसके बाद संवर्धन 51 से 54 में आपने कितने ऑफेंसेज में कम्पाउन्ड कर लिया, कितने लोगों को सजा दी, एक तो यह डेटा आप दीजिए। स्टेट्स को रूल बनाने की पावर्ज दी गई है। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि किस किस स्टेट ने रूल बना लिए हैं? क्या रूल बने हैं या नहीं, या यह कानून अल्मोड़ी में पड़ा दम तोड़ रहा है? मैं जानना

चाहता हूँ कि इस कानून का अनुपालन कैसे हो रहा है।

सऊदी अरब का एक प्रिंस जैसलमेर के दि ग्रेट इंडियन वस्टर्ड का शिकार करने के लिए आया था। वह आज बाज लेकर आया था। न जाने उसने कितना शिकार किया। उस समय हम लोग एसेम्बली में थे। हम लोग बार बार कहते थे कि उसका शिकार करना मना है और स्टेट ने मना किया है। क्या सेंटर ने उसकी इजाजत दे दी थी? तेल की भूख या पैसे के लाभ के कारण किसने यह इजाजत दी थी? उस से हमें कितना नुकसान हुआ? इसको लेकर हमारे यहां एजेंटेशन हुआ।

मंत्री महोदय इस प्रश्न को बहुत गंभीरता से लेते हैं। उन्होंने हरियाणा में मंत्री के रूप में इस बारे में काम किया है। उन्हें यह सारा इतिहास बताने की जरूरत नहीं है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि किसने आफेन्सिज में सजा हुई है और कितनों में कंपाउन्ड कर लिया इस बारे में रजिस्टर कब बने हैं, जैसलमेर में दि ग्रेट इंडियन वस्टर्ड के शिकार के लिए सऊदी अरब के प्रिंस को कैसे इजाजत दी गई, किस ने इजाजत दी और इसके लिए कौन कसूरवार है।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am allowing Dr. Vasant Kumar Pandit as a special case, Dr. Vasant Kumar Pandit.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: You please inform us whether the Schedule under this Act of 1972 has ever been reviewed during the last ten years. To my knowledge World Wild Life Fund and the Natural History Society and several individual like Dr. Fateh Ali and others have suggested to review this schedule. Some rare species which are now becoming extinct over the last ten years have to be included. If so, will the Government give that amended schedule?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I will briefly reply to the points raised by the hon. Members. India is very lucky. Right from the beginning of civilisation it had adopted the way of which Indian can boast of. Our civilisation is one of the most ancient civilisations. All our rishies, even at a time when wild life was not in any danger of extinction, preached, and propagated protection of our wild life protection of all lives. Right from the day of Lord Buddha, Mahavira and later on Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and then our present Prime Minister, great men, stages, rishies prophets in India in our religion, in our culture, in our society have always shown this way. It will really be a great tragedy if India even today does not show the way to the whole world how wild life in our mythology, in our classics is so deeply entwined with our thinking, with our religion. It is so much associated with our Gods and Goddesses. We are thinking of protecting tiger to-day. Since early ages tiger is the vehicle of Goddess Durga. We talk of saving the elephant today. The elephant has been venerated since ancient time. Lord Ganesh has the head of an elephant. This is how we have given sanctity to wild life. Peacock is the vehicle of Goddess Saraswati. Similar is the case with our flora and fauna. Kamal is under Laxmi's feet. Even rats—rat is the vehicle of Lord Ganesh. Pandit Tripathi would know more about these things. Even the Jay-Bird, Garud and some of these species are still in danger. Garud is the vehicle of Vishnu and Owl also is associated with some Gods or Goddesses. Even crows are protected during one season, Amavasya. Such is the rich culture and religion that India can boast of. It should be surprising that the things which we are discussing and feeling anxiety about are in our blood. We hope the people in India would continue to walk in the footsteps of our forefathers, our founders of religions and our great national leaders.

[Rao Birendra Singh]

Hon. Members are not satisfied about the steps we have taken. Shri Shastriji also asked if we were satisfied. This is a matter in which we shall not be fully satisfied unless we are sure that every kind of species—whether it be a plant or animal or bird—is saved and does not become extinct. India will not be poor in this aspect and we shall try to continue our efforts and pay greater and greater attention to it with the cooperation of the people and the peoples' representatives.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: What about the export of birds?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: The current export policy has been to restrict the number. The number is now limited. Only a few varieties are now allowed to be exported every year. We are now thinking of restricting it further. Only 12 common species of birds are now allowed to be exported. Formerly, we were much more liberal about it. Now the number has also been reduced.

One hon. Member has asked whether the Tiwari Committee recommended any new sanctuaries for wild life. That Committee did not take up this question. There is no recommendation about any new type of sanctuaries. We have 11 Tiger Reserves already in the country. Mr. Gaekwad, who has raised the question of encouraging people to set up private sanctuaries, is not present here. We welcome this stand and if need be we shall extend the provision of this Act to all private sanctuaries also if the people help us to save wild life—whether it is bird or animal.

I am not in a position to give the figures about the number of convictions, offences and prosecutions because this is a question which immediately could not have been foreseen in this discussion for half an hour. But the number of tigers is increasing as earlier stated by me in Parlia-

ment and also widely reported by our Department.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA: What about the question of compensation?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: The question of compensation has been raised. It is a valid point. We should be able to pay a fair compensation so that people do not destroy rare and wild animals which are also more harmful to them. We should look into this question and it depends upon the States. We will have to take up his matter with the State Governments so that adequate compensation is paid to the cattle owners.

About the Schedule, we have not reviewed it, but whenever there is a need, we will certainly review it. We did not give any permission to shoot any Great Indian Bustard. Well, Princes can go to any place in India. And you know, the people in Rajasthan rose up and there was a hue and cry in the country.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Are there Princes in India? There are no princes at all.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: They did not shoot any 'great bustard' during their visit that Mr. Daga has in view. Our people have been providing full protection. There are tribes of people, for instance, Bishnois, who do not allow hunting to take place on their land, not only of deer but also peacock and other birds. You will find even villages in northern India, in U.P., Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan, where people will not allow you to enter with a gun even to shoot ducks. It is only with the cooperation of people in general that we will be able to save our wild life.

18.26 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned at Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, December 1, 1981/Agrahayana, 10, 903 (Saka)