

(a) whether the Government are aware that big industrial houses are not honouring their export commitments;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the percentage of export commitments honoured by ten big industrial houses of the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY): (a) to (c). Information is not readily available. It is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Elimination of Wildlife Poachers

*131. SHRI LOKENDRA SINGH:
SHRI UDAYSINGHRAO
GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated value of sandal wood, skin and ivory lost due to poaching of elephants, rhinos, tigers, panthers in the States of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Assam, Kerala and Tamil Nadu during the last three years;

(b) whether Government have come across reports of large scale illegal poaching

of wildlife as well as killing of forest/police personnel at the hands of notorious gang operating in the State of Karnataka and adjoining states;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the corrective action taken by the Government to contain the menace created by this gang?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI):

(a) The valuation of loss on account of poaching of animals is not possible in the absence of any determined commercial price of skin and ivory, as trade in these items is prohibited.

The information regarding value of loss on account of poaching of sandalwood is being collected from the States and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as the information is received.

(b) Reports of some cases of illegal poaching and killing of forest personnel at the hands of a notorious gang have been received by the Government in the State of Karnataka. There is no such report from the adjoining States?

(c) Reports of illegal poaching involving killing of animals for the last three years is given as below:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Elephant</i>	<i>Tiger</i>	<i>Panther</i>
1	2	3	4
1987-88	15	1	5
1988-89	12	1	5
1989-90	18	1	5

The following forest personnel were killed by poachers in Karnataka during the last three years:—

- i) One Range Forest Officer in 1987;
- ii) One Forest Guard and one Watcher in 1988; and
- iii) One forest Guard and one Watcher in 1989.

(d) There is reported to be one gang operating in the forests of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu indulging in poaching of animals and illicit felling and smuggling of sandalwood.

- i) Financial assistance was provided to State Governments of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu by the Central Government in the year 1990-91 for strengthening of their anti-poaching measures as per details given below:—

Karnataka : Rs. 45.50 lakhs

Tamil Nadu : Rs. 47.24 lakhs

- ii) Inter-state co-ordination is being ensured in anti-poaching activities in three Southern States. A common Task Force to control sandalwood poaching has been formed for operating in the border areas. A Committee of Chief Wildlife Wardens of Southern States has also been formed by Government of India to co-ordinate activities.
- iii) Special Police Cell has been created within the Forest Department of Karnataka by the State Government to control the menace of poaching and illicit felling.
- iv) Trade in Indian ivory has been

banned since 1986 under the provisions of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

- v) Under the "Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora" (CITES), import and export of African ivory is prohibited. India is a Party to CITES.
- vi) 32 members of a notorious gang involved in poaching and smuggling of sandalwood have been arrested and 60 metric tonnes of sandal wood has been seized.

Diversion of Borrowed Funds by Large Corporate Bodies

*132. PROF. RUPCHAND PAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Economic Times of 20 November, 1990 regarding diversion of borrowed funds for profiteering by large corporate bodies;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Reserve Bank of India takes measures from time to time depending on the situation to control any extreme fluctuation in call money market and impart stability to the same. The Banks provide cash credit facilities to their clients after an assessment of their need-based requirements. The parties cannot draw on their cash credit facilities