



# INDIAN BOARD FOR WILD LIFE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
THIRD SESSION HELD  
AT NEW DELHI

FROM 14th to 16th FEBRUARY 1958

BOOK NO.

1171



*Indian Rhino*

MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
[DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE]  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, NEW DELHI

---

**T A L K**

by

**His Highness Maharaja Fatesingh Gaekwad of Baroda, M. P.  
broadcast on AIR on 1st October 1960 during celebrations  
of the Annual Wild Life Week.**

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Today we are in the midst of celebrating "Annual Wild Life Week", and I think it is just and proper that those of us who love Nature, and Nature's mute children, the denizens of the forests, draw attention to the precarious conditions under which they are today struggling to survive against Man's thoughtlessness. God Almighty has given them superior senses of sight, scent and sound, but has denied them the power of speech. It is to Man that this has been gifted, and if some of us love the animals and the birds, I feel it is our duty to explain to our brethren on behalf of the animals how difficult their fight for survival is.

There is no doubt <sup>about</sup> the fact that animal life is in danger of total extinction in various degrees all over the world. The so-called progress of Man is making him selfish, and he thinks of nothing but himself; and the injustice he is meteing out to animals must be stopped. The right type of education can alone do this.

The problem in India is very grave. However, in the past few years, mainly on the advice of the Indian Board for Wild Life, some of our State Governments have taken concrete steps in an endeavour to save the flora and fauna of the country. There are today no less than 66 sanctuaries and one National Park. The killing of certain species of animals is totally prohibited, and there is an attempt at scientific silviculture; yet it must be sadly admitted that while we are taking one step forward, we are still taking two backwards. Poaching, trapping and netting are still rampant, and so is the indiscriminate felling of trees. It is quite common to come across a man who gives you a long lecture on his ideas of controlling poaching but who eventually ends up by saying that he has decided to shoot everything he comes across, for, as he puts it, the simple reason that if he does not, the poachers will! The problem therefore is: what can we do to ensure that the

denizens of the forest get a better deal? To my mind, the solution lies fundamentally in the establishment of more well-organised and efficiently managed National Parks and sanctuaries. This, however, is not as easy as it sounds. The selection of an area must depend on the fulfilment of certain basic requirements. To decide this, it is necessary to have a detailed survey of the proposed area by experts. A sanctuary or a National Park must be of sufficient size to allow not only of the annual migrations of the game to and from the neighbourhood of the permanent water, but must be large enough to permit of more extended pilgrimages induced by seasons of exceptional drought. They should be already stocked at the time of their selection with a number of each of the species indigenous to the country, sufficient to obviate all fear of degeneration by inbreeding. While containing pasture and water suitable for their natural inhabitants, they should not, either from desirability of climate, richness of soil, or the presence of mineral wealth, be likely to offer inducements to exploitation. They should contain as few human inhabitants as possible. Once established in a suitable locality, the sanctuary in order to be effective must have specific regulations framed for its benefit, and it must be provided with knowledgeable and nature-loving officers and other staff adequate to its requirements. No considerations of influence, rank or money should be permitted to weigh, where it is a question of shooting in a reserve. That anything of the kind should be allowed, ipso facto, destroys the whole aim of the project, and reduces the sanctuary to the status of a mere "preserve"—an area wherein animals are preserved for the use of the privileged few. In other words, visiting dignitaries and local officials should not look upon it as a private shooting reserve for their benefit. It is sad but unavoidably factual that this is happening in a number of areas. Secondly, regulations governing and restricting traffic within the area, and providing due

penalties for breaches of law must be framed. It is extremely difficult to catch an offender redhanded but I know of cases where, having been caught, an offender has got off either by giving away a leg of venison or the small amount of 25 rupees! Punishments should be made more severe, and it might also help if we introduce a practice of giving awards to Game Protection Guards and Rangers. Moreover, the offender's name and offence must be given publicity in the local papers. The main object of a sanctuary should be to secure within its boundaries the complete preservation of all species indigenous to the area, and to allow any surplus of animals to emigrate to the surrounding country for the benefit of sportsmen and local residents. The scientific study of habits, the capture of specimens for zoological purposes, experiments with certain species with a view to domestication, together with tests bearing on various tick and fly-borne diseases, all follow in due course, provided the means are adequate. Of the wild Life Preserves we have in India, I know of four which have been a fair success, they are: the Gir Sanctuary in Gujarat, the Periyar Sanctuary in Kerala, the Corbett National Park in Uttar Pradesh and the Kaziranga Sanctuary in Assam.

The main problem in India today is battling against mental approaches arising out of ignorance which again is due to lack of proper education; for if wild life is to be preserved, if certain species are to be saved from extinction if our forests are to be conserved and improved, public opinion must first be won over. I know this is a stupendous task, but the intelligent minority of people, who understands and realizes its importance, must try its utmost to achieve this goal. We shall fail in our duty if we do not attempt to attain this objective. With faith in our convictions we will realize our goal. Make the shepherd and the cowherd in the Gir Sanctuary and the Corbett National Park understand that if the lion and the tiger are attacking their

sheep and cattle, it is only because their natural prey has been shot out, and not because they are animals who are born cattle-lifters. The ordinary carnivore, provided there is plenty of its natural prey at hand, usually prefers seeking it in its native forests to venturing in to the dangerous neighbourhood of man. No elephant will make a habit of entering plantations, unless due to unscientific planning in forestry the trees which he likes have been felled and replaced by those he does not care for; the bear will not enter a fruit garden unless the trees from which he gets his berries are felled; nor will a tiger kill milch cattle unless his natural prey has been reduced by Man.

Having devoted so much time to talking about the preservation of wild life with the aid of sanctuaries and National Parks, let it be understood that I am not for a total ban on shooting. I am certainly in favour of shooting as long as it is not indiscriminate, and so long as it is done in the true spirit of sportsmanship. One of the worst legacies left to us by the last World War is the Jeep. The Jeep goes where the average car could never go, and fitted with powerful spotlights, it proves a more formidable weapon than the actual high-power rifle itself. In the powerful light, the most ferocious of tigers behaves like a stunned silly lamb, and it is pitiable to see a magnificent beast behaving so in such conditions. I have always contended that one of the of the most beautiful and electrifying sights in the world is a tiger walking unobserved in his native haunts, passing through clumps of bamboos in intermittent patches of sunshine and shade. Which would be a better weapon to have in hand in such circumstances: a high-power rifle or a movie camera? At the end of a successful stalk like this, which is more gratifying to have: a mere bleeding carcass, hacked and kicked by a crowd of local inhabitants, lying at your feet, undignified and lifeless, or to have ever a permanent record on film of a wild creature in its native

haunts in all its glory, and to recall the incident to memory in future days ?

When I say that shooting should be done in the true spirit of sportsmanship, a question comes to mind: what is the definition of a sportsman who hunts with a gun ? Briefly I believe that a true sportsman is one who finds the most game, kills the least and leaves behind him no wounded animals. He should under no circumstances undertake the shooting of the female of any species, or of the immature. His main objective should be a good trophy, not any trophy. A true sportsman must above all be a lover of nature. If these principles are strictly adhered to, then and only then can game have a sporting chance of survival. Let us who love Nature, and who love the denizens of the forests take a pledge during the Wild Life Week this year to try our utmost to give a fair deal to the mute population of the forests. Let it be understood that the wild life of today is not ours to do with as we please; the original stock is given to us in trust for the benefit of both the present and the future, and we must render an account of this trust to those who come after us.

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सत्यमेव जयते

MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
[ DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ]  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, NEW DELHI

# INDIAN BOARD FOR WILD LIFE

## THIRD SESSION

Held at New Delhi from 14th to 16th February, 1958

LSIF&A-15



- Sitting in Chairs from (L. to R.)* :—A. C. Jain, M. L. Roonwal, C. A. R. Bhardran, E. P. Gee, H. H. Y. R. Ghorpade (Raja Sahib Sandur), P. S. Deshmukh (*Minister of Co-operation*), H. H. Jaya Chamaraja Wadiyar (*Governor of Mysore-Chairman*), G. G. Takle, K. S. Dharmakumar Sinhji, H. H. Fateh Singh P. Gaekwad (*Maharaja Baroda*), Salim Ali.
- Standing 1st Row*        *„*        :—E. D. Avari, Mahesh Kumar Sharma, S. K. Chatterjee, K. L. Lahiri, R. Sahia, Daulat Raj, N. N. Menon, V. S. Krishnáswamy, Angad Singh K. P. Sagreiya D. C. Kaith, R. N. Malhotra, R. S. Gupta.
- „ 2nd „*        *„*        :—Humayun Abdulali, K. K. Sharma, Haqiqat Rai, N. D. Bachkheti, H. S. Rao, R. K. Ghose, M. Sardar Khan, B. V. Ramaujulu, R. K. Lahiri, M. D. Chaturvedi, Kailash Singh, N. Bhargava, K. Kadambi, S. P. Aggarwal.
- „ 3rd „*        *„*        :—T. R. Katyal, B. L. Sachar, K. R. Sharma, M. P. Pradhan, Gurnam Singh, Santokh Singh, H. C. Gupta, P. D. Stracey, G. S. Grover, K. L. Mehta.

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D# 141577

*Broadcast talk by Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh, Union Minister for  
Co-operation on 1st October, 1957 on Wild Life Week  
Celebrations.'*

Exactly a year ago, inaugurating Wild Life Week of 1956 for the very first time I spoke to you about the vital need for the preservation of our wild life, which is a great National heritage. Reports received from different parts of the country describing the observance of that week have been very encouraging. It is thus heartening to learn that there is a general awakening in the land in favour of protection of wild life. The keen interest and enthusiasm evinced by the public in celebrating "wild life week" last year has prompted the Indian Board for Wild Life to appeal to all concerned in the country to observe a similar Week again this year. The Week commences today and I look forward to hearing that the enthusiasm engendered last year has been maintained if not surpassed this year and that it will be, so in years to come also.

India is singularly fortunate in her rich fauna and flora. Both these forms of Nature—as they occur in India—whether it be in their beauty and splendour, their richness and variety, or their form and uses, would stand comparison favourably with those of any other part of the world. But unfortunately, during the last half century, the strength of our wild life has been rapidly on the decrease, very much to the detriment of the maintenance of a proper balance between man and his environments.

With a view to preserve the fauna of India, particularly to take urgent steps to prevent the extinction of any species, the Government of India established an Indian Board for Wild Life in 1952. The Board has since been doing pioneer work to arouse public consciousness in favour of wild life preservation. At the same time they have been advising the State Governments on the legal and executive steps necessary to ensure the preservation of wild life and in particular on the setting up and development of National Parks and Wild life Sanctuaries. Many States have now their own Wild Life Boards also to advise them on the local problems regarding conservation of wild life.

Thanks to timely action over the last decade or two, a few characteristically Indian animals otherwise on the verge of extermination have been saved for posterity. Outstanding examples are (i) the Great Indian one-horned rhinoceros of the North-Eastern sub-Himalayan tract and (ii) the last remanents of the

Asiatic Lion now confined to the limited area of the Gir Forests in Saurashtra in Western India. It is to be hoped that under the protection now secured for them, their numbers will begin to increase and will within the near future reach a safe minimum. An alternate home is also being prepared for the Gir Lion in the Chakia Forest near Banaras in Uttar Pradesh.

From times immemorial, our wild life has been closely associated with our legendary beliefs and our folk lore, with our epics and our history, with our heroes and heroines of the past and of today and our lives would be very much poorer without these varied forms that build up the balance of Nature. Even so, preservation of wild life need not and does not mean the blind perpetuation of all species and without any limit on numbers. Wild Life Preservation would in fact imply active and planned wild life management under which all forms of life would progress side by side with human progress each in its own sphere of influence and utility and in any case without any detriment to human interests. Where there is a clash between man and animal, naturally the interests of man must not suffer, but it need never be beyond human ingenuity to see that such a clash does not arise. In fact, it is with this end in view that wild life sanctuaries and national parks would be established and developed in suitable localities all over the country. Many of them would also become centres of scenic attraction if not of scientific interest.

Further, as at present, while affording a home for a variety of animals, each of our wild life sanctuaries would be characteristic in its own way, for example Periyar attractively situated around a high level lake in Kerala State is primarily a home for bison and elephant. Mudumalai in Madras and Bandipur in Mysore lie contiguously in undulating ground at the foot of the Nilgiris; and Dandeli also in Mysore State is located further north in the Western Ghats; all the three support a variety of game. Kanha and Shivpuri in Madhya Pradesh are noted for varieties of deer and carnivora. The Vankateswara Sanctuary in Andhra will be noteworthy for its scenery and for small game. The Gir Forests in Bombay are famed as the last home of the Asiatic lion. The Keoladeo Ghana of Bharatpur in Rajasthan is an impressive expanse of water well known for its indigenous and visiting birds. The Dachigam Valley in Kashmir is frequented by the rare Kashmir Stag. The Ramganga National Park in Uttar Pradesh contains large groups of swamp deer. The Hazaribagh National Park in Bihar afford a delightful setting for spotted deer. The famed Kaziranga and Manas sanctuaries in Assam hold the Indian Rhinoceros. Some of these sanctuaries are also outstanding beauty-spots in the country and only await development to make them readily accessible to the public. I am glad to say that such

development is in progress in the Second Five Year Plan, the expenditure provision for schemes of Wild Life conservation is Rs. 135 lakhs.

I am confident that by now everyone in the country is alive to the necessity for wild life preservation; but the reasons that should prompt us to work for it would however, stand repetition. Aesthetically, scientifically and economically wild life is of great value. There is also the consideration that wild life including the predatory animals and birds have a distinct role to play in maintaining the balance of Nature. They are a controlling influence against whose unchecked increases which would even adversely affect the interests of man.

While all this may be encouraging, I continue to hear of un-called for destruction of wild life. Complaints are not lacking either that, if anything, there is a persistent increase in the general incidence of poaching against wild life. The devastation that has been wrought with our wild life is not so much by the legitimate *shikari* but the unscrupulous poacher who somehow escapes unscathed with the result that the more he indulges in this the more encouraged he feels. Actually he should be regarded as not only an enemy of wild life but enemy of society. Unfortunately we have a false sense of pity and sympathy in most of such matters and complete lack of it for the voiceless victims. As a rule most people have no hesitation in sympathising with a day-light murder. Even trying to save him perjury is regarded as a kind of Dharma. Little quarter is on the other hand given to the widow and children of the family of the person murdered. However, difficult the task I think it is very necessary that we should do our best to arouse and awaken our consciousness in favour of wild life. It is impossible to curb these evil tendencies by provisions of law or even exemplary punishment. The best and the more democratic cure is to create strong public opinion against persons who habitually misbehave. The so-called poachers not only create havoc by their indiscriminate behaviour but refuse to observe any rules of the sport. If the public opinion could be made alert it is not at all difficult to sport.

*Broadcast talk by Shri G. G. Takle, IFS, Inspector General of Forests, on 7th October, 1957 on the concluding day of the "Wild-life Week Celebration 1957".*

*Introductory*

1. What is Wild Life ? To many a lay person it is something unpleasant, something to be avoided, something that could best cease to be; in short, he thinks only of the wild animals that could be dangerous to him if he thoughtlessly crosses their paths or that damage his crops when he encroaches with his cultivation into their natural habitat. But in fact, Wild Life should include all forms of life, plant and animal, that go to form that great complex—animated Nature—which left to itself would be in a state of balance, no form of life getting the better of the others but each co-existing with the other in mutual adjustment. It is man's interference with this balance of Nature that sets up a series of chain reactions, of which he becomes himself the victim sooner or later. In this context, the term "Wild Life" as commonly understood is perhaps not quite as comprehensive as its protagonists would like. In fact the international organisations concerned now refer to the conservation of Nature, instead.

2. We are fortunate to have Nature express herself on India's soil in great profusion; and our Wild Life constitutes a great National heritage. Its variety and richness is surpassed perhaps only by African fauna and flora; but alas, its numbers especially of animal life, are no longer what they used to be. Some forms of our animal life are threatened with extinction; others are becoming rarer every day; and most of the rest are not as commonly to be found today as even in recent times. The impoverishment of Nature in the more advanced countries of the West has led to their people making almost frantic efforts now artificially to restore its balance, so that their own life and surroundings may be the richer and the fuller as a result. It should, therefore, be obvious to all right thinking people in our country too that this rapid deterioration should be checked before it becomes too late.

*Constitution and Functions of the Indian Board for Wild Life*

3. It was not a day too early, therefore, that the Government of India in the Ministry of Food & Agriculture, set up the Indian Board for Wild Life (I.B.W.L. for short) in 1952. The Board has been charged with these functions :—

- (i) To devise ways and means of conservation and control of wild life through co-ordinated legislative and practical measures with particular reference to seasonal and

regional closure and declaration of certain species of animals as protected animals and prevention of indiscriminate killing ;

- (ii) to sponsor the setting up of national parks, sanctuaries and zoological gardens;
- (iii) to promote public interest in Wild Life and the need for its preservation in harmony with natural and human environments;
- (iv) to advise the Government on policy in respect of export of living animals, trophies, skins, furs, feathers and other wild life products;
- (v) to prevent cruelty to birds and beasts caught alive with or without injury;
- (vi) to perform such other functions as are germane to the purpose for which the Board has been constituted.

#### *Composition of the Board*

4. The Board includes well-known Naturalists from all over the country besides officials. It has been fortunate to secure the guidance of such an eminent person and keen student of Nature as His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore as its Chairman. Four non-official regional secretaries act as liaison officers for the Board with the State Governments and assist them actively in furthering the cause of wild life in the field. Most of the States have set up in turn State Wild Life Boards to advise their Governments. The Director, Zoological Survey of India, is its technical authority. Its day-to-day work is conducted by the Forest Secretariat in the Ministry of Food & Agriculture, under the direction of the Inspector General of Forests, who is the official Vice-Chairman.

#### *Work of the Board and achievements upto date*

5. The Board meets once every alternate year to orient and direct India's policy with regard to Nature Conservation and its Standing Committee meets every six months to ensure implementation of that policy in detail, as far as possible. The meetings are arranged in different parts of the country in order to energise local enthusiasm from time to time.

6. Though there is much to be done in the matter of Nature Conservation and Wild Life management in all its aspects, the Board has achieved much in propagating the idea and is taking positive steps in the matter, as can be appreciated from the following :—

- (i) The development of Wild Life Sanctuaries and National Parks was one of the first items to receive

attention. As a result, India now has over 78 Wild Life Sanctuaries and 3 National Parks. The Board has drawn up a model bill for constituting State Parks and made it available to States for their guidance. For the improvement of sanctuaries and making them accessible and attractive to people, schemes have been taken in hand in the various States with Central assistance. The Second Plan makes a provision of Rs. 110 lakhs for this work.

- (ii) In its first meeting itself in 1952, the Board recommended thirteen rare species of animals and birds as standing in urgent need of total protection viz., (1) the Indian Lion, (2) Snow Leopard, (3) Clouded Leopard, (4) Cheetah, (5) Rhinoceros, (6) Indian Wild Ass, (7) Kashmir Stag, (8) Musk Deer, (9) Brow-antlered deer, (10) Pigmy hog, (11) Great Indian Bustard, (12) Pink-headed Duck, and (13) White winged wood Duck.
- (iii) Following on that recommendation, the Board has been instrumental in the adoption of fresh customs regulations in 1953 regarding the export of Wild Life and its parts—to act as a disincentive in the destruction of Wild Life and to ensure fair and humane treatment to fauna in transit. These regulations are now under further examination in the light of the experience gained since their introduction.
- (iv) The Board published last year an illustrated leaflet on “Why Preserve Wild Life,” dealing with the doubts and misgivings of the general public on the subject, as well as the cultural, scientific and economic value of wild life. The Board has in hand a popular publication on India’s Animals, a compilation on Wild Life Management for forest officers and a similar but simpler one for administrative officers, as also a guide for undertaking animal census.

*Zoo Wing.*

7. The Board has set up a separate Zoo Wing to co-ordinate the work and development of Zoological Parks in India, recognising as it does the great educative value especially to children and adolescents, of such parks, if properly organised and maintained and not as mere cages and prison houses to keep exhibits anyhow.

*Bird Wing.*

8. The Board has also set up a separate Bird Wing for the organised development of peoples’ interest in this absorbing field

of study. There are three bird sanctuaries in India now and it is hoped others will follow.

*Propaganda.*

9. In 1956, the Board organised in Delhi an exhibition of works of art and photographs, which was a great success. The Board's suggestion for a Wild Life Day in 1956 was followed up with such great enthusiasm in the States, that it has now launched on a whole week's observance this year. Today marks the conclusion of that formal week. But with this week would begin in most parts of India and for most forms of life the season when they can be best observed and equally so when they stand in need of enforcement of all the rules for their continued protection and welfare.

*Conclusion*

10. The Board is very conscious of it that nothing tangible can be achieved unless it carries the public with it in this noble cause. May I, send you and to our countrymen, to the State Governments and Universities, and to the innumerable institutions and organisations my very sincere thanks on behalf of the Government of India and the Indian Board for Wild Life for the splendid co-operation that has been extended by everybody in celebrating the Wild Life Week this year. As I have said already we have some of the finest and rarest species—the Asiatic Lion, the great Indian Rhino, the lordly elephant, the magnificent tiger, the gigantic wild sheep of the Himalayas, the beautiful spotted deer and the glorious pea-cock. In the protection of these rare and important species, in the preservation and conservation of our magnificent flora and fauna, I beseech your co-operation and urge you on this occasion solemnly to undertake the following pledge :

“Born and bred in the land of Buddha and Gandhi, I give my solemn pledge to protect our country's forests and their voiceless denizens from wanton and wasteful destruction.”

PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE INDIAN  
BOARD FOR WILD LIFE HELD AT NEW DELHI  
FROM 14TH TO 16TH FEB., 1958.

As decided by the Executive Committee of I.B.W.L. in its 5th meeting held at Periyar Game Sanctuary in January, 1957, the Third Session of the I.B.W.L. was held at New Delhi from 14th to 16th Feb., 1958. The following attended the meeting :—

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| 1. H. H. the Maharajah of Mysore                               | Chairman, I.B.W.L.                         |
| 2. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh  | Union Minister of Co-operation.            |
| 3. Shri G. G. Table, IFS                                       | I.G.F. & Vice-Chairman.                    |
| 4. Shri K. S. Dharmakumar-sinhji                               | Vice-Chairman.                             |
| 5. Dr. M. L. Roonwal   | Secretary-General.                         |
| 6. Shri Salim Ali  | Chairman, Bird Wing.                       |
| 7. Shri E. P. Gee  | Hony. Regional Secretary, Eastern Region.  |
| 8. Shri Y. R. Ghorpade   | Hony. Regional Secretary, Southern Region. |
| 9. Shri M. D. Chaturvedi                                       | Hony. Regional Secretary, Northern Region. |
| 10. Shri A. C. Jain  | Secretary.                                 |
| 11. Shri S. C. Law   | Member.                                    |
| 12. Shri H. H. Fatehsingh P. Gaekwad (of Baroda)               | -do-                                       |
| 13. Raja Bajrang Bahadur Singh of Dhadari (Lt.-Governor, H.P.) | -do-                                       |
| 14. Shri N. N. Menon   | C.C.F., Kerala.                            |
| 15. Shri Daulat Rai, IFS.                                      | C.C.F., Andhra Pradesh.                    |
| 16. Shri V. S. Krishnaswamy, IFS.                              | C.C.F., Madras.                            |
| 17. Shri K. P. Sagreiya, IFS                                   | C.C.F., Madhya Pradesh.                    |
| 18. Shri R. Sahai, IFS   | C.C.F., Uttar Pradesh.                     |
| 19. Shri D. C. Kaith   | C.C.F., Himachal Pradesh.                  |
| 20. Shri N. N. Sen, IFS (Rtd.)                                 | C.C.F., Rajasthan.                         |

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| 21. Dr. K. Kadambi, IFS.  | C.C.F., Mysore.  |
| 22. Shri R. N. Malhotra   | Conservator, Representative<br>of C.C.F., J. & K.                              |
| 23. Shri Angad Singh      | Conservator, Representative<br>of C.C.F., Punjab.                              |
| 24. Dr. N. K. Pannikar    | Fisheries Dev. Adviser.  |
| 25. Dr. H. S. Rao.        | Representative of Zoological<br>Society of India.                              |
| 26. Shri Humayun Abdulali | Representative of Bombay<br>Natural History Society.                           |
| 27. Shri E. D. Avari      | Representative of Bengal<br>Natural History Society.                           |
| 28. Shri S. K. Chatterji  | Chairman, Delhi Bird Watch-<br>ing Society.                                    |
| 29. Shri P. D. Stracey    | President, Wild Life Club,<br>F.R.I. & C., Dehra Dun.                          |
| 30. Shri R. K. Lahiri     | Superintendent, Calcutta Zoo<br>and Technical Secretary,<br>Zoo Wing, I.B.W.L. |
| 31. Shri B. V. Ramanjulu  | Superintendent, Madras Zoo<br>& Technical Secretary, Zoo<br>Wing, I.B.W.L.     |
| 32. Shri N. D. Bachkhedi  | Superintendent, Delhi Zoo.   |
| 33. Shri M. Sardar Khan   | Superintendent, Lucknow Zoo.   |

*The following attended by invitation.*

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|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 34. Shri C. A. R. Bhadran | Dy. I.G.F.                |
| 35. Shri Horace Alexander | Ex-Member of the I.B.W.L. |
| 36. Shri Nandan Bhargava  | C.F., Rajasthan.          |
| 37. Shri Mahesh Kumar     | D.F.O., Uttar Pradesh.    |
| 38. Shri Kailash Singh    | D.F.O., Rajasthan.        |

**PROGRAMME FOLLOWED FOR THE THIRD SESSION OF  
THE INDIAN BOARD FOR WILD LIFE HELD AT NEW  
DELHI FROM 14TH TO 16TH FEBRUARY, 1958.**

**FRIDAY 14-2-58—FORENOON 9.30 A.M. TO 12-30 P.M.—**Discussion of agenda items.

The Executive Committee, Zoo Wing and Bird Wing met together in Committee Room No. I of the I.C.A.R./Ministry of Food & Agriculture building.

**AFTERNOON—3 P.M. TO 5 P.M.—**Visit to the Delhi Zoo (under construction).

**5 P.M.—**Tea in Zoo lawns.

**EVENING—7 P.M. TO 8 P.M.**

Film show (By the Films Division of the I. & B. Ministry at their auditorium at Janpath).

**SATURDAY 15-2-58—FORENOON 9.30 A.M. TO 12.30 P.M.**

Discussion of agenda items by the Executive Committee, Zoo Wing and Bird Wing continued.

**AFTERNOON—**Free.

**EVENING—5 P.M. TO 7 P.M.—**Inaugural Function—Vigyan Bhavan—Commission Room 'H'.

(1) Welcome address by the Union Minister for Food & Agriculture.

(2) Brief account of the status of Nature and Wild Life Conservation in the country by the Chairman of the I.B.W.L.—H.H. the Maharajah of Mysore.

(3) Inaugural address by the Prime Minister of India.

(4) Vote of thanks by the Union Minister for Cooperation.

**SUNDAY 16-2-58—FORENOON 9.30 A.M. TO 12.30 P.M.—**General Session—Committee Room 'D' of Vigyan Bhavan.

(1) Welcome by the Chairman, I.B.W.L.

(2) General address by Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, Union Minister for Co-operation.

(3)—(6) Reports on general situation of wild life in the country by the regional secretaries of the Board.

(7) Summation on the Wild Life situation by the Secretary-General, I.B.W.L.

(8) Abstracts of reports on wild life situation and observance of Wild Life Week from States, by the Inspector General of Forests.

AFTERNOON—3 P.M. TO 5.30 P.M.—Plenary Session—Committee Room 'D' Vigyan Bhavan.

(1) Presentation of reports of discussions and recommendations by the Secretary, I.B.W.L.

(2) Adoption of resolutions.

(3) Concluding remarks by the Chairman, I.B.W.L.

(4) Vote of thanks by Shri G. G. Takle, IFS.—Vice-Chairman.

EVENING 7-8 P.M.

Film show (of members' films at Janpath Auditorium).

1. The inaugural session of the Board was held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi from 5 p.m. on 15th February, 1958 under the Chairmanship of H.H. of Maharajah of Mysore. The inaugural address was delivered by the Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru. The proceedings commenced with an address of welcome by Shri Ajit Prasad Jain, Minister of Food & Agriculture, as follows :—

2. "Mr. Chairman, Mr. Prime Minister, ladies and gentlemen.

It is a matter of great privilege for me to welcome you all to this gathering. You would be aware that the Wild Life Board was established nearly 6 years ago. It had its first Session in Mysore; the second session was held in Calcutta and this Third Session is being held in Delhi. The Board has functioned mainly through its Executive Committee, Bird Wing and Zoo Wing and during these years they have studied the various aspects of wild life sanctuaries and Zoo problems. The Board have the unique good fortune of having His Highness the Maharajah of Mysore as its Chairman, who is a great lover of Nature, a Sportsman and a person who has taken interest in Wild Life all through his life. During all these years the Board has been able to create interest in Wild Life, though it will be too tall a claim to say that a Nationwide interest has been evoked. Unfortunately, although in India we claim to have a compassionate outlook, a tender outlook towards the animals and yet the animals are but poorly treated in this country. Since Independence our Wild Life has suffered not so much at the hands of the sportsmen as at the hands of poacher.

3. Now the Board has been trying not only to preserve Wild Life, but also to find new homes for some of the rare species. One of the very important things which the Board has done is to find a new home for the Gir Lion. The Gir Lion was confined to a small area and there was a danger that this noble animal would become extinct. Recently a few of them have been brought to the Chakia Forests, near Banaras and we hope that the Gir Lions will prosper in this new home. There is always danger of extinction



*Shri A. P. Jain, Union Minister for Food and Agriculture, delivering his welcome address to the delegates to the 3rd session of the Indian Board for Wild Life held at New Delhi from 14th to 16th Feb., 1958*

when the natural incidence of an animal is limited to a small area. I hope it will be possible to find a new home for Rhinos of Assam too.

4. I would like to say a few words about the Delhi Zoo. About 5-6 years ago, a scheme for establishing a zoo in Delhi was formulated. In the first few years we could not do much to implement the scheme, but during the last 18 months we have made some progress. We were fortunate in obtaining the services of Mr. Hagenbeck a Zoo Specialist of World fame. Mr. Hagenbeck has prepared a plan, on the lines of which we have started work. About 300 animals, mammals, and birds have been gathered already and I am hopeful before the fall of the year we shall be able formally to inaugurate the Zoo. The Delhi Zoo, I hope, will be worthy of this great metropolitan city and Mr. Prime Minister, I am thankful to you for donating a pair of tigers and some other animals to the zoo.

5. Now I do not want to stand between you, Mr. Chairman, and the audience who are eager to hear of your learned discourse on Wild Life. I would request you, Sir, to deliver your address."

6. The Chairman of the Board H. H. Maharajah Shri Jaya Chamaraja Wadiyar, Governor of Mysore then addressed the audience and gave a brief account of Status of nature and wild life in the country. The speech of the Chairman ran as follows :—

7. "Mr. Prime Minister, ladies and gentlemen :

My first words this evening is one of welcome to the Prime Minister, and I say it with the greatest pleasure. His august presence in our midst will be an inspiration to us for further efforts in the work that the Central Board for Wild Life is doing. May I express the heartfelt thanks and gratitude of my colleagues on this Board and of myself to the Prime Minister for his kindness in agreeing to inaugurate the third full Board Meeting today? We have been greatly encouraged by the keen interest he has been evincing in the welfare of the noble denizens of the forests of India; his appeals to our countrymen to preserve India's precious fauna have been of the greatest value. We of the Board wish to assure you, Mr. Prime Minister, that we are most grateful to you for your vigilant interest in Indian Wild Life and its preservation.

8. I should like to express the thanks of the Board and of myself to Shri A. P. Jain, the Minister for Food & Agriculture for his friendly help and co-operation in our efforts. He has evinced a keen and active interest in all our undertakings and we express to him our sincere gratitude. To Shri Panjabrao Deshmukh, who from the beginning has been a foster-parent to the Board no words of mine can convey the goodwill that he has created in all our

hearts by his patience and understanding and his expert handling of our meetings. Without the help and guidance of these two distinguished gentlemen our efforts could hardly have been successful.

9. I propose to give a brief outline of what wild life conservation means and what it stands for its economic value to mankind and, finally, what we have done in India so far and what we plan to do and should do.

10. Wild Life Management or conservation as we have come to know it was first introduced in the United States in 1915. It includes the planned management of lands and waters, and of forest products, crops and other material of value taken from them each year. Natural resources have to be managed in such a manner as to ensure their variety and abundance so that all those forms of life which furnish food, or are otherwise of value to the human race, can be fully exploited. This entails the maintenance of the biological community as a whole—for it is healthiest when maintained with all its natural forms. Many types of life afford scope for programme of conservation modern methods are applied mainly to game animal and fur-bearers, to birds and mammals which exert a beneficent influence by feeding on insects and rodents destructive of crops, and to species of aesthetic interest.

11. It is quite clear that the main object is the benefit that this confers on the human population of the land. A species is maintained or reduced according to its relationship to man's need, the governing factor being the value attached to it by man in his own interest. Predatory animals may be reduced so as to safeguard livestock and poultry or to protect wild forms which man may regard as comparatively more useful to him.

12. Various methods have been adopted towards achieving this end, none of which singly can be said to solve the problem on hand. The oldest known method is that of protective laws for game. For long this was the only method by which it was sought to maintain an abundance of game. This served its purpose when more or less primitive conditions existed. When civilisation advanced and land development went with it, and the human population increased and a conflict of interests arose, protective laws were found inadequate.

13. Re-stocking was then introduced by pen-propagation and release of game species. While they have a definite place in wild life management, these methods too, by themselves are not enough. Then followed the device of transferring wild stock from undepleted tracts to depleted ones. Many species were re-stocked in this way.

14. Predator control is also a necessary adjunct to the process of re-stocking and wild life management.

15. In many parts of the world, wild life refuges have been established. These refuges are areas of land or water or both, set aside for use of one or more species of wild life in need of protection. The size of these areas may be large or small according to the circumstances. Refuges serve the dual purpose of protecting animals or birds and restoring and preserving a suitable habitat within which they can lead natural lives. The importance of such refuges has increased with the rapid progress of industrial and agricultural development.

16. Maintenance of environment is of prime importance in wild life management. The restoration and improvement of wild life environment, and its maintenance at a proper standard, call for much research, for success depends on accurate and scientific knowledge concerning the needs and habits of wild life.

17. Wild Life reserves are meant to serve as breeding grounds for animals, and to help in preserving birds and big game, as well as unique vegetation and landscapes.

18. Coming now, to India, we have set up several State Parks where rare animals and plants are protected from extinction. At its first meeting the Board decided to form these wild life reserves and to prevent the rapid extermination of some of our valuable species of game. As a practical result of this move, a second home for the Indian lion has been established in Chakia Forests area in U.P. If the attempt is successful some more areas where lion can be settled will be marked out. Similarly plans to rehabilitate the Indian Rhino (Unicorn) and the buffalo are under consideration. After the necessary ecological surveys have been done suitable areas will be selected for affording new homes for some of our fast diminishing big game species.

19. In addition to these plans the scientific study of wild life in all its varied manifestations has to be undertaken. Many of the rarer species the Tragopan, the Hog-deer of Assam, the Pink-headed Duck, to mention a few at random, require urgent attention.

20. In India the forest area is about 13% as against 33-1/3% in other parts of the world. Even this limited area is being reduced at a dangerous rate. This is a warning to us. A famous writer, Dr. Newbegin, has stated in her book, *Animal and Plant Geography*, that it is upon the green chlorophyll bearing forms of plant life that carnivore and herbivore depend. In the food chain the green plant is the ultimate giver of life as chlorophyll is contained within it. Plants and animals have a close relation. Destroy the plant and you make it difficult even for the carnivorous animal to live.

21. One of the commonest problems facing most States in India is the increasing demand made by agriculture on forest lands. There is legitimate ground for dis-afforesting certain areas for cultivation. But it is necessary to see that this is not carried to irrational lengths. The demands of agriculture should be met without prejudice to the balance of nature. More harm than good will result in the long run if, in the name of agricultural development, forests are destroyed in ignorance or disregard of their vital function in nature.

22. Finally there is the problem of biology and man's future. Biology is the science of life—of all forms of life. What has it got to tell us in relation to the present question? The utility of plant life in the field of economic biology is well recognised for nowhere else in Nature's system is man so dependent on plants as when he cultivates a variety of plants on a crop basis to be utilised as a natural resource for his own use. The nutritional value of plants to man is either through direct eating of raw or cooked plant food or indirectly by his diet based on the meat of herbivore. In such a diet there are the mineral and vitamin elements that are obtained in their natural form.

23. Other ways in which plants play useful roles are the conservation of fresh water resources, on which man and many other organisms depend for life, and the restriction of erosion by wind and water.

24. The non-green plants—without chlorophyll—are bacteria, fungi and lichens. Bacteriology—which is a whole branch of Biology—has been organised to deal with these. The major importance of both bacteria and fungi in the complex dis-integration of organic wastes, whether of dead animals or plants of larger size or of local material and shed leaves, is now well recognised.

25. The notion that the animal and plant kingdoms, especially the untamed parts, are either a nuisance or a menace, is like all prejudices, exaggerated and unfounded. The ravages of nature have to be controlled but not by the drastic method of wholesale destruction. Our mountains, rivers, plants and animals all have a unique role to play in enriching ourselves and our lives.

26. There is an urgent need to put the study of wild life on a scientific basis. I would commend the work done in Brussels Institute of the Belgian-African National Parks (Congo) as a model for study in India. Here in the Belgian example, the general studies confirm the belief that relations between fauna and flora within a given tropical climate are not regular. They vary constantly according to cycles not yet defined or determined. International co-operation and exchange in the scientific field throughout comparable zones of similar climatic environment are



*The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, inaugurating the Third session of the Indian Board for Wild Life, held at New Delhi from 14th to 16th February 1958*



essential for economy of efforts. Comparative and integrated research in geology and ethnology applied to environment, within the frame-work of ecological geography as the correlative science may throw light on wider human problems such as, why the civilisation of the tropical high-plateaux of the Andes had no parallel on the tropical high-plateaux of the Kivu or of Kenya.

27. Here I may remark in passing that no other field of scientific investigation is so interesting and stimulating as that of biology where the amateur biologist can without elaborate equipment and with a modest expenditure of funds make worthwhile contributions to the science of life. He has his chosen problem to study. Such researches have often led to discovery to facts of the most fundamental importance. Let us not forget that Gregor Mendel was a rank amateur, yet his work was the foundation for all work on genetics. As Charles Kingsley once wrote, "we act as though comfort and luxury were the chief requirements of life when all we need to make us really happy is something to be enthusiastic about."

28. Surely, here, in the study of natural history, naturalists have something about which to be enthusiastic.

29. Let us remember that wild life is a very valuable natural resource and that its neglect would involve the wasting of natural benefits, the waste continuing until the resources are gone and the benefits have vanished. It has been truly said that no natural resource is more sensitive to conservation than wild life, and that no natural resource has suffered more from lack of conservation. During the last sixty or seventy years, species have actually been exterminated owing to the lack of care and fore-thought.

30. There are very welcome signs that public interest has now been aroused in the wild life of the country. Ignorance and apathy in respect of the country's magnificent flora and fauna are now giving a way to a sympathetic appreciation of their vital place in the life of the land and its people. It is a significant and a happy augury that our people are now evincing a healthy and a wholesome interest, not merely in the subject of indigenous species of wild life, but in regard to the whole range of the animal kingdom, including rare and dwindling species, and also in the rich variety of plant life. May it be the harbinger of a new era of prosperity for the animal kingdom and for man.

31. Let us ponder on these words of Edward Carpenter :

"Only that people can thrive that loves its land and swears to make it beautiful;

For the land (the Demos) is the foundation—element of human life and if the public relation to that is false, all else is of need false and inverted.

How can a flower deny its own roots, or a tree the soil from which it springs ?

And how can a people stand firmly planted under the sun, except as mediators between earth and heaven—

To dedicate the gracious fruits of the ground,

To render the life of the people clean and gracious—to make wild places of land sacred—sparing all living creatures as far as possible rather than destroying them.

To do all this in singleness of heart were indeed to open up riches for mankind of which few dream.”

32. The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru addressed the gathering as follows :—

33. “Your Highness, Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I am very glad of this opportunity of paying my tribute to the importance of the work you have in hand. There are present here, I presume, experts on the subject and I am no expert and my only qualification for being here today is my love of animals and birds and I am often not only surprised but greatly distressed at the general lack of interest in the subject in this country. Of course, there are plenty of individuals who take interest, but broadly speaking, it is not one that interests people here. I don't feel it is the fault of the people so much as perhaps the lack of opportunity for directing their minds to it and the first thing that I have, therefore, to suggest to you is that your Board should produce good readable books on the subject—books for children and books for grown-ups, more especially books for children, because presumably if the grown-ups have not thus far developed a love of animals, they are not likely to do so, they become rigid in their thinking. But children normally take to them and if encouraged will develop great interest.

34. Therefore, I do hope that your Board will help in producing good books not only for the experts but for common folk like me and more especially for children, which we could publish in our various national languages in this country; and it is obvious that books on animals and birds must have coloured pictures. I want a large number of interesting little books to come out for our children of various ages—from the earliest period to the High Schools and Colleges. So this is an idea that I have placed before you for consideration. I believe you are doing something of this kind. I am told a book on birds is likely to come out one of these days. There are in fact other books too. But I am just a little bit afraid that those of you who are experts in this matter will write for other experts and not for people like me and that will be very unfortunate because what we seek is to interest people generally.

35. Why? well, for a variety of reasons ; one is that it is an interesting subject. It gives a certain fullness to a person's life to know, to feel intimate with animals, birds, trees and flowers. We lack that. It is astonishing how much we lack compared to other countries. As my colleague, Ajit Prasad Jain said, we have lost all our capacity for interest in them by placing some animals on pedestals and saying that they ought to be worshipped. Anything that you worship you forget. Now it is far better to be friendly with somebody than worship him. I want people to be friendly with birds.

36. Now our Chairman said something about the Balance in nature, the equilibrium established between animals, plants and birds. I remember his writing to me some months ago expressing his great concern at the way we are going in for big projects, River Valley Projects or other matters, even the railway lines, forgetting the effect this might have on the Natural Economy of that area. Some people think, I don't know how far it is true, that floods in certain areas are encouraged by railway embankments which came in the way of the natural drainage of the area. Apart from this, these great projects that we have, must necessarily interfere to some extent with the economy of the Nature there. Of course, the increase of human population interferes very much with it and I fear that there is little remedy for this and unless, of course, some adequate way is found to limit the increase of human population, because otherwise they will not only eat up all the animals but they may sometimes eat up themselves too.

37. Now we are on the verge of tremendous discoveries into Nature's secrets, into the secrets of the physical world because of atomic energy or this creating of Baby Moons now. The enormous energy produced by man's efforts must necessarily have a very powerful effect on the economy or equilibrium established in Nature through centuries and millenia of action and inter-action and I wonder where exactly this will lead to. It has already rather upset people's minds and made them behave in a most irrational manner indulging in what they call 'cold wars', which reason of course says is a ridiculous thing to do. I can even understand war but I do not understand 'cold war'. This is most irrational and absurd.

38. But that itself shows that we are entering into a period where owing to the release of tremendous forces, all kinds of consequences will flow if we do not know or understand today what will be the effect of them on animal life or plant life; I do not know. Anyhow, if we are adequately interested in plant life and animal life, we must try to do something. Of course, it is by no means certain that human beings will survive at the cost of animals. It is a delicate balance between the insects of the world

and the human beings of the world, and what will happen when these new forces of Nature come down upon us by man's own folly is anybody's guess.

39. Now there has been some talk, some reference, about preservation of wild life in zoological gardens, game preserves or whatever else they are called. I do hope that in these zoological gardens animals will not be kept in small cages. It is a hateful way of keeping animals. Apart from that some arrangement has to be made (as they are made now-a-days in modern zoological gardens) to give them some room to jump about, to move about and play about. Nothing will be sadder than to see a lion sitting in a narrow cage; it is worse than murder. So I hope that your Board will not only study these problems and learn much and increase your own knowledge about them but consider yourselves responsible as well, I consider one of your duties, to inform the people of India about these problems, to interest them. You should come down from expert level to the level of the common people so that they can understand and thus increase their interest in wild life. You should contact our people and tell them to know all the animals, to play with them, to love them and not to worship them."

40. The proceedings concluded with Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, Union Minister of Co-operation moving the vote of thanks when he addressed the gathering as follows :—

41. "It is my very pleasant duty this evening to bring this inaugural session of the Indian Board for Wild Life to a close with an expression of our sincere thanks to all concerned. I am sure that every member of the Board will agree with me that we cannot be too grateful to the Prime Minister for his abiding personal interest in the country's Wild Life and its conservation. I was indeed extremely happy, Sir, when you so readily acceded to my request that you might in the midst of all your pre-occupations with momentous issues facing the country and the world, find time to participate in this meeting and give us the benefit of your valuable guidance.

42. I may be permitted here to recall the inspiring message that you were kind enough to give to the Nation through this Board on the occasion of our First Wild Life Week in October, 1956. You had then queried if the term "Wild Life" was really how we should "refer to the magnificent animals of our jungles and to the beautiful birds that brighten our lives." It might interest you, Sir, to know that the eminent naturalist Prof. Julian Huxley had also once referred to this point and suggested that "Nature Reserves" might be a better term than "Game or Wild Life Sanctuaries". Your previous message, I am glad to inform

you, has served the cause of Wild Life to a great extent; in fact, I might quote a part of that message which has since formed the basis for strengthening our advocacy of the cause of Wild Life Preservation.

43. "I welcome this new interest in India in the preservation of Wild Life. I cannot say that we should preserve that form of Wild Life which is a danger in our civilised haunts or which destroys our crops. But 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."

44. Your presence here and your words of advice and guidance today will, I need hardly assure you, be a source of further strength and inspiration to us in the pursuit of our interesting but not very easy task of getting the people of India to appreciate the full significance and importance of preserving the balance of Nature and to ensure the perpetuation of that balance in practice. I would request you, Sir, to accept the sincere thanks of the Board, for your great support to this worth cause.

45. It is a matter for real satisfaction to us all that His Highness the Maharajah of Mysore has taken trouble to come to Delhi in order just to preside over and conduct the deliberations of Board during this Session. The Rulers of Mysore are well-known for their patronage of many good things of life including their interest in the subject of Wild Life. It is therefore, fortunate that the Board, from its inception, has had the guidance of the Maharajah of Mysore. In spite of his multifarious duties and interests, he has found time to develop into a first rate naturalist and a great sportsman. The Board is fully aware of the extent to which His Highness's personal interest and detailed direction have been responsible for the development of the Bandipur Wild Life Sanctuary in Mysore into one of our well-known Wild Life Reserves in India. I do feel, therefore, that the Board is very fortunate in having him as its Chairman. I am confident that under his leadership the Board will, as a result of its deliberations in the present Session, arrive at really useful directives to carry forward the cause of India's Wild Life further still. May I, Your Highness convey the sincere thanks of the Board and all those present here for your illuminating address on the Wild Life situation in the country and wish you and the Board all success in your present deliberations.

46. In addition to His Highness the Chairman, we have many distinguished naturalists and lovers of Nature amongst our members. They have constantly and consistently given their very best to the Board at much personal inconvenience and even cost. I

would like to record the Board's thanks to them all. This includes both officials and non-officials.

47. It might seem rather formal for me to include in this Vote of Thanks a reference to my senior colleague in the Ministry of Food & Agriculture. But no one could be more conscious than I of the valuable positive guidance that Shri Ajit Prasad Jain has given in every phase of work in our Ministry. In particular, he has been personally directing the work on the establishment of the Delhi Zoological Park. Symbolically enough, the first of its denizens were a pair of leopard cubs presented by him. In his welcome speech today he has given the Board much food for thought and I am sure I am voicing the feelings of all the members when I say how grateful we are to him for his participation in today's function and for his encouragement to the Board in its work.

48. As Minister-in-charge it has been given to me to appeal to the country, through the State Governments and their authorities such as the Departments of Forests and of Education, the Universities and other Educational Institutions, etc., to observe Wild Life Week every year as a symbol of our live and increasing interest in the perpetuation of Wild Life. It was a happy choice of the Board that this week should coincide with our celebrations of the birthday of the apostle of Ahimsa, Mahatma Gandhi. It is a matter of considerable satisfaction to me and it should be so to the Board also that these appeals have not been in vain. In fact, the response from all over the country has been quite encouraging. The network of All-India Radio Stations, the various News Agencies and the Press have all taken up the cause enthusiastically. The State Governments and various other authorities all over the country also organise useful publicity work during the week. To all these organisations, units and individuals, I take this opportunity to convey the sincere appreciation and thanks of the Board. The Board naturally hopes that this enthusiasm will gain momentum from year to year, till every child in the country will, as it grows develop a natural and abiding interest in all the varied and attractive forms of Nature with which our country is so particularly well endowed.

49. Referring to conditions in and around Delhi itself, the public of Delhi, at least the older residents, may recall that even in the recent past attractive forms of Wild Life such as Black Buck and Chinkara, Partridge and Quail were quite common and even an occasional panther or a tiger could be sighted in the immediate neighbourhood of Delhi. Unfortunately, such is no longer the case. The Board and I are, however, glad to know that the urban population of Delhi, which is increasing by leaps and bounds every day, is fully alive to the interesting features of Wild Life and is

taking considerable interest in the project to set up a Zoological-cum-Botanical Park in the city. In fact, even the temporary collection that is now on display, I know, is attracting numerous visitors and that the visiting crowds are almost unmanageably large on holidays. The Board would look up to the Delhi State authorities to foster and guide this healthy enthusiasm.

50. May I thank all of you for the interest you have shown in the cause of Wild Life by taking the trouble to attend this function today and through you may I thank the public of Delhi ; and through them and the Press in India, may I thank the people of India for all they are doing and will do to promote the preservation and scientific management of this rich heritage of ours."

51. The Board assembled for its Third Session at 9.30 a.m. on 14th February, 1958 to consider the agenda items. The proceedings of the day were initiated by Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, Union Minister of Co-operation, who welcomed the gathering and spoke as follows :—

53. "Your Highness and gentlemen :

I feel honoured to initiate this morning proceedings of the Board. It is a matter of great pleasure for me to be present here today and to welcome you all to this Third Session of the Indian Board for Wild Life. It is a matter for particular satisfaction that in the midst of his numerous pre-occupations it has been possible for His Highness the Maharajah of Mysore to have found time to conduct the work of this meeting personally. This is, however, one more instance of the great interest His Highness has always taken in the work of the Board and the importance he attaches to the cause of Wild Life Preservation. Knowing as we do his very varied interests (ranging from Music, Art, Literature and Philosophy) besides his responsibilities as a Ruler and Statesman, it is indeed fortunate for the Board that his love for sport and Nature studies is so great. I am sure that under his guidance the Board will, as all along, transact business in the course of the next three days which will be of still further significance to the advancement of Wild Life in the country.

53. Conscious as I am, that I am talking to a body of experts on the subject, it may be scarcely appropriate for me to dilate here on the needs of Wild Life. It is, however, common knowledge that with the increasing activities of man, whether it be to grow more food or because of industrial development or because of the general increase in population, the incidence of Wild Life in the country is rapidly decreasing. This set-back to Wild Life, though perhaps inevitable to some extent, has to receive urgent attention from all right thinking people—as it should be but apparent that Wild Life forms an important link in the chain which we would

otherwise refer to as the Balance of Nature. This was the purpose for which the Board was established a few years back and I am glad to say that the Board has considerable achievements to its credit. Members of this Board have been fully mindful of the high responsibility they carry of guiding our people and directing their attention to the long-term evils that are bound to result to the mankind itself from any short-sighted policy or practices in respect of Wild Life. To me, there appear to be two main aspects of this problem, firstly :

54. The question of saving from extinction such species as have already become very rare. In this respect the Board has so far listed nine such species of animals and birds. Besides being ever watchful of the protection of these nine species, I am sure, the Board will interest itself in determining from time to time what other species may be in need of similar protection. In fact, I am glad to find some of the agenda items will examine the status of specified varieties of Wild Life.

55. The other aspect which is to be thought of is the need for protection from rapid or indiscriminate destruction of forms of Wild Life which may not as yet be classified as rare—for instance, the black-buck. The Board will have done signal service in this respect if it could advise the States of practical measures for the prevention of such harmful practices as are known to be indulged in by poachers and probably equally so by others in the name of crop protection.

56. This is the third meeting of the Board and the previous two meetings as well as the several meetings of the Board's Executive committee have been held in different parts of the country. I am fully aware that in those instances the local Governments and authorities played very generous hosts for such meetings and made elaborate arrangements deserving of all praise and gratitude. It was at the suggestion of the Executive Committee at its last meeting that this meeting of the full Board has been arranged in Delhi. It is likely that my Ministry's arrangements would fall far short of the standards set up in previous meetings, especially for your personal comforts, and if I may say so, entertainment. I can only ask for your forbearance if there are any large deficiencies in the organisation of this meeting. In one particular respect, meeting in Delhi has the disadvantage that in the near neighbourhood we have scarcely any points of interest for an excursion. In fact, the only interesting place for an excursion, though not so near at hand, would have been the Keoladeo Ghana bird Sanctuary at Bharatpur. Unfortunately an excursion to that place this week-end was precluded by the previous arrangements made for the visit of a foreign dignitary.

57. I hope that your visit to the Zoo, this afternoon will be looked upon as a compensatory item. The Zoo is still in very early stages of construction. We have, however, very ambitious plans and we expect that, when completed, the Delhi Zoological Park will probably be one of the best of its kind and one of the most modern. We have taken the advice of an acknowledged expert and we are sparing no pains to follow his advice in full. As our engineering and constructional staff are not familiar with the specialised requirement of a zoo, there has been some delay but now that work has commenced in earnest we are hopeful that the Zoo will be an accomplished fact in the not very distant future. Meanwhile I trust that we will have the benefit of useful advice and constructive suggestions from you.

58. The Board has a heavy agenda and I am sure that quite a number of other items are also of equal significance with regard to the protection and management of Wild Life. I feel I should not stand between you and the business of the day any further.

59. We will meet again tomorrow evening full of anticipation of excellent guidance from the Prime Minister and meanwhile I wish you, gentlemen, will have interesting discussions and a successful meeting of the Board.

The Chairman of the Board, H. H. the Mahajarah of Mysore then thanked Dr. Deshmukh on his own behalf and on behalf of the Board for the interest he had been taking in the activities of the Board, in the following words :—

“Dr. Deshmukh and Friends :

60. I think I shall be expressing the unanimous opinion of this Board when I say how grateful we are to you, Dr. Deshmukh, for being amidst us this morning and for the words which you have said to encourage us to try and actively implement the decision of the Board. It is no exaggeration to say that right from the beginning of our history going back to 1952 (as those of us who have been here from the inception will, I am sure, know from their personal experience) you have been a source of a great help and encouragement. Above all, we are indeed most grateful and indebted to you for the uniform sympathy that you have extended to our work. Personally may I say, Dr. Deshmukh, I am most grateful to you, for your very kind references to me and indeed I feel it an honour to be associated with the so many lovers of nature and Wild Life. If we have been able to do something to put the case of Wild Life before the country and to create some popularity for it, I think we have done something which we need be proud of.

61. You were pleased to remark that we might find it a little inconvenient due to the inclemencies of the weather, but Sir, I can

assure you that we are used to these hardships in our love of Nature and I am sure that for just a few days we shall not mind it. Especially, having the Prime Minister amongst us will compensate us for any little inconvenience that we may have to put up with. As we have a heavy agenda before us, let me once more thank you and suggest that we might take up the agenda for consideration."

62. The Chairman then enquired whether the meeting should now split into three committees viz., General Committee, Bird Wing and Zoo Wing to consider the agenda or it would be preferable to continue together. On the suggestion of I.G.F. it was decided that the joint meeting should continue for that day and the three committees might meet separately the next day.

63. The consideration of agenda items one by one was then taken up and discussed. The first meeting ended at 1.30 p.m. on 14th February, 1958.

64. The Board reassembled at 9.30 a.m. on 15th February, 1958 to continue the discussions of agenda items. The Chairman of the Board was in the Chair. He started the day's proceedings with a brief speech of welcome to Shri Alexander whom he introduced to the delegates as a great friend of India and an associate of Mahatma Gandhi. He also hoped that the Bird Wing (whose meeting Shri Alexander was particularly interested in) would greatly benefit from his advice.

65. Shri Alexander thanked the Chairman and the delegates in the following words :—

66. "In response to your welcome, may I thank you for allowing me to attend this meeting here today. I am sorry that I could not, in fact, bring any message direct from the British Organisations with which I am associated. As it happens, I have recently been spending a few days in Pakistan and yesterday I flew back from Karachi and day before yesterday and yesterday morning also, I was meeting the Director of the Zoological Survey of Pakistan, who I think is well known to several of you here. When I told him that I might be attending this meeting, he felt very envious. He wished that Pakistan could have a Wild Life Board as India already has. They are doing something now in Pakistan and have very warm feelings for colleagues here. Thank you."

67. Thereafter the Bird and Zoo Wings separated to meet in separate meetings for considering agenda items meant for them. The General Committee continued its proceedings under the Chairmanship of H. H. the Maharajah of Mysore.



*H.H. Maharaja Jaya Chamarajendra Wcdiyar, Governor of Mysore, and Chairman, Indian Board for Wild Life, presiding over the General Session of the Board at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, on Feb. 16, 58.*

68. On the suggestion of Shri R. Sahai, C.C.F., Uttar Pradesh, the Board heard an account from Shri Mahesh Kumar, Officer-in-charge of the Chandraprabha Sanctuary where Gir Lions were recently released. Shri Kumar said as follows :—

69. "We brought one Lion and two lionesses from Junagadh on 12th November, 1957. The lion was 9 years old as the Zoo people told me. The senior lioness 6 years old and the junior 4 years old. I started with our lions on 12th November on their historic journey of about 1400 miles. The journey through Rajasthan was particularly an arduous one for the lions. They began to gasp in the heat and sun of Rajasthan and we had to sprinkle buckets after buckets of water, to keep them comfortable. We reached Banaras on 22nd November. They were immediately put into the Chandraprabha area. These lions were formally released on December 2, 1957 by the Chief Minister of U.P. Dr. Sampurnanand. The lions were kept in a 10 acre enclosure which was fenced by a simple wire-knitting upto 6 ft. height. It was superimposed by a simple plain wire upto another 6 ft. This 10 acre inner enclosure was finally broken on January 1, 1958 and our lions are now freely moving about in the Sanctuary and they are now on natural game in the area. The total area of the Sanctuary is 37.5 sq. miles."

70. Chairman : "Any questions ?"

Q. "How you shifted the lions to natural food?"

Mr. Kumar : "From December 2, 1957 to January 8, 1958, they were served with buffalo calves, at intervals of 3-4 days."

Q. "What is the type of game they get naturally ?"

Mr. Kumar : "Chinkara, Nilgai and pigs. The nilgais are in great abundance."

Q. "Are there any tigers in the area?"

Mr. Kumar : "There are tigers but outside the sanctuary area."

Q. "Would not the tigers come inside ?"

Mr. Kumar : "They have not come so far."

Q. "Are you about to remove the fencing?"

Mr. Kumar : "No. The sanctuary area about 37.5 sq. miles is completely fenced. It will continue to be fenced."

Shri Sagreiya. "Mr. Chairman I happened to meet Shri Negi, Game Warden, in Bareilly. I may add some information given by him personally. It was not the intention to keep the lions inside wired enclosures for ever. He merely thought that it would be necessary to accustom them to a particular locality. The area is also linked with other forest areas. He visualised that the lions will

leave this area when the fencing either breaks down or is broken down, and wander outside. I think it is probably artificial protection to keep the lion within 35 miles enclosure and, I think, eventually, the game may get so depleted that the animals would not have anything to live on. I think you would like to have this information also."

71. Shri Sahai added that the barbed wire fencing was provided around the area mainly in order not to allow animals from outside entering the area. The fencing was only about 6 feet high. This could check game animals from outside entering the area. But villagers had cut this fencing at several places to let their cattle in. This fencing was really, therefore, no bar for the cattle to come in or the lions to go out. It was just a sort of artificial barrier, not very effective. The I.G.F. remarked that the villagers should not be allowed to cut the fencing. A suggestion was put forward that detailed observations should be made. Every thing done should be recorded faithfully and periodically these reports should be sent to the Zoological Survey. Shri Sahai wanted to know what kind of observations were wanted so that detailed instructions can be given to his Game Warden. To another query, Shri Sahai replied that there were no wild dogs in the area.

72. The consideration of agenda items meant for the General Committee was then resumed and discussed one by one.

73. The meeting of the General Committee came to close at 1.30 p.m.

74. The Bird and Zoo Wings met separately to consider their agenda items (items 32—43 and 44—66 respectively of the agenda) and made suitable recommendations for the approval of the Board.

75. The General Session of the Board was held on 16th February, 1958 under the Chairmanship of H. H. the Maharaja of Mysore. He opened the proceedings with a short speech of welcome to all present, which ran as follows :—

76. "I have great pleasure in extending a hearty welcome to you all, to the General Session of the Indian Board for Wild Life. It is a measure of the Prime Minister's keen interest in our deliberations that he should have found it possible to inaugurate our Session yesterday in spite of the numerous pressing calls on his time. I am sure you will agree with me that this token of the Prime Minister's interest in the work of our Board is a source of great encouragement in our endeavour to promote the welfare of Wild Life in our country. Let us also try to implement the Prime Minister's suggestion of interesting the younger generation in our work by publishing appealing illustrated booklets in the vernacular languages.

77. On your behalf as well as on my own, I extend a hearty welcome to Shri A. P. Jain and Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh to whose friendly help and co-operation we, of this Board, owe a great deal. We are very fortunate indeed to have the benefit of their wise guidance in our deliberations.

78. You will see from the agenda before you that the general address by Dr. Deshmukh will be followed by reports on the general situation of Wild Life in India as well as by reports on the Wild Life situation and observance of Wild Life Week in the several States. I have already referred, in my speech yesterday, to the meaning and implications of Wild Life conservation, and the work done so far and the work still to be done in this regard. The comprehensive resume of the Wild Life situation which will be presently placed before us will help us to apprise with some accuracy the extent and nature of the work still to be done in the direction of wild life conservation in our country. There is, doubtless, a great deal of ground to be covered but there are difficulties in the way of adopting too ambitious a programme of work. Our plans and schemes for the future should be formulated with due regard to the general economic situation in the country which, as you know, is by no means easy. The country is facing a critical food situation owing to the failure of production to keep pace with the growth of population. The economic policy we have adopted has necessitated a rigorous control over foreign exchange transactions. It is, therefore, necessary that our schemes should be so drawn up as to be practical, realistic and capable of easy and immediate execution. We must set about our task of wild life conservation on a basis of priorities in order that the best possible results may be achieved within the limitations imposed by the prevailing economic situation in the country.

79. In conclusion I should like to make a suggestion as regards the constitution of the Indian Board for Wild Life. As you are aware, the reorganisation of States which was effected in November, 1956 has resulted in a redistribution of territory among the new States. The Indian Board for Wild Life was constituted prior to the reorganisation of States. I feel today it has ceased to be fully representative of the varied interests of the new States. I would, therefore, suggest that the Indian Board for Wild Life should be reconstituted with adequate representation thereon of the areas brought into the newly constituted States. It would be desirable also to secure representation on these Boards, of Scientific, Technical and other interests as well. Further, I feel it would be a desirable practice to fix the term of the office of the Chairman and members of the Board for a definite period. After the expiry of the period which could be fixed between 3 and 5 years, their terms could be extended if so desired or new persons appointed.

I would commend these suggestions for your earnest considerations.

80. With these words I have great pleasure in requesting Dr. Deshmukh to deliver his general address."

81. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, Union Minister of Co-operation then delivered his General address as follows :—

"Gentlemen :

82. I am indeed very happy to be here with you today and to participate in the proceedings of the Third Session of the I.B.W.L. I am glad that the Board chose Delhi as the venue for this meeting, as that enabled us to enlist the influential voice of the Prime Minister to further our cause. Also, that has helped me personally, to follow your work in this Session from day to day in spite of Parliament being in Session now. Having been unable to attend the previous meeting in Calcutta, I should have been very loth to miss this one also, though that situation might have been forced on me had the meeting been arranged now at any other centre. I need hardly add, however, that I have been following the work of the Board all along, with great interest and have had the privilege of actually taking part in some of the recent meetings of the Board's Executive Committee.

83. I may mention that I have been, as Minister dealing with  
**Vanamahotsava & Wild Life Week.** Forests and Soil Conservation in the Government of India, doing my bit to serve the cause of Nature and Wild Life Conservation. Our efforts for the observance of both Vanamahotsava and the Wild Life Week may be said to have the same objectives, viz., the preservation, perpetuation and better management of our rich flora and fauna and the enthusing of our peoples' interest in this regard. From year to year, I have addressed the Heads of States, State Governments and various other authorities and bodies in the country in this behalf, by means of personal contacts and letters as well as broadcast talks. As can be seen from the summary regarding observances during the last Wild Life Week (given at the end of the agenda notes), I may say that our appeals have not been in vain and that there is much evidence of the peoples' consciousness having been roused in favour of wild life preservation. I would suggest that it is for the Board now to build up steadily on these encouraging foundations, so that our objectives are fully realised, of assuring our wild life its due place in the scheme of Nature and of safeguarding for the benefit and enjoyment of our future generations every form of faunal and floral wealth which is a rich heritage for us in this country.

84. In any case, the least that this Board should help achieve would be the establishment of a chain of Nature Reserves, Wild Life sanctuaries, National Parks, etc. so that there will be at least a fair extent of such areas guaranteed to serve for ever as the last (but not insignificant) refuge for our animal and plant life.

85. On the other hand, it is my belief, in fact, that Nature Conservation efforts to be productive of full-scale results, could begin almost from ones own garden or compound, where a little consideration work and attention can result in a pleasing collection of trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals, which would in turn attract insect life, bird life and even harbour small animals. From this individual or small-scale effort, it is only a matter of co-operation and organisation for the community to develop open spaces or village commons into parks and gardens and small reserves for flora and fauna; and, but a further step up could result in the setting up of organised Botanic gardens and Zoological parks; and lastly, at the State level, there would be established and maintained as a public trust the Forest Reserves, Bird Sanctuaries, organised fisheries, Wild Life Sanctuaries, National Parks and Nature Reserves of the land. The Board could, I suggest, consider this and have plans prepared for effective appeal to the people to develop and implement these conservation ideas right from the smallest units, in order that the cause of wild life and nature protection may gather true momentum and influence in all its fullness our life and our surroundings.

86. I have recently come across some interesting definitions by an eminent British Conservationist. He requires that 'Nature Conservation' would ensure "by ownership of control and by suitable management, that natural fauna and flora survive and flourish together with the rocks, landscape features, soil and water on which they depend." Again "Nature Reserves are areas which serve either as outdoor living museums for Nature Conservation or as open air laboratories for ecological research or both." These comprehensive definitions would make it apparent that such work to accomplish its objectives needs the attention of a great variety of workers such as biologists, foresters, Geologists, Soil Conservationists, Hydrologists and many others, even landscape artists. In other words, Nature protection can scarcely remain the domain or the responsibility of a single profession or of any limited group. Nature protection can be successfully achieved only as a result of co-ordinated efforts of many specialists and of full support from enlightened public opinion. I cannot emphasise the latter too strongly. No punitive laws, no rigid restrictions and no degree of enforcement of them can ensure the future of our Wild Life. A clear appreciation of facts and

features of Nature around us, of its reactions on us, of its importance in our own betterment and consequently a powerful public opinion in favour of Nature Conservation are essential prerequisites for the success of our endeavours.

87. In order to achieve the latter even more than to enforce practical measures of efficient Nature Conservation and management, I would ask the Board seriously to consider suggesting to all State Governments that there is urgent need for a separate organisation to encourage, coordinate and assist in this task. I may suggest that such an organisation will neither encroach on the work of the regular administration nor infringe on the specialists' field of work. But it will serve to focus attention on this aspect of human and general ecology. I understand one or two States, *e.g.*, Uttar Pradesh have set up such a separate organisation. The Board would do well to study their working as at present and render useful advice on improving the same, so that other States could benefit by the experience gained by these pioneering efforts. I should, however, like it ensured from the beginning that these organisations adopt a co-ordinated approach to the whole problem of Nature Conservation within their jurisdiction and not restrict themselves to one aspect or other of it only.

88. This brings me to the question of the title, scope and functions of the Board itself. While no one can fail to appreciate all the good work that the Indian Board for Wild Life has accomplished in last 5 years or so of its existence I would suggest that it should now align itself with modern trends in this respect in the world. I refer here to the revised title for the International organisation concerned, *viz.*, "the International Union for the Conservation of Nature." Perhaps the Board could be re-named similarly as the Indian Board for the Conservation of Nature. This may necessitate not only corresponding enlargement of its scope and functions but also consequential modifications suitably in its technical and secretariat organisation. The Government of India should be happy to take up consideration of this question on the basis of any advice the Board may give.

89. I have mentioned earlier the need for encouraging individual or group efforts and for achieving favourable public opinion. In this connection I welcome the suggestions now before the Board for the formation of Natural History Societies, Wild Life Clubs etc. As a specific suggestion I would emphasise that these ideas should take root particularly among the youth of the country. I may also commend the idea of National Youth Camps, in order to enable young naturalists to visit

centres of interest in different parts of the country and to come into contact with each other. I may say from my personal experience of the working of the Farmers' Forum, that such camps (arranged even once a year) can have a great vitalising effect for the cause. The Board could consider affording technical guidance and information for the organisation of such camps periodically, using its good offices with the authorities in the States concerned to facilitate such camps being conducted and, to the extent possible, even giving financial encouragement at least till the idea catches on.

90. On the occasion of the last Wild Life Week, the Publications Division of the Government of India brought out (with the active co-operation of the secretariat of the Board) an attractive illustrated priced booklet on "India's Wild Life", copies of which have been made available to members (as souvenirs of this meeting). I understand that the Board is bringing out very shortly an illustrated book on a first introduction to "Our animals". At higher levels, we will soon make available copies of a text-book on Wild Life Management and of a guide to Wild Life Census. While all this is all to the good, I am not sure that these publications alone will serve to achieve our objective of universal appeal in the cause of Nature Conservation. We have samples of almost of flood of interesting and attractively got up foreign literature at all levels in this field; for instance, the other day I came across a small pamphlet in simple style, profusely illustrated line drawings on the Wild Life of State; there are similar pamphlets on every National Park or other attractive area in Great Britain. On the other hand we do not as yet have such write-ups even for all the better known of our Wild Life Sanctuaries. In other words we should prepare booklets or folders on a local district or regional basis to draw pointed attention to local features of Nature than only general publications. I would invite the attention of the Board's members from different parts of the country for this work to be progressively accomplished. I am confident that the Publicity Directorates in the States and in the Centre would be only too willing to give necessary technical guidance and co-operation in the matter.

91. These and many other suggestions could occur to one or the other of us in order to advance the cause of Wild Life. The question may arise in everyone's mind sometime or other how the funds could be found for all these ideas to be translated into action. I have to mention it that the Board as constituted by the Govt. of India is essentially an Advisory Body. It has only but limited resources drawn exclusively as a small grant from the Government of India and can scarcely finance any schemes or projects however desirable. It can only place the need for such projects or schemes

Resources for  
Wild Life  
Conservation.

to be implemented or such ideas to be translated into action before the authorities concerned and the public, for instance, even as various scientific and other societies have come into being primarily as a result of efforts of enterprising enthusiasts. It should be necessary for Wild Life Clubs, Societies etc. to be built up by local endeavour. It would be for the Press to propagate this idea successfully in all suitable and favourable conditions. Admittedly any functioning society or association could invoke the support of the Board in any efforts for assistance or subsidies for any specific requirements of theirs. But the essential development of Wild Life consciousness cannot be a matter of purely governmental organisation or financing body. I am mentioning this particularly because if the cause has to be served on a large scale it is essential that real interest in it should be the basis for its development and the Board's primary function should be to instil that interest in the people. I should not be misunderstood as implying that Government will not at the Centre or in the States play its part in this connection. As has been mentioned elsewhere we have a fairly large provision in the 2nd Five Year Plan for Wild Life Conservation; much of it however naturally will be spent by the State authorities on the development of Wild Life Parks, Sanctuaries etc. There is no reason, however, why some of it should not be available for assistance to other useful schemes, if sponsored by the State authorities concerned.

92. Many issues have been raised and will be resolved upon in Conclusion. the course of the day all of which will be for the betterment of Wild Life but as has been repeatedly pointed out I can only appeal to each one of you today whatever you can to ensure that these resolutions do not remain mere paper resolutions but receive your fullest support in their practical implementation."

93. The Chairman of the Board then thanked Dr. Deshmukh in the following words :—

"On behalf of the members of the Board, we are most grateful for your very kind address and I am very happy indeed that you have taken such keen interest in our work. I need hardly say that right from the inception of the Board, it has been my firm conviction that not merely the wild life in the country but Nature itself is part and parcel of our work; because the animals would scarcely function without a suitable environment. We are very grateful indeed to you, Sir, for assuring us of your support in this respect. I would also like to commend your suggestion for separate organisations in the States concerned for the study and development of nature."

94. The four Regional Secretaries and the Secretary-General, Indian Board for Wild Life then presented their reports on the general situation of wild life in their respective regions.

95. Shri K. S. Dharmakumarsinhji, Vice-Chairman and Regional Secretary, Western Region presented his report first, as follows :—

“The Union Minister for Co-operation, the Chairman and members of the Indian Board for Wild Life :

It gives me great pleasure to present before you a brief report on the position of wild life within my region from 1955 to 1957. The western region for wild life before the re-organisation of States embodied the following States :—

Bombay, Saurashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Bharat, Madhya Pradesh, Vindhya Pradesh, Bhopal, Ajmer and Kutch.

All these States put together cover an area almost half the size of India, hence, it is by no means easy to take accurate stock of the wild life situation in such a vast region. In view of this, it is proper for me to say that, my report is prepared from information received from the State Governments and partly from sportsmen residing in different parts of the country and to this, I have added my own observations based on visits made in various parts of the region.

96. It will be remembered that during the early part of 1955, the Board met at Calcutta and we passed recommendations of vital importance. In the light of these recommendations it is gratifying to inform you, that, in due course, most of these recommendations were accepted by most of the States within my region. It would, therefore, not be out of place for me to express my deep sense of gratitude to all those State governments who lent their full co-operation for the cause of preserving the wild life of our country. I have no doubt that, without this cooperation, the wild life position in general would have greatly deteriorated. In fact, the State governments had been quick to realise the need for enacting laws for the protection of their wild animals and birds and were awakened to the responsibility for the preservation of wild life within their autonomous right. In this, I must mention with due credit the lead taken by the Bombay State, whose Wild Life Protection Act of 1951 was already in force since 1953. The erstwhile States of Saurashtra, Madhya Bharat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Bhopal had their own legislations for wild life protection, while Ajmer followed on the lines of the old 1912 Act. Kutch had its own rules and regulations owing to special circumstances in which it was placed.

97. At the full Board meeting held at Calcutta in 1955, a resolution of vital importance urging the creation of national parks was passed, and subsequently, our Chairman of the Board drew attention to this issue at the executive committee meeting held in Ooty.

At this early stage, to the credit of Madhya Pradesh Government, a national park bill was ready followed soon after by the promulgation of the Madhya Pradesh National Park Act of 1956, by which the State could establish a national park for the protection of its valuable wild life wealth in the interests of the country as a whole. With this step forward in wild life conservation, the Madhya Pradesh Government inaugurated the first national park in the country at Kanha, Banjar Game Reserve, since Independence. It would not be out of place, if I took the liberty to mention that, in deciding the suitability of this park, our present Union Minister of Co-operation, with the full support of the Executive Committee of the Board, played a significant role. I can speak without hesitation, that this national park has opened a new vista for our people to gaze upon the beautiful living things that 'Nature' has endowed our country with. In fact, the diminishing swamp deer and the Indian wild buffalo which were threatened with extinction, with their respective habitats have been saved. In this struggle to rescue the fauna and flora of Madhya Pradesh, my colleague, the Inspector General of Forests, has played no small part. In addition to the Kanha National Park, the state has another one at Taroba in North Chanda District, now a part of the new Bombay State. Followed by this success, the Madhya Bharat Government proposed a national park at Shivpuri, and, under its National Park Act, have now established the Shivpuri National Park. Meanwhile the Rajasthan Government had been planning a national park at Jaisamund near Udaipur, an area of exquisite beauty. The desirability of creating both the areas as national parks, was recognised by the Government of India as early as 1950.

98. The Wild Life of the forest within the region is conserved by the forest departments, and, in order to enable game to prosper, some states have made sanctuaries, while others have set aside forest blocks for its protection. Quite recently, the Bombay state established two game sanctuaries, one at Dandeli in North Kanara, now a portion of the Mysore state, and the other at Radhanagari, near Kolhapur, for the preservation of the Gaur and other wild life. In Madhya Bharat, a game sanctuary has been created in the Kheoni forests of the Nemawar District and in Rajasthan at Darrah : there is also a small sanctuary in Ajmer known as the Dadalia Game Sanctuary in the Todgadh forest. Apart from these areas affording protection to wild life, many states have areas closed for shooting, with the exception of Kutch where small game is still plentiful, and the flamingo and the wild ass flourish undisturbed. Save for these areas in which wild life enjoy protection, there are but few places in the region where one can see game undisturbed.

99. The first all-India Wild Life Day was proclaimed on the 7th July, 1955, to which all states in my region fully co-operated, with the exception of Vindhya Pradesh, by celebrating Wild Life Day concurrently with the Vana Mahotsava week, and I cannot say how much I appreciate the widespread propaganda done by the State Governments, in which, Chief Ministers, Forest Ministers, Chief Commissioners, Chief Conservators of Forests, Wild Life Preservation Officers, Police, Agriculture, Education and Publicity Departments took active interest. In the celebrations, wild life films were shown, lectures, and radio talks were given, visits to zoological gardens, sanctuaries and museums were conducted, and wild life posters were displayed on almost state-wise level. In this magnificent display all over the region, the Bombay State was conspicuous. In the following year, the appeal made by our present Union Minister for Co-operation, Shri Panjabrao Deshmukh, to celebrate the wild life week throughout the country in the first week of October manifested itself, by widespread celebrations in all states of the Western Region, and I must say that, these celebrations were carried out on a grand scale and in a most fitting manner. The resultant effect of these celebrations brought about an unprecedented enthusiasm amongst the people throughout the region for the preservation of wild life, and created with it an atmosphere favourable for its protection. Even sportsmen laid down their arms and joined in the wild protection drive.

100. With the progress seen for the protection of rare animals, I earnestly believe that, vanishing game species, such as the Asiatic Lion, whose population since 1950 has been reported increasing to the extent of nearly 30 per cent, the wild buffalo the swamp deer, the Indian wild ass, are now delivered from the danger of extinction. This is indeed a highly commendable achievement, well to be proud of. Furthermore, the progress shown by the state governments in creating wild life advisory boards is encouraging. These boards are composed of official and non-official members, with either the Forest Minister or Chief Secretary as their Chairman, the Secretary being either a Chief Conservator of Forests or a Wild Life Preservation Officer. In the Saurashtra and Madhya Pradesh Boards, the Honorary Regional Secretary is a member.

101. In the Western Region, much progress is seen in the propaganda field for the preservation of wild life and in the timely formation of national parks and sanctuaries, which have no doubt saved innumerable wild animals from imminent destruction. Yet, I feel it is my duty to inform the Board that, while the position of wild life in general is satisfactory, with the increase in resident waterfowl, birds and animals, at large, there are certain game

species which are on the decline. These species are, the black-buck, the chinkara and the great Indian bustard in savannah habitat, the chital and the sambar in forest habitat, and lastly the marsh crocodile in river and lake habitats. These species may easily come within sight of the danger limit of low population if no adequate steps are taken to protect them in time. The crocodile has particularly suffered from Commercial over-exploitation and there appears to be no legal restrictions for its indiscriminate slaughter. As regards the game position, I am aware, however, that in the states of Bombay and Saurashtra the deer and antelope have already become scarce, and that the state governments have put a ban on shooting them. I am also aware of the fact, that in some states the deer are given protection in sanctuaries and forest blocks, but, unfortunately in most forest habitats, the deer are decreasing. In contrast to this protected big game species are increasing, in national parks and game reserves. As far the crocodile and the Great Indian Bustard, both the species may be considered as depleted and uncommon. The Indian antelope is open to indiscriminate killing owing to its living in open country, and for the price paid for its meat and skin. The same applies to the sambar and the chital. Moreover, as forest habitats give way to the advance of agriculture and industry, the game species also recede in their wake and shrink to a smaller measure. With this advancement, a greater need for protecting India's Wild Life is urgently felt. It is also apparent that proper enforcement of the numerous wild life protection acts is lacking. When I look at the abundance of peafowl, partridges, sarus cranes and nilgai in certain districts of my region, I cannot help feeling that they survive entirely owing to the wishes and sentiments of the people of those districts. The Great Indian Bustard now seeking refuge in remote areas exists because it has not been found out and destroyed. There are far too many uncontrolled elements of destruction loose in the country for the healthy propagation of useful species.

102. The main burden of conserving wild life and enforcing the wild life acts is borne mainly by the forest departments, over and above their heavy duties, and, consequently, they are unable to cope with the situation outside their areas. Vast open tracts of wild life habitat in Saurashtra, Rajasthan and Kutch have no personnel to enforce the wild life protection acts, the result of which is obvious. By looking at the official reports of the Bombay state one would be inclined to believe that, there is hardly anything more to be done for the successful implementation of its wild life Act. And yet, the state faces a grave situation regarding its game species. The position is this :

- (1) Strict Game Laws are not adequately enforced.

- (2) Wild Life habitats are receding to agriculture.
- (3) Persecution of game by nomads.
- (4) Vermin uncontrolled.
- (5) Poaching rampant in the plains.

Amidst this chaotic darkness we see wild life resplendent in national parks, reserves or 'Abhayaranas'. However, attention should be drawn to the lack of knowledge of density of game populations which constitutes a valuable wild life resource. No censuses have been taken except of the lion. These problems must therefore be tackled immediately to enable forest departments to assess their wild life wealth.

103. With the re-organisation of States, the Western Region covers the existing states of Bombay, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. In this huge region, there are no less than nine zoological gardens, half a dozen natural history museums and two natural history societies. These institutions are progressing. The Zoo Wing of the Board has brought the working of the zoos much closer to each other, for their own benefit. Formerly, there was no co-operation between them. The Bird Wing of the Board has helped to establish a bird sanctuary for wild fowl and water birds at Bharatpur in Rajasthan. But many more sanctuaries are required to afford protection to a varied sort of fauna and flora. These, I understand, are in the planning, so one can look forward to a bright future at the completion of the Second Five Year Plan."

104. Shri Y. R. Ghorpade, Regional Secretary, Southern Region, followed with his reports which ran as follows :—

"In this report no attempt is being made to give an exhaustive survey of the varied wild life in the Southern Region, as that would be needless repetition of what is now available in various publications such as the fauna of British India, and the book of Indian Animals by Mr. S. H. Prater, and the book on Indian Birds by Shri Salim Ali, published by the Bombay Natural History Society and similar books. I have already submitted a report in 1954 with special reference to certain species in the Southern Region that were urgently in need of strictest protection and to other problems of wild life protection generally.

105. At the time of the inception of the Indian Board for Wild Life in 1952 the Southern Region comprised of the states of Madras, Travancore-Cochin, Mysore, Hyderabad, Coorg and the Andamans. Since then the States comprised in the Southern Region were reconstituted in two stages. Firstly the Andhra State with its capital at Kurnool, was carved out from the former Madras State. This new born state of Andhra was automatically included in the Southern Region for the purposes of the Indian Board for Wild Life as this territory had already formed a part of

the Madras State. Later the reorganisation of the States of India as a whole was taken up. As a result of which the Southern Region is today comprised of the States of Kerala, Madras, Mysore, Andhra and the Centrally administered area of Andaman Islands. The re-organisation of the States has not materially effected the Board for Wild Life; except that two very rich areas, so far as wild life is concerned, viz., the Districts of Belgaum, North Kanara and South Kanara and Coorg have been added on to the Southern Region. This reorganisation of States, at least from the point of view of fauna and flora, has been an advantage to the Southern Region for the Indian Board for Wild Life. It may not be an exaggeration to say that in addition to the wild life special or peculiar to the Southern Region (such as the Nilgiri Lungur and the Nilgiri Thar) practically all the game or wild life found in all other parts of India are found in the Southern Region, except the Indian Rhinoceros of Assam, the Lions of Saurashtra and the Himalayan game found in the Alpine forests of Kashmir. The Southern Region covers an area of 2,51,545 square miles and is divided into four States and one Centrally administered area. Thus the Southern Region can claim to be one of the richest regions of India for Fauna and Flora.

106. In the enlarged Mysore State, Raichur, Dharwar and portions of Bellary districts adjoining the Tungabhadra Dam project appear to be the natural habitat of the Indian Antelope (Black Buck) and the Indian Gazelle (the Chinkara), and the Great Indian Bustard. Not very long ago, I have personally seen thousands of Black Buck, hundreds of Chinkara and considerable number of Bustard. But these animals and birds are diminishing by leaps and bounds and if effective steps are not taken immediately to protect them, I am afraid, these will be completely exterminated within the next year or two. These being animals of the open country there is no forest staff to protect them and they are easily shot from jeeps and netted by professional trappers. Mere prohibiting the shooting by notification in the Gazette will not afford protection, unless there is a special staff to protect the animals and birds which do not live in the "reserved forests", and whose habitat is in the plains, I am afraid these species are foredoomed to extinction.

107. The Kanara Districts and Coorg are very good districts for Bison, Elephant and such other larger animals which prefer heavier jungle. Shimoga, Kadur, Hassan districts are good districts for tiger, bison and such other game which prefer the medium type of forests. In the Andhra State certain districts such as Godavari, Warangal and perhaps Karimnagar districts which adjoin the Chanda and Bustar districts of Madhya Pradesh would be about the best districts in the Southern Region for tiger

and such other game as is found in Chanda and Bustar districts of the Madhya Pradesh, and, I would not be surprised if even some wild buffalo from Bustar cross over into Andhra along the river Indravati, provided they are afforded adequate protection. This would be an experiment worth attempting. It may perhaps be possible to establish wild buffalo sanctuary in Andhra where the borders of Chanda, Bustar adjoin contiguous Andhra districts. A survey in this direction may be worthwhile.

108. In the Madras State, the Nilgiri, Coimbatore and Madura districts are about the best so far as the big game such as elephant, bison, sambar, chital are concerned. The game peculiar to this area is the Nilgiri Thar found in the Kodaikanal hills as well as the Nilgiri hills. And then we have the State of Kerala which has the forests peculiar to Malabar coast which is also a very rich area for elephants, bisons and other game whose habitat is the moist evergreen forest. The Nilgiri Thar occurs in Kerala also in the high ranges. The Black Panther appears to be more often noticed in these heavy forests of Kerala. This then is the general picture of the varied wild life that we have in the Southern Region. But I am afraid that if intensive steps are not taken to conserve what we have this rich national asset will soon be lost.

109. In the Southern Region we have the Srirangapatam and Bandipur wild life sanctuaries in the Mysore State; Madumalai and Vedanthangal sanctuaries in the Madras State; and the Periyar Sanctuary in the Kerala State. The Andhra State also is now lying out sanctuaries viz., Sri Venkateswara Sanctuary around the sacred temple of Terupathi. They are also constituting a protected area around the Nagarjuna Sagar Dam, in pursuance of the resolution passed by the full Board meeting of the Indian Board for Wild Life held at Calcutta on the 1st February, 1955 to the effect that "in all river valley projects, the authorities should, in the first instance, declare the Reservoir and the area in its immediate vicinity as a protected area for Wild Life for the purpose of encouraging water birds and other animals that might be in that area to congregate and breed." This in my opinion is a sound principle which I hope will be reiterated by the Indian Board for Wild Life and applied to all river valley projects without exception. Birds and animals around a river valley project are in real need of protection, irrespective of the type of forest or country that adjoins it.

110. In the Southern Region, particularly all the States have constituted State Wild Life Boards in pursuance of the suggestions of the Indian Board for Wild Life and the Regional Secretary for the Region is an ex-officio a member of these state Boards. Due

to the reorganisation of the States down South we have not been able to do all that we would have wished to do for the protection of Wild Life. Even so, the First meeting of the Southern Region of the Indian Board for Wild Life was held at Mysore on 14th May, 1956 taking advantage of the meeting of the Zoo Wing of the Indian Board for Wild Life. I am glad to be able to say that all the States of the Southern Region whole-heartedly co-operated in this first meeting and every State representative appeared to be very keen on preserving their wild life. At this meeting resolutions regarding the constitution of a sanctuary around Tungabhadra Dam for protection of animals and birds inhabiting the open country, constitution of a sanctuary around Nagarjunasagar, regulation of tiger shooting and a common wild life conservation Act for all the States of the Southern Region were passed. Holding such Regional conferences or meetings of all the States in a region is very useful as it solves many problems, common to all the States in a particular Region as the problem of a Region are more or less similar.

111. Most of the States in the Southern Region, except perhaps the former State of Mysore have not got a special wild life Conservation Act passed by the Legislature. But wild life protection is at present done by Rules made under the appropriate sections of the Forest Acts of the State. These rules are inadequate for the protection of wild life in many ways. As I have stated above the effective legislation of wild life in the Southern Region was considered at length at the First Meeting of the Southern Region of the I.B.W.L. on the 14th May, 1956, at Mysore. The Committee was of the opinion that the Draft Model Bill and Rules on wild life conservation prepared by the Regional Secretary for the South would be effective enough to protect wild life in the South and recommended the adoption of these rules by all the States in Southern Region. This model wild life conservation Act and Rules thereunder has been prepared on the lines of the Bombay and Saurashtra Models which were commended by the Indian Board for Wild Life and circulated to all the States of Southern Region. It is hoped that soon the Southern Region will have uniform legislation in all the States which will greatly facilitate protection. It is hoped that the Indian Board for Wild Life will also give me their full support towards this end. A few comments on the game laws may not be out of place. The objects aimed at in game or wild life legislation may be as follows :—

- (a) To retain as much game in every State as is consistent with the varied human interests—agriculture, development and evolution; and to avoid so far as possible, any conflict between such interests and the indigenous fauna,

- (b) To cater for both resident and visiting sportsmen, be they armed with rifle or camera; to maintain as high a standard of sportsmanship as possible, and to prevent slaughter for gain,
- (c) To bring as much money into the coffers of the State on account of its game as is consistent with due and necessary preservation.

It may be that innumerable criticisms are levelled against such game laws; that is inevitable where so many varied, and even opposing interests claim consideration. I believe however that any one who is sufficiently interested to acquaint himself fully with the facts in this regard will ultimately agree that in the name of equity and justice such game laws are necessary to afford protection to our wild life. Licenses may be high; the best is never the cheapest—in first cost. Some enactments may be harsh; unhappily not all owners of rifles and guns are sportsmen and laws must always be made to restrain those who are naturally lawless.

112. In conclusion, I would like to state that all authorities in all the States in my Region have shown me the greatest consideration and are anxious to do their bit in preserving our wild life."

113. Shri E. P. Gee, Secretary, Eastern Region then presented his report which ran as follows :—

"Hon'ble Minister, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board,

114. I now present the report of the Eastern Region for the years 1955 to 1958.

115. The Eastern Region of India consists of the States of Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Assam, Manipur and Tripura. In 1955 the N.E.F.A. which includes most of the hill areas north and east of the Assam Valley, officially became included in the Eastern Region for wild life conservation.

116. Wild Life Boards have been constituted in all the States of this Region, and all have functioned at sometime or another. In the period under review 1955-58, the Wild Life Boards of Bengal, Orissa, Manipur, Tripura and N.E.F.A. have held meetings, and some progress has been reported in all matters.\*

117. Of the rare species of wild life in special need of protection, the position appears to be brighter than previously. The Indian rhino is believed to be increasing in numbers, and as this animal is preserved in a number of diversely situated sanctuaries in north-east India its position seems to be safe—provided there is no relaxation of vigilance. My own estimate of these animals is 420 in Assam and Bengal.

\*A statement showing meetings held by State Wild Life Boards of this region from 1953-54 to 1957-58 is at Appendix 'C'.

118. Another rare species, which was thought to have become extinct a few years ago, is the brow-antlered deer of Manipur. This beautiful deer is protected in a newly created sanctuary in Manipur called Keibul Lamjao, of about 20 sq. miles. Unfortunately up-to-date no accurate estimate of their numbers can be given but the general position is gratifying. A pair of this deer was captured about a year ago and is in the Alipore Zoo, Calcutta.

119. Wild buffalo are at present plentiful in Assam, and a few still survive in Bengal. The pygmy hog and pink-headed duck are believed to have become extinct. The white-winged wood duck is still found in remote areas of Assam.

120. Wild Life Week has, on the whole, been observed with interest each year in all the States, but the chief drawback at the moment is the lack of authentic and well illustrated books, leaflets and other literature on general nature conservation in India and on the local problems of each State in particular. Also the dearth of authentic cine films depicting India's wild life in its natural habitat is felt everywhere. On some occasions people show cine films of shikar or of sensational animal fights—which I think is a great mistake, as such films have no bearing whatever on wild life preservation.

121. Some development work has been done in all States under the Second Five Year Plan, and I would personally recommend that State Wild Life Boards be associated with schemes for the spending of the money provided by the Centre for development of sanctuaries.

122. Of parks and sanctuaries, Kaziranga in Assam continues to attract many visitors from overseas and from all parts of India. A fully equipped Tourist Lodge is provided here for visitors, with 9 elephants for taking visitors into the sanctuary. Jaldapara in Bengal is reported to be receiving increased attention these days. In Bihar last September I was able to visit the new park near Hazaribagh, and was struck by the great interest taken in it by the Forest Department of that State.

123. The existence of a sound nature and wild life conservation organisation in a country is a reliable indication of the stage of the country's progress and development. In America the great industrial development of that country is matched by an equally well-developed nature conservation organisation throughout the country—the finest system of wild life conservation in the world. In Russia too, they not only created sputniks but also zapovedniks, or natural parks in which nature is fully protected and studied by Scientific workers.

124. I would personally like to pay a tribute to the Government of India for the excellent way in which it finds time to encourage, both in the word and in deed, wild life conservation in this rapidly developing country. It remains now for the States of India to undertake good constructive work in the field of nature conservation, on the foundations soundly laid by the Centre, for the preservation of this country's wild life resources."

125. Shri M. D. Chaturvedi, Hony. Regional Secretary, Northern reported as follows :—

126. "In the Northern Region, the management of wild life has attracted considerable public attention as is evident from the letters appearing in the daily press and discussions in various State Legislatures.

127. The degree of control sought to be exercised on wild life management varies in intensity in different States and generally reflects the peculiar nature of problems their governments have to contend with.

128. In the Uttar Pradesh, the dawn of independence synchronized with unbridled poaching of the worst kind. The opening of forests and development of communications led to an unprecedented slaughter of game. The poacher had the run of the forest and went about in his ubiquitous jeep fully equipped with strong headlights and modern weapons. Nothing daunted him. He used all possible means to demoralise the lonesome Forest Guard, the sole guardian we have of wild life in the forest. And, where filthy lucre failed, he went to the length of striking terror by shooting him. Quite a few Forest Guards lost their lives in trying to apprehend the culprits who indulged in illicit shooting. The Government of Uttar Pradesh was left with no option except to enforce game laws by setting up an organisation which could deal with the vandalism effectively and meet the poacher on his own terms. A full-fledged wild life circle was created with the sole purpose of protecting game. It was placed in charge of an officer of the rank of a conservator with the number of Divisional Forest Officers working under him, not in addition to their other duties, but exclusively in the field of wild life management. The spirit of defiance that had raised its ugly head has already been curbed and militant poaching is already a thing of the past. Thanks to the foresight of the Government of Uttar Pradesh and devotion to duty of the Head of the Wild Life Circle and his band of fearless subordinates.

129. In the Punjab, we have had a Game Warden for many years. The organisation set up is not so elaborate as in the U.P. The only change recently effected is that the Game Warden is no longer under the Secretary of Agriculture. He is now attached to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Punjab.

130. In Jammu & Kashmir, a Conservator of Forests looks after game in addition to his other duties and game reserves (*rakhs*) of the erstwhile Maharaja. Some of which I had an occasion to see recently are well cared for.

131. In Himachal Pradesh the realisation about the protection to be afforded to wild life has been slow to dawn. I have, however, tried to enlist the sympathies of the Lt.-Governor who is a well-known wild life enthusiast.

132. While the wild life officers of various States will deal with the details of the progress made in regard to the management in their own respective spheres, I will content myself by spotlighting the following salient features :—

- (1) *Lion Centre.* We are indebted to the Chief Minister of the Uttar Pradesh, Shri Sampurnanand for the personal interest he has taken in the establishment of a lion centre in Banaras Division. I saw him in June, 1956, and it is largely due to his efforts that the centre has come into being at long last.
- (2) *Sanctuaries.* While game sanctuaries continue as before, we have not made much headway in getting them declared as National Parks. There has been some difficulty about the management of the Simla sanctuary located in its water catchment area. The forest belongs to the Himachal Pradesh Government, and the management of the sanctuary is in the hands of the Government of the Punjab. I saw the Lt.-Governor of H.P. who promised to use his good offices in resolving the hiatus that often results in such situations.
- (3) Game Reserves in Jammu & Kashmir are well organised and a sanctuary has been recently created not far from Srinagar.
- (4) Wild Life Week has been celebrated throughout the region with great enthusiasm."

133. Dr. M. L. Roonwal, Secretary-General, I.B.W.L. then presented his report which ran as follows :—

134. "Honourable Minister, Your Highness, Chairman and members of the Board,

135. I am supposed to have given a summation of the wild life situation. As the Regional Secretaries have already told you in detail the conditions in their respective regions it would be superfluous for me to give you a repetition of what they have said. I shall, therefore, confine myself to the activities of the Secretary-General only.

136. The Secretary-General has been looking after the work of the issue of Export Permits and "No objection Certificates" for the export of wild life and their products, and giving technical advice to the Board and other Government Departments and private firms etc. on various problems raised by them from time to time. To illustrate the amount of work involved, I would merely give a brief indication of the number of permits and no objection certificates issued which is approximately 50 permits per month and about 40 "No Objection Certificates" per month. Also to give you an example by way of illustration only what amount and kind of exports of wild life take place from India, I will give you a few figures for the period April, 1956 to March, 1957 :—

*For commercial and general purpose*

I. (a) Deer/stag horns	285 tons.
(b) Deer/stag cut pieces of horns	10 lakh pieces.
II. Musk pods and Musk grains	8,400 lbs. approx.
III. Lizard skins (Varanus species)	16 lakh skins.
IV. Crocodile skins	11,00 skins approx.
V. Neck Hackles of Grey Jungle Fowls.	7,000 pieces.

These are the major figures. There are other minor figures about which I may not bother you.

*For educational purposes*

1. Butterflies 860 specimens

137. This issue of permits involves not only the issue of permits but also preliminary technical examination of the skins and consignments.

138. The following is the summary of the other activities of the Secretary-General :—

- (1) Comments were given on the formation of the Import Licence Policy for the period July to December, 1956.
- (2) Comments were given on the Draft Model Bill for National Parks.
- (3) Drawings for selection of a suitable emblem were got prepared and a block of the selected emblem supplied to the I.B.W.L.
- (4) Review of the export position of certain banned animals and their produce was prepared for a Conference of trade representatives held in Calcutta in 1956.

- (5) Draft rules were framed and supplied to I.B.W.L. defining the share to be claimed by Government of India in respect of natural history specimens collected by foreign expeditions in India.
- (6) A detailed revised Draft Notification for the control of export of wild life was drawn up and supplied to the I.B.W.L. (the revised draft incorporates the existing notifications and their various amendments made from time to time and also a few new provisions).
- (7) Advice was given to the Board on the Export of elephant bones.
- (8) Advice was given to the Board on the framing of regulations for the humane treatment of birds in transit to foreign countries ; and
- (9) Numerous other miscellaneous enquiries were also attended to.

139. Finally, the Secretary-General has arranged to send out a party of the Zoological Survey of India to investigate the ecology of the Asiatic lion in the Gir Forest of Kathiawar. This enquiry was taken up at request of the I.B.W.L. in a resolution passed at the meeting of the Executive Committee at Periyar in January, 1957. It is too early to say what the result of this enquiry will be. As I said the other day, it will take not less than 2 to 3 seasons before we come to any conclusion.

140. We have also listened with interest some details about the introduction of the lion in the Chakia Forests and as the C.C.F., U.P. has kindly agreed, I hope to record more details about it in due course.

141. Finally, I would like to say that it is becoming increasingly difficult for the Secretary-General to continue to carry on the work of the issue of export permits because of the various difficulties and it is hoped that the Board will take steps soon, as they have already promised to do so, to pass on the issue of permits to some other suitable agency."

142. The Chairman then requested Shri Salim Ali (Chairman of the Bird Wing) to give the delegates a brief account about the activities of the Bird Wing. Shri Salim Ali spoke as follows :—

143. "Unfortunately I have no prepared note and this request has rather been sprung upon me. I would like to say a few words about what I consider the main achievements of the Bird Wing during the last few years.

144. We may justly claim some credit of course with the co-operation of so many people whose help was valuable for the creation of Keoladeo Ghana as a sanctuary for birds. When the State of Bharatpur altered with the merger, it was proposed that the State Government, should convert the place for growing crops. This would have been a great crime because Keoladeo Ghana is a place where one can find the largest collection of water birds not only in India but perhaps in the whole world. I have not seen such a collection of water birds in any of the various places I have visited. Florida is much talked of for the collection of birds, but if one goes to Keoladeo Ghana in the Season when the rain fall had been good and conditions satisfactory, then I do not think any other place in the world can be compared to it. I am very happy to say that this could be done mainly due to the help and sustained efforts of our good friend, Mr. Herace Alexendar. He was very largely responsible for furthering our schemes and I think it was really due to his talking to the Prime Minister that the thing finally took shape. I would recommend you, Sir, not to miss a visit to Keoladeo Ghana whenever you get an opportunity. Now His Highness the Maharaja of Bharatpur has made over one of his shooting places to the sanctuary authorities for conversion into a very comfortable rest house. I think it will become a very good show place in the same way as some places of archaeological interest like the Taj Mahal.

145. The other thing is that Kutch is one of the few known breeding places for flamingoes in the world. As far as information is available at present it is the largest and most popular colony in the world. It is, therefore, very necessary that it should be carefully guarded and preserved. Up-to-date it is in its natural condition and for the present there is no danger. But with Sind on the other side of the rann and with the population pressure growing in the rann itself, I think this happy state of affairs cannot go on very long unless we have proper protection. I have had the good fortune of visiting this place during the time of the late His Highness Vijay Raj of Kutch, who was a keen lover of nature. He provided us with all the facilities to visit this place and I was particularly fortunate in getting there when the breeding was in full swing. I have no words to describe its magnificence and, I am sure, that one day it would be one of the best places for tourists and nature lovers of this country. The rann is so remote that to get information about the nesting in time is always a serious snag. On many occasions I have visited the place when the nesting had been just over or the eggs had not yet been laid. And the difficulty is that it is a place where you cannot go and camp. From the town of Bhuj, you go by jeep for about 40 miles and then you go another 10 to 12 miles by camel and that is the end

of the land and then you come to the rann. You can only camp at the end of this place. Now from that point the place is about 7-8 miles. Over a vast distance and as long as your eye can reach, you cannot see anything unless you have a guide who knows exactly where to take you. There are no land marks. Once you are there you cannot stay overnight. You can take 3 hours, make your observations and you have to return at night. There is no fresh water or food for your men, or your horses. Usually going over that kind of ground makes ponies so lame that for the next two or three days they have to be rested. This is because the salt crystals, resembling splintered glass lacerate the thin legs. With all these difficulties it is not so very easy to make continuous observations, but still it is very necessary because we know very little about the food, life history and breeding habits of the birds here.

146. Other thing that we are trying to get is the information about the red headed duck, pink headed duck. It was decided by the Board that coloured pictures should be issued and distributed among the local people to enable them to distinguish between the pink headed duck and the red headed duck. We have issued a large number of coloured pictures in the hope of getting information, but nothing has come so far. The people who claimed repeatedly to have seen red headed ducks, have also been convinced that what they saw was not the pink headed duck. This is, however, the only means by which you can get information.

147. Sir, as far as birds go, I think, our greatest need in India is to study and to have research in what is known as economic ornithology. Birds have a great bearing on forestry and agriculture; but actually we know very little indeed about food and feeding habits of the birds. There are many birds which are harmful and others which are just as beneficial to Agriculture. Again the same birds, when they are young are fed on grain when they become adult feed almost entirely on insects from the same fields which would otherwise do more damage to the crops than the birds themselves. Unless you study completely the life history of a bird, no verdict about its being harmful or beneficial can be given.

148. I think this is a thing that must be taken up by our Agriculture Departments. We have been clamouring for it for a long time and very often it has been given some consideration, but it is always the want of funds that prevented it. I hope that this work will be taken up now, because it is one of the most important plans in the campaign for growing more food.

149. I have nothing more particularly to say about the activities of the Bird Wing. We are trying to give whatever advice we are called upon to do with best of our ability."

150. *Chairman* "Thank you very much."

*Shri Krishnaswamy*—"There is a bird sanctuary in Vedanthangal near Madras, where all the water birds assemble. By tradition people have protected these birds for years. The best time to visit it is from November to February. We asked one of our colleagues—*Shri M. Krishnan* to study these water birds. We are putting up a circuit house shortly for the use of visitors to this sanctuary. The Madras Government have by a notification stopped all shooting within 20 to 25 miles of the sanctuary. Of course this does not mean complete protection as the birds go out more than 25 miles. This place is about 55 miles from Madras located on the Grand Trunk Road. I just wanted to bring it to your notice that the final report of *Mr. M. Krishnan* could not be printed for want of photographic paper. He has taken very magnificent pictures for insertion in the books meant for school children (as advised by the Prime Minister yesterday). We will be grateful if this Board will help to secure the necessary paper for photographic prints in this connection."

*Minister for Co-operation*.—"You write to us and we shall see what could be done."

151. *Dy. I.G.F.*—"If you give particulars, we shall try with the Publication Division."

*Shri Krishnaswamy*—"We have taken steps to get more water. By the next season we will be in a position to take any body there."

152. *Minister for Co-operation*.—"Have you a State Wild Life Board?"

*Shri Krishnaswamy*.—"Yes."

153. *Chairman*—"Now there will be a general discussion."

*Shri Sagreiya*—"Shri Salim Ali has given us a good account of the bird sanctuaries. We have got a very difficult problem in our forests. You must have heard about the teak defoliator. Whether he could tell us if there are any beneficial birds that can inhibit them. We can provide artificial nests; but what is the best design for such nests? Such information will be very helpful in teak growing."

154. We have now Wild Life Boards in most of the States, but the difficulty is that the amount of money that is given to them is very limited. Is there any method by which the shooting fees collected in the States, can be diverted for the improvement of sanctuaries? We also collect fees on the arms licences and fines. It is to be considered whether all these funds and also donations

could be utilised for the improvement of national parks and sanctuaries. If the Centre could give a directive probably it might be possible to have such a fund under the Wild Life Board."

155. *Shri M. D. Chaturvedi*. "Arising from my report in connection with the U.P., I put it to this Session of this Board whether we could suitably commemorate those who have given their lives in the defence of wild life. I would very much like the C.C.F., U.P. to say something about this particular proposal."

156. *C.C.F., U.P.*—"I can only say that after long correspondence the U.P. Government have given a small pension of Rs. 6-7 to the dependents of these staff. Our difficulty was that poachers always moved about in vehicles at night fully armed with weapons. And in any effort to stop them, subordinate staff like forest guards often risked and sometimes even lost their lives. Now our game wardens have each been given a gun and the help of one head constable with two constables. As Mr. Chaturvedi says it will be a very good gesture if this Central Board expresses in some way or the other its appreciation of the work of the men who have given their lives for this cause."

*One Member*—"What about other States?"

*Shri Angad Singh*—"There have been cases in the Punjab also."

*Minister for Co-operation*—"We might collect all these names and if and when the I.B.W.L. has an office of its own these names may be exhibited in gold letters on a board."

*One Member*—"The main point is about pension for the family."

*Minister for Co-operation*—"I think we must leave it to the State Governments."

157. *I.G.F.*—"On a similar occasion in Damoh my forest guard was murdered. The State Government sanctioned pension for 15 years. I have forgotten details but it was something like  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the pay."

158. *Minister for Co-operation*—"What the Board could do is to appreciate whatever the State Governments have done and suggest to other Governments that similar recognition of the services should be done."

*Chairman*—"I agree with this."

*C.C.F., U.P.*—"In U.P. in order to popularise wild life preservation and give information to the public, we have now a Publicity Officer of the rank of Assistant Conservator of Forests. He is preparing folders, information about our sanctuaries—how to

approach them etc. You were saying, Sir, about publicising. It will be very necessary that every State should have an officer of this kind, who has the knack of doing this work."

159. *Minister for Co-operation*—"I think it would be worthwhile. I do not know how we stand financially and with regard to staff, but some sort of co-ordination of the publicity activities will be most welcome. It will avoid duplication. Pamphlets produced by the Bird Wing and the Bombay Natural History Society could probably be useful throughout India. For future publications, the Bombay Government or any Government may have their own publications, but if they are of general interest for the whole of India, the Central Board may take some hand in it and use the plates and other things and distribute them to other States and so on—at least to co-ordinate the whole of these activities. I heard my friend saying that although they had produced these books in Hindi there was not sufficient sale. This is not the proper approach. The area where Hindi is spoken is very large; more than 50% of the population of India speaks Hindi. The difficulty has been that it has not been put to the proper people. I am sure, if the Central Board were to get a few copies and write to the States of Rajasthan, Bihar, U.P., M.P. it might probably stop duplication."

160. *Shri Kishnaswamy*—"Copies may be sent to the C.C.F. of the State Governments."

161. *Salim Ali*—"It was considered to send it to the Central Education Ministry."

162. *Minister for Co-operation*—"I do not think that most of the people in the Education Ministry know of the existence of the Indian Board for Wild Life. In this country we work in terrible compartments. You must contact the Forest Ministers and Conservators also."

163. *C.C.F., U.P.*—"Before we issue any publication we must consult the Centre."

164. *Minister for Co-operation*—"That is really worthwhile. I would really recommend that we have a first class man, who will look into it, because it is no use producing material of anything less than first class and best grade. You pay the cost and yet you do not get the actual benefit. I think that sort of technical service ought to be available in the Centre."

*C.C.F., U.P.*—"A directive should go that before anything is produced, it should be sent to the Centre."

165. *Shri Sagreiya*—"Could you get a model. I am trying to write for the Kanha Sanctuary. I do not know what information is to be included."

*Minister for Co-operation*—"Before you send the publication you send the text to us and I will see that the Information & Broadcasting Ministry helps us. Then we can also tell you how many copies we would like for distribution all over India."

166. *Shri Krishnaswamy*—"I have got a publication in Tamil."

*Mr. Gee*—"I have got a well illustrated production—it was shown to the Board's Executive Committee at the Sasan meeting and it was considered to be a model for India. The Assam Government has already delayed it for two years in publishing it. I hope it will be published before the financial year closes and that it will be useful."

167. *One Member*—"We are very keen on this and the first thing is to persuade the Education Ministry to have a text book for the children. We should ask the Text Book Committee to include them in the curricula of the students."

*Shri Stracey*—"That matter has already been taken up and disposed of."

168. *Shri Abdulali*—"Copies produced by the Board have already been sent and forwarded to the Education Ministry in all the States, but we have not been able to get any replies."

*Minister for Co-operation*—"We will try to look after it."

169. *I.G.F.*—"I think, perhaps, you did send some copies to the C.C.F., M.P. about three years back. I have got a recollection that you gave 200 copies, which were distributed in schools."

170. *Shri Abdulali*—"I have recollection, Sir."

*Shri Salim Ali* referring to the recent publication on India's Wild Life brought out by the I. & B. Ministry, Publications Division, commented that it should have been on a large scale and included coloured pictures. Otherwise it does not do any credit. There are so many mistakes, in printing of scientific names. Either give the names correctly or do not give at all. Foreign people may not like it because there are wrong scientific names. You get them vetted by those who know, or have the English names only—what is the point in having wrong names.

171. *Shri Bhadran*—"Sir, I would just like to make one announcement that with the collaboration of the Stamp Officer of the P. & T. Department we are making an effort to produce some series of stamps depicting nature and wild life features. They have agreed that they will try to bring out this series of stamps subject to financial approval. The first of the series is to depict 8 species of wild animals. The snag in the process is said to be the lack of a competent organisation in our country to print such stamps. The stamps will have to be printed in Switzerland and foreign exchange

of about Rs. 10 to 15 lakhs (for two crores of stamps) is involved. The P. & T. Department are hopeful that with the help of this Board they would be able to persuade the Finance Ministry to agree to this expenditure, specially, as it is anticipated that the entire foreign exchange will be recovered by the sale of first issue of stamps to all those abroad having philatelic interest. In this connection besides the support of the Board as a whole, we want individual members to come forward with really satisfactory pictures in colour for reproduction in these stamps. The two basic requisities are : (i) the picture should have clarity more than artistic values, because reproduction has to be on a very small scale and (ii) it should be in colour. There can be two alternatives, (i) showing the main figure itself in black and white against a coloured background and (ii) producing the stamps in multi-colour. The stamp Department feels that in India probably the second alternative would be preferable. There is no prohibition at all against making these pictures from zoos or anywhere else according to convenience. We would like to have contributions of pictures within the next month or so."

172. *One member*—"What are the species you have in mind?"

173. *Shri Bhadran*—"I have been thinking of more common of our wild animals. Whatever animal pictures I get I will submit them to the Stamp Officer and he will select."

174. *One member*—"Are they not including birds?"

175. *Shri Takle*—"Actually in this series they are going to have eight animals. There will be separate series for birds, places of archeological interest, flowers, and so on."

*Shri Bhadran*—"On the occasion of each annual wild life week a new series of nature pictures could come out."

176. *One Member*—"Could you mention the animals?"

*Shri Bhadran*—"You produce any animal. If the pictures are worthwhile they will be utilised."

*One Member*—"I submit that it may not perhaps be necessary to have photographs. You may even have paintings."

*Shri Bhadran*—"That I suggested to them, but they prefer photographs."

177. *Shri Chaturvedi*—"At the risk of sounding a discordant note, I would like to warn the Wild Life Board that we must be quite sure about the postal authorities meaning business. I have got a very bitter experience about their promises. I had to face difficulty about the postal stamps of the Fourth World Forestry Conference. And it would not have been but for the intercession with of the Late Mr. Kidwai. Just at the last minute they

came out with the reply that they cannot produce the stamps because of their Centenary. So first of all we must make them commit, because "subject to financial provision" is not very sound. Judging from the past experience I can say all this."

178. *Shri Bhadran*—"Sir, this suggestion has emanated from the Minister in-charge of the P. & T. Department."

179. *Shri Chaturvedi*—"That is even more dangerous. You must get the approval of the Director-General that they want to do it."

*Shri Bhadran*—"We have got the assurance that the Senior Dy. D.G. is taking a personal interest in the proposal. The Communication starts with the statement that the Minister is interested and he wants it to be done. On the previous occasion we were interested but not they themselves."

180. *Shri Chaturvedi*—"I am glad you have assured yourself."

181. *Minister for Co-operation*—"In this case particularly we do not stand to lose anything."

182. *Chairman*—"May I have your attention please before we break up this morning."

183. I should like to speak on behalf of the Board and myself and convey our warmest and heartiest congratulations to Mr. Salim Ali on the honour the President has inferred on him at the Republic Day—"Padma Vibhushan." This honour to Mr. Salim Ali is in recognition of his unique services in the field of Ornithology and really he has been one of the foremost champions of India's wild life and particularly of bird life. This honour to him is also an honour to the Board itself, I feel, because in recognising his work the Government of India has accorded a place of distinction not only to him, but also to this Board. I would like to convey to him once more on behalf of you all our warmest congratulations. May he live long to enjoy further honours and bring greater fame to Nature study and Conservation.

184. I have one more announcement to make and it is that I want to apologise to the Board that it will not be possible for me to be present at the plenary session owing to unavoidable circumstances. I very much regret that it has to be, but I am afraid I could do nothing about it. So I have asked my good friend Dr. Deshmukh kindly to conduct the afternoon session. To all of you gentlemen of the Board, I should like to say "Thank You" for the co-operation and good will you have extended to me in enabling me to discharge my functions as Chairman successfully.

185. Thank you."

186. *Shri Salim Ali*—"Sir, I am deeply grateful to you and to the Board for the nice things they have expressed through you."

187. The meeting adjourned at 1 p.m. to meet again in the afternoon. The Board assembled for its Plenary Session at 2-30 p.m. under the Chairmanship of Dr. P. S. Deshmukh. Dr. Deshmukh also, had to leave the meeting after conducting it for some time and rest of the proceedings were conducted under the Chairmanship of Shri K. S. Dharmakumarsinhji.

188. Shri A. C. Jain, Secretary of the Board presented the conclusions and recommendations arrived at in the meetings of the General Committee held on 14th & 15th February, 1958. After due discussion on each item, the agreed changes and improvements suggested were directed to be duly incorporated (Agenda items and minutes at Appendix I—II).

189. The recommendation made by the General Committee on agenda Item No. 8(iii) regarding export of peacock feathers, however, came up for detailed discussion at this stage Shri Chaturvedi strongly opposed any relaxation in the existing ban on the export of peacock feather as recommended by the General Committee. After prolonged discussion it was agreed to reverse the earlier decision taken by the General Committee. Shri Chaturvedi initiated discussion on the subject as follows :—

190. "Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish to enter a plea on behalf of the proud peacock, a bird too proud to speak for itself. It will be readily conceded that it is about the prettiest bird we have, that lends colour to the countryside and relieves the grey monotony of the dry and dreary tracts like that of Rajasthan.

191. The demand for the export of peacock feathers is a hardy periodical that comes up persistently for consideration. During five long years of my association with the Ministry of Food & Agriculture, I had to resist it right through as the Inspector General of Forests. Traders interested in the export of peacock feathers left no stone unturned, no door unknocked, no source unexploited. For sheer opportunism it is difficult to rival this demand. It was pressed at every change of Minister. And I had the privilege of serving under four Ministers before each of whom I had to quote chapter and verse, why this demand for the export should be turned down.

192. When I laid down the reins of my office, I left a note in the charge note to my distinguished successor, Shri Ranganathan, alerting him against this demand being raised again on my departure. And true to pattern, it was. I notice that Shri Ranganathan has been rather remiss in not passing the advice on to our present I.G. Forests, Shri Takle.

193. Stated briefly the demand is always based on the feathers that could be collected in Rajasthan and Western U.P. The peacock occurs in large numbers in Rajasthan because, it is afforded,

protection there by a religious sentiment. The very fact that the peacock is held sacred there, it is apt to be a victim of a false sense of security. For nothing is sacred to the roaming tribes of Rajasthan.

194. The demand is made on this spacious plea that the bird sheds its feathers anyway, so why not collect and export these feathers and get the much needed dollars in return ?

195. Now, Sir, I have gone into this question in some detail. The peacock does not shed all feathers at one place and at one time. The peacock feathers are difficult to come by, and I can vouch that during 25 years of my wanderings in the peacock country I did not pick up more than 25 feathers. Perhaps I have been particularly unlucky and it is possible the other forest officers might have been luckier.

196. Sir, a similar demand for the feathers of the Bird of Paradise in Paris and London to adorn the hats and dresses of fashionable ladies nearly led to its extinction. The demand was sustained by the same theory which is put forward today for the export of peacock feathers. It was the same story why not make some money from feathers which are shed in any case. Everybody knows that by the turn of the century we nearly lost the Bird of Paradise in New Guinea. So difficult it was to stop the nefarious trade in these feathers that lovers of this bird had to make a request to fashion stores in London and Paris to stop importing them. Ladies persisting in wearing these feathers were booed in the streets of Paris. Had it not been for those efforts the Birds of Paradise would have flown to Paradise and quitted this sordid earth for good.

197. My objection, Sir, is not against the use of picked feathers. What I have to protest against is the export of plucked feathers, of the birds netted and killed for the purpose. As there is no known method of distinguishing the picked from the plucked feathers, the balance of safety lies in not exporting any peacock feathers.

198. The trouble with the sort of recommendations read out to you is that they sound well and lull you to false sense of safety. Unscrupulous people would drive a coach and four through all the safeguards pointed out. One has to be cautioned against these precautions. The danger is all the more serious because it is insidious.

199. I may point out here, Sir, that the matter was fully thrashed out at the inaugural session of the Board in Mysore where we had the benefit of the guidance of such experts as K. S. Dharmakumarsinhji, P. D. Stracey and others. Since then nothing has changed. The bird has not changed its habits. There has been only a change in the personnel of the Board. The Board should

not lightly set aside its own decision. I may also add that the proposal to export peacock feathers was turned down by Shri Jai-ram Das Daulat Ram, Shri K. M. Munshi, the late Shri Rafi Ahmed Kidwai and our present Minister Shri Ajit Prasad Jain and Dr. Deshmukh. It was never permitted during the British Regime. I sincerely trust this distinguished gathering of wild life enthusiasts will do nothing to imperil the very existence of the beautiful peacock and will do its best to save it from the fate that overtook this Bird of Paradise in certain other parts of the world.

200. In the end, I would like the decision of the Board to be placed on record to make the repetition of the demand for the export of peacock feathers impossible for the sake of filthy lucre."

201. All members agreed with this.

*Shri Bhargava*—"I fully endorse the views expressed by Mr. Chaturvedi as in Rajasthan we would not agree to this sort of relaxation."

202. *Shri Krishnaswamy*—"Yesterday we were assured that shed feathers would be allowed to be exported. May I ask whether there is a possibility of distinguishing plucked feathers from shed feathers."

203. *Mr. Salim Ali*—"It does not mean that such a thing is not known. If we do not know it, there are other experts who know it and can be approached."

204. *Chairman*—"The majority is in favour of banning."

*Shri Humayun Abdulali*—"If I may be permitted to reply, one or two points raised by Shri Chaturvedi. He said that he did not find shed feather in his 25 years of wandering. In Gujarat and Saurashtra, where such feathers are found in villages one thousand feather can be purchased for Rs. 6. We have counted that total number of feathers that can be available from one peacock is 160. The cost of shooting a peacock for its feathers will, therefore, be entirely out of proportion with the value realised by selling its feathers. He has drawn attention to the shed feathers of the Bird of Paradise. I think it is entirely a different proposition in villages. Also, Sir, about the British Government not having allowed export of feathers, I refer to ruling I of Customs Act of 1928, which presumably allows the export."

205. *Shri Stracey*—"Yesterday we decided that we should allow the exports from certain specified areas only. The difficulty is how to distinguish between the shed feathers and the plucked feathers."

206. *Chairman*—"I think we might continue the total ban."

*Mr. Chaturvedi*—"Pending the expert opinion, we might have a complete ban."

207. *Mr. Roonwal*—“This question has been put so many times. I feel, there may perhaps be some experts who may be able to distinguish shed feathers from plucked feathers in the laboratory, but that may not be possible in the field.”

208. *Dy. I.G.F.*—“The Commerce & Industry Ministry’s views are, that by enforcing this ban we are encouraging the smuggling of these feathers through a foreign country.”

209. *Mr. Chaturvedi*—“That is no argument at all.”

210. *Mr. Roonwal*—“We have our Customs Deptt. for this purpose.”

211. *Minister*—“The Ban will continue. We will declare it as a protected bird. We suggest and recommend to the States that it should be.”

212. *Dy. I.G.F.*—“*Status quo* will continue with regard to the question of export of birds and their feathers and the bird should be declared completely protected over the whole country.”

213. *Shri Humayun Abdulali* and *Shri B. V. Ramanjulu* read out the conclusion of the meetings of the Bird and Zoo Wings respectively held on 15th February, 1958, which were also similarly approved by the Board after necessary verbal changes. (Agenda items and minutes at Appendix I—III) Proceedings of the Bird Wing meeting are at Appendix V.

214. After the Board had approved the minutes *Shri Humayun Abdulali* wanted to move a further item for discussion. The Chairman, however, regretted his inability to grant permission for this due to shortage of time. Thereafter the question of date and venue for the next Session of the Board was discussed on the suggestion of *Dy. I.G.F.* *Shri Malhotra*, Conservator of Forests, Jammu & Kashmir informed the Board that his Forest Minister was very keen on having the next Session of the Board in Jammu & Kashmir and that he intended to come down to Delhi to extend the invitation to the Board personally. But, unfortunately, he had not come so far. He, therefore, extended the invitation himself on behalf of the Minister.

215. The Chairman welcomed the offer and recommended that it might be accepted provisionally. In the meantime *Shri Krishnaswamy*, Chief Conservator of Forests, Madras informed that they were also thinking of inviting the Board for holding its next Session in Madras, but he could not say anything finally on the subject at that time.

216. Ultimately it was decided that the offer made by Jammu & Kashmir might be kept in mind and further action taken on receipt of a confirmation from there.

217. The meeting came to close at 5-5 p.m. with a vote of thanks from I.G.F. who said :—

218. "We have come to the end of our deliberations and it is my very pleasant duty to thank you all for having taken the trouble to come to this distant place from different places and having put up with the various inconveniences that the Minister of Co-operation in the opening speech referred to. It was really a great pleasure for us to have His Highness the Maharajah of Mysore with us as our Chairman and perhaps most of you know that throughout the day he was working with us though he was running a temperature of 101°. Our special thanks are due to him for this remarkable sense of duty.

219. We are also grateful to our worthy Prime Minister and other Ministers who enabled us to hold the meeting here and helped us in carrying on discussions here. Gentlemen, I thank you very much once again."

Ministry of Food & Agriculture,  
(Department of Agriculture),  
New Delhi.

(A. C. Jain)  
Secretary,  
Indian Board for Wild Life.

## APPENDIX I

### THIRD SESSION OF THE INDIAN BOARD FOR WILD LIFE HELD AT NEW DELHI FROM 14TH TO 16TH FEBRUARY, 1958—AGENDA ITEMS AND RECOMMENDATIONS THEREON

#### (a) General

1. Recommendations of the 5th meeting of the Executive Committee of the Indian Board for Wild Life held at Periyar from 21st to 23rd January, 1957—Action taken thereon.
2. Formation of Natural History Societies, Wild Life Clubs, etc. particularly in Educational Institutions—Proposed by Bengal Natural History Society, Utkal University, Kerala University and Wild Life Club, F.R.I., Dehra Dun.
3. Enforcement of Wild Life Acts—Proposed by Shri K. S. Dharmakumarsinhji.
4. Educational Publication on Wild Life—Proposed by Shri K. S. Dharmakumarsinhji.
5. Wild Life and Crop Protection Guns—Proposed by the Forest Department, Bombay & Bombay Natural History Society.
6. Suggestion for Wild Life Studies along with working plan work—Proposed by the President, Wild Life Club, Forest Research Institute & Colleges, Dehra Dun.
7. Status of Marine and Estuarine animals—Proposed by the Fisheries Development Adviser to the Government of India, & Annamalai University.
8. Export restriction *versus* export promotion—Proposed by the Secretary, Indian Board for Wild Life.
9. Export of Butterflies—Proposed by Shri K. S. Dharmakumarsinhji.
10. Proposals for Wild Life Services—Proposed by Shri K. S. Dharmakumarsinhji, & Shri M. D. Chaturvedi.
11. Need for facilities for audio-visual education & Publicity—Proposed by Calcutta University, K. S. V. Raman, Chairman, Bihar Public Service Commission & Shri B. V. Ramanjulu.
12. Wild Life and dangers of radiation from atomic fall out—Proposed by Shri B. V. Ramanjulu.
13. Training in Wild Life Preservation—Proposed by the Government of Himachal Pradesh.
14. Settlement of tribes who make a living from destruction of wild life—Proposed by the Chief Conservator of Forests, Mysore.
15. Game Laws and Rules in adjoining areas of different States—Proposed by the Chief Conservator of Forests, Mysore.
16. Financial Resources for Wild Life Conservation—Proposed by the Government of Kerala.
17. Revision of Game Laws in respect of Shikar—Proposed by Chief Conservator of Forests, Mysore.

18. Present Status of the Musk Deer—Proposed by Shri K. S. Dharmakumarsinhji & Himachal Pradesh Administration.

19. Protection for Black Buck and Chinkara—Proposed by Shri K. S. Dharmakumarsinhji & Maharaja of Baroda.

20. Status of the Cheetah—Proposed by Shri B. V. Ramanjulu & Shri K. S. Dharmakumarsinhji.

21. Present Status of crocodiles in India—Proposed by Shri K. S. Dharmakumarsinhji.

22. Present Status of the Kashmir Stage—Proposed by Forest Department, Jammu & Kashmir.

23. Status of the four horned antelope—Proposed by the Chief Conservator of Forests, Mysore.

24. Disposal of Wild Dogs—Proposed by Shri K. S. Dharmakumarsinhji.

25. Status of the bear and the panther—Proposed by Chief Conservator of Forests, Mysore.

26. Future of the Delhi Ridge—Proposed by Delhi Bird Watching Society and Soil Conservation Officer, Delhi.

27. Wild Life Pictorial Map of India—Proposed by the President, Wild Life Club, Forest Research Institute & Colleges, Dehra Dun.

28. Travel facilities for Honorary Regional Secretaries—Proposed by Shri K. S. Dharmakumarsinhji.

29. Acknowledgement of Shri Y. Rama Rao's services to the Board—Proposed by Shri V. R.G.K.M. Prasad, Member, I.B.W.L.

30. Administration of the Indian Board for Wild Life—Proposed by Shri E. P. Gee.

31. Information tables for National Parks, Reserves etc.—Proposed by Shri E. P. Gee.

32. Wild Life Survey and census—Proposed by Shri K. S. Dharmakumarsinhji.

**(b) Bird Wing**

33. Action taken on the recommendations of the IInd meeting of the Bird Wing of the Indian Board for Wild Life held at Bombay in March 1956—Secretary's Report.

34. Declaring the closed season for shooting of birds from 1st April to 15th October—Proposed by Forest Department, Bombay.

35. Destruction of crows in the vicinity of Bird Sanctuaries—Proposed by Shri Salim Ali.

36. Bird Life Protection and restriction on the issue of gun licenses for crop protection—Proposed by the Chief Conservator of Forests, Mysore.

37. Suggestion for setting up of an Organisation for studying the stomach contents of different birds during different periods of the year for destroying the categories of birds harmful to the agricultural crops and publicity thereto—Proposed by Forest Department, Bombay.

38. The advisability of establishing a sanctuary for breeding pelicans in the Aredu-Sarepalle area near Koolair Lake in Andhra—Proposed by Shri Salim Ali.

39. Increase in the number of Parakeets in Delhi—Proposed by Delhi Bird Watching Society.

40. Improvement and popularising Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary in Chinglepat District, Madras—Proposed by Shri B. V. Ramanjulu.

41. Need for protection of the Great Indian Bustard from Extinction—Proposed by H. H. Maharaja of Baroda.

42. Functions and responsibilities of the Bird Wing of the Indian Board for Wild Life—Proposed by Shri Salim Ali.

43. Substitution of Kalij Pheasant by Horned Pheasant in Item No. 44 of the Proceedings of the 5th meeting of the Executive Committee of the Indian Board for Wild Life held at Periyar—Proposed by Himachal Pradesh Government.

(c) Zoo Wing

44. Action taken on the recommendations of the first meeting of the Zoo Wing held at Mysore in May, 1956—Secretary's Report.

45. Starting of a Zoo in Assam—Proper place for breeding the Great Indian Rihinoceros and distributing them to various Zoos—Proposed by Shri B. V. Ramanjulu.

46. Creation of Zoological Societies—Proposed by Shri K. S. Dharmakumarsinhji.

47. Suggestion to work out the genetics of the black panther—Proposed by Chief Conservator of Forests, Mysore.

48. Utilisation of the Zoos for disseminating knowledge of animal life and stimulating popular interest in the fauna of the country—Proposed by the Superintendent, Zoological Gardens, Calcutta.

49. Tame or Domestic animals in Zoos—Proposed by Shri B. V. Ramanjulu & Shri K. S. Dharmakumarsinhji.

50. Guides in Zoological Parks & Gardens—Proposed by the Head of Zoology Department, Calcutta University & Shri B. V. Ramanjulu.

51. Progress of Zoological Gardens in India—Proposed by Shri K. S. Dharmakumarsinhji.

52. Children's Zoo—Animal Lending Library—Proposed by Shri B. V. Ramanjulu.

53. Teaching teachers—how to conduct visiting school Class—Proposed by Shri Ramajulu.

54. Introduction of booklet on animals of Zoo Gardens—Proposed by the Head of Zoology Department, Calcutta University.

55. Purchases of Exhibits from Zoos abroad—Proposed by the Superintendent, Zoological Gardens, Calcutta.

56. Transportation of live snakes (poisonous and non-poisonous)—Facilities for the Zoos—Proposed by the Superintendent, Zoological Gardens, Calcutta.

57. Exchange of animals and birds between the zoos—Proposed by the Superintendent, Government Gardens, Hyderabad.

58. Wild Animals in Captivity—Study of—Proposed by the Superintendent, Government Gardens, Hyderabad.

59. Scientific Study—Starting a Research Division in Zoos—Proposed by the Superintendent, Zoological Gardens, Calcutta.

60. Vandalism in Zoos—Proposed by Shri K. S. Dharmakumarsinhji.

61. Building enclosures—Large places unnecessary for carnivorous animals—Proposed by Shri B. V. Ramanjulu.

62. Zoological Gardens entry fee—Proposed by Shri K. D. Dharmakumarsinhji.

63. State aid to Zoos managed by Municipalities and Corporations in the form of gifts of indigenous animals—Proposed by Shri B. V. Ramanajulu.

64. The Zoo Wing may render necessary advice for furnishing schemes and for selecting sites for establishing new zoos in various States—Reporting to the Zoo Wing about such advice rendered to Bhopal Municipality in Madhya Pradesh and T.T. Devasthanams, in Thirupathi (Andhra)—Proposed by Shri B. V. Ramanjulu.

65. Export of a few numbers of protected animals—Relaxation of rule—Proposed by Shri B. V. Ramanjulu, Superintendent, Zoological Gardens, Calcutta & Garden Superintendent, Municipal Corporation, Poona.

66. Zoo Superintendents Training Abroad—Proposed by Shri R. V. Ramanjulu.

67. Date and venue of the next meeting—Proposed by Secretary, Indian Board for Wild Life.

## APPENDIX II

### THIRD SESSION OF THE INDIAN BOARD FOR WILD LIFE TO BE HELD AT NEW DELHI FROM 14TH TO 16TH FEBRUARY, 1958.

#### Agenda for the General Meeting

AGENDA ITEM No. 1.—*Recommendations of the Vth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Indian Board for Wild Life held at Periyar from 21st to 23rd January, 1957—Action taken thereon.*

ITEM No.1—*Secretary's report.*

1. Dr. Roomwal has accepted the invitation and is acting as the Secretary-General of the Indian Board for Wild Life.

2. Shri Gee has promised to furnish the data in question as soon as it was ready.

4. It was not considered opportune to press for this, as during the year the need for considerable economy especially in the matter of recruitment of new staff was continually emphasised by the Government of India. It is hoped that it will be possible to take steps shortly for setting up a post of wholtime Secretary or Assistant Secretary for the Indian Board for Wild Life.

6. This question was discussed personally by the Deputy Inspector General of Forests with Mysore Forest authorities including Chief Conservator of Forests Mysore and the Conservator of Forests Bellary. On their advice, the proposal was ultimately dropped because it was considered that the area round the Tungabhadra Dam was not yet suitable for the constitution of such a sanctuary, as much of the land was privately owned or under cultivation and the available vegetational cover even in the rest was poor.

7. Position explained against item No. 26 *infra*.

ITEM No. 2.—*Creation of National Parks and the use of the same as holiday resorts.*

The recommendation was commended to the State Governments and comments received upto date in the matter are as follows:—

- ANDHRA : Recommendation will be kept in view at the time of constituting National Parks and Game Sanctuaries.
- DELHI : There is no scope of creation of National Parks in their territory.
- TRIPURA : There is no National Park in their territory.
- U.P. : The State Government is taking adequate steps for providing amenities to tourists in National Parks and Game sanctuaries e.g. fully furnished hutments and dormitories with cooking, water and electric arrangements. Apart from this machans and fair weather motorable roads are also being built. The State Government however does not consider it necessary to provide facilities like cafetaria. Post Office and petrol Pumps etc. at such places due to the small numbers visiting them.

- MANIPUR: The recommendation has been noted for future guidance.
- ASSAM : Efforts are already being made to provide all sorts of facilities like tents, huts, electric supply. Post Office and petrol pumps for the tourists visiting the game sanctuaries and national parks in the State.
- RAJASTHAN : Recommendation noted for guidance.
- KERALA : It will be unsafe to provide tents and huts etc. to the tourist in view of the existence of dangerous animals and reptiles in the tropical forests of the State. Facilities like Jeepable road, Post Office, hotels etc. are, however, being provided to the visitors of national parks and game sanctuaries.
- WEST BENGAL : Development of Jaldapara Game Sanctuary on the lines of recommendation made has been provided for during the 2nd Plan. The recommendation will also be kept in view in respect of other game sanctuaries and national parks as and when proposals for their development are formulated.
- ORISSA : Adequate provision has been made during the 2nd Plan period. To start with only roads etc. will be constructed. Further facilities will be introduced as the tourist traffic increases.
- BOMBAY : All the facilities recommended by the committee will be provided in the National Parks proposed, subject to availability of funds.
- MYSORE : Provision has been made in the 2nd Plan to provide as many facilities as possible in the existing game sanctuaries in the State. No reply has been received as yet from Punjab, Madras, Madhya Pradesh, Andamans and Jammu & Kashmir.

ITEM No. 3.—*Study courses in conservation.*

The Universities in the country were addressed as recommended by the Executive Committee. The comments received in this connection are at Enclosure 'A'.

ITEM No. 4.—*Preservation of certain animals and birds in Kerala Forests.*

The recommendation of the Executive Committee was brought to the notice of Shri Y. R. Ghorpade, Regional Secretary who has included the species in-question in the schedules to the Rules compiled (and since supplied) by him to all the States in the Southern region.

ITEM No. 5.—*Issuing of shooting permits.*

No occasion arose for action in the manner suggested.

ITEM No. 6.—*Protection of Wild Life in India vis-a-vis in neighbouring countries.*

In accordance with the Committee's recommendations the Government of Nepal were approached for their cooperation in protecting the Great Indian Rhinoceros. The Government of Nepal has informed that the shooting of rhino in their territory is prohibited except with special permission.

ITEM No. 7.—*Liaison with the neighbouring countries.*

Suggestion of the Executive Committee has been noted for compliance.

ITEM No. 8.—*List of Salt-licks and water holes.*

The State Governments were requested to send lists of salt-licks and water holes in their territories in a prescribed form. Governments of Delhi, Andamans, Manipur, West Bengal, Tripura, Bombay and Punjab only have so far sent final replies in response thereto. A list of salt-licks etc. will be compiled on receipt of complete information from all States. It should be for the Board to guide, however, if this list should be published freely or restricted for official use only.

ITEM No. 9.—*Introduction of deer species in Mudumalai Wild Life Sanctuary from other States.*

The Ministry of Education and Scientific Research were requested to direct the Zoological Survey of India suitably for undertaking ecological studies of Asiatic Lion, Indian Rhino and the Wild Buffalo with a view to deciding on likely alternative homes for these species. Apart from this the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research were also requested to have a list of other animals in need of alternative homes, prepared from the Director, Zoological Survey of India. In response to this that Ministry has intimated that Zoological Survey of India will be glad to undertake the ecological studies of the said mammals as far as their staff position permitted and also that the study of Asiatic Lion was already on their current year's programme. As regards the preparation of lists of such species which are in need of alternate homes that Ministry has intimated that there are probably no other animals which were in immediate need of alternate homes and this matter could therefore be looked into in greater detail at a later date. As regards introduction of deer species in Mudumalai Wild Life Sanctuary, the Director, Zoological Survey of India has intimated that he has no information on the faunal position or ecological condition of Mudumalai Wild Life Sanctuary in the absence of which he has regretted his inability to render and advice on this point.

In addition to this Shri Gee has sent a note on 'Moving rarer species to alternative localities' in which he has objected to indiscriminate introduction of new species in new areas (Enclosure B). The general question may be considered further and suitable recommendations made.

ITEM No. 10.—*Protection of Nilgai or Blue Bull.*

The recommendation of the Executive Committee was brought to the notice of the Government of Madras.

ITEM No. 11.—*New Lion Centre.*

One lion and two lionesses have since been transported from Saurashtra and released in the Chakia forests (Chandraprabha sanctuary) in Uttar Pradesh.

ITEM No. 12.—*New Centre for the Great Indian Rhino.*

No action called for.

ITEM No. 13.—*Reorganisation of the State Wild Life Advisory Boards.*

As in almost all the cases the Regional Secretaries are the members of the State Wild Life Boards. No action on the item was called for.

ITEM No. 14.—*Nomination of Shri C. R. Ranganathan as a member of the Indian Board for Wild Life and its Executive Committee.*

The Government of India has accepted the recommendation of the Executive Committee and has appointed Shri Ranganathan as the member of the Indian Board for Wild Life and its Executive Committee (*vide* notification No. 2-19/57-IBWL, dated 23-7-57).

ITEM No. 15.—*Restriction on gun licences issued for crop protection.*

No action called for.

ITEM No. 16.—*Restriction on the shooting of swamp deer (Gond or Barasinha) in the Uttar Pradesh and constitution of a sanctuary for their preservation.*

ITEM No. 17.—*Restriction on the shooting of Black Buck in Uttar Pradesh and constitution of a sanctuary for their preservation.*

The recommendations of the Committee were commended to the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

ITEM No. 18.—*Facilities for Nature Photographers in sanctuaries and Parks.*

Commended to the State Governments. The comments received from the State Governments are as follows :—

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| TRIPURA :          | } They have no game sanctuary or national park at present.   |
| ANDAMANS :         |  |
| DELHI :            |  |
| MANIPUR :          |  |
| ANDHRA :           | A scheme for providing facilities to nature photographers will be included in the provision for the development of Shri Venkateswara sanctuary for 1958-59.  |
| HIMACHAL PRADESH : | The recommendation will be kept in view at the time of constituting sanctuaries and national parks.  |
| MYSORE :           | Facilities for taking shots from vehicles and elephants are provided on payment in Bandipur sanctuary. No facilities for developing and printing etc. can however be provided due to the location of sanctuaries in remote areas.  |
| UTTAR PRADESH :    | The following measures are proposed to be taken for the convenience of nature photographers :—<br>Construction of tourist rest houses, watch towers, machans and roads. Apart from this provision of jeeps and elephants is also being arranged.   |
| RAJASTHAN :        | Facilities like rest houses, dark rooms and ice already exist in some of the sanctuaries and in some of the remaining ones these can be provided. No facility like grit free water, jeeps and elephants can however be provided.   |
| ASSAM :            | Recommendation accepted in principle. But the photographers will have to pay for hire charges of elephants and tree top houses etc.  |
| KERALA :           | The State Government will endeavour to provide the facilities like, provision of dark rooms at every rest house, supply of ice on request, analysis of local water, supply of jeeps, machans at various levels and supply of reliable information regarding the resources of the sanctuaries to the nature photographer. |

MADRAS : For the time being it is proposed to provide for a jeep and bringing out of a pamphlet on the resources of Madumalai Game Sanctuary. The other facilities recommended by the Executive Committee will also be provided in due course.

ITEM No. 19.—*Compilation of list of flora and fauna.*

As recommended by the Executive Committee, the Botanical Survey of India was requested to furnish a list of flora in danger of extinction along with other relevant information. The Botanical Survey of India has since furnished the list in-question which is being finalised in consultation with the Forest Botanist at the Forest Research Institute and Colleges. It will be circulated to all State Governments along with the list of fauna in danger of extinction, for further necessary action.

ITEM No. 20.—*Publicity for the meetings of the Indian Board for Wild Life.*

The recommendation has been brought to the notice of the Directorate of Publicity of the Ministry of Food & Agriculture for compliance.

ITEM No. 21.—*Wild Life management—Introduction in the curricula of the Forest Research Institute and Colleges, Dehra Dun.*

No action called for.

ITEM No. 22.—*Training of staff.*

In accordance with the Executive Committee's recommendation the question of training facilities in management of wild life under foreign aid programmes was taken up with the Foreign Aid Division of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. All efforts in this direction however proved unsuccessful, since the subject was not considered as having a direct bearing on the economic development of the country.

ITEM No. 23.—*Wild Life Legislation—Uniformity.*

The Model Bill for constitution of National Parks was circulated to all State Governments in February last year. A copy of the Bill as circulated to the States may be seen at Enclosure 'C'.

ITEM No. 24.—*A request to the North Eastern Railway to abandon their stone-quarry within the precincts of the Mahanadi Game Sanctuary.*

The Government of West Bengal, were requested to furnish us certain details, especially regarding the location of Eastern Rly. stone quarry. No reply from the Government of West Bengal has been received as yet.

ITEM No. 25.—*Natural History Specimen Collection—Share of Government.*

As recommended by the Ex. Committee the draft rules were circulated to the Ministries of External Affairs and Education & Scientific Research as also to all State Governments to elicit their comments. The following comments from various State Governments and Ministries have been received:—

All the State Governments except Orissa and Bombay have accepted the draft rules as approved by the Executive Committee. No comments from Assam and J & K have been received. Comments offered by the Ministries of External Affairs and Education & Scientific Research as also by the State Governments of Orissa and Bombay may be seen at enclosure 'D'.

The Executive Committee may kindly consider them further, for suitable recommendation.

ITEM No. 26.—*Protection of Wild Buffalo.*

The Government of Madhya Pradesh has accepted the recommendation and imposed a complete ban on the shooting of wild buffalo for the next 5 years.

ITEM No. 27.—*Preparation of films, photographs, pamphlets etc., as aids for instruction on wild life in colleges and schools.*

In accordance with the recommendation of the Executive Committee the question of production of films was again taken up with the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. That Ministry regretted their inability to do anything in the matter during their 1957-58 programme. They have however agreed to give a favourable consideration to this request for inclusion in their 1958-59 programme to be finalised sometime after March, 1958.

The State Governments were also requested to consider the production of films under their Nature Conservancy Schemes during the 2nd Plan. The reaction of the State Governments to this proposal is as follows :—

*Delhi, Manipur, Rajasthan, Andamans and Tripura:—*

These States have regretted their inability to do anything in the matter.	
HIMACHAL PRADESH, KERALA & MADRAS :	Proposal for production of such films are under the consideration of the Governments and they have promised to produce the films during the 2nd Plan period if possible.
UTTAR PRADESH :	Shooting of a film on Corbett National Park is already nearing completion.
ORISSA :	Necessary steps for the production of such films are being taken.
ASSAM :	The following films have been prepared :—
	1. Glimpses of Kaziranga Wild Life Sanctuary .. 1 reel.
	2. Glimpses of Monas Wild Life Sanctuary .. 1 reel.
	3. Rhino catching .. 1 reel.
	4. Assam's Wild Life .. 1 reel.

No information has been received from other States.

ITEM No. 28.—*Affording effective protection to wild life from concerted attacks by tribal people.*

The recommendation was commended to the State Governments. Comments received in this connection are as follows :—

DELHI & PUNJAB :	No action called for because no tribals inhabit the State territory.
HIMACHAL PRADESH :	Recommendation accepted. Steps are being taken to arrange lectures and to distribute educative leaflets among the tribals.
MANIPUR :	Recommendation accepted and measures as suggested are being taken.
UTTAR PRADESH :	Recommendation accepted and measures as suggested are being taken.
BIHAR :	Recommendation accepted and measures as suggested are being taken

MADRAS :	Recommendation accepted and measures as suggested are being taken.
ASSAM :	Recommendation accepted and measures as suggested are being taken.
KERALA :	The main dangers to the wild life in the State is from poachers against whom also drastic steps are being arranged.
ANDAMANS :	The only two wild animals found are deer and pig which are in no danger of extinction. No steps as suggested are therefore necessary.
ANDHRA :	Recommendation accepted. Educative measures among the tribals as suggested are being taken.
BOMBAY :	Recommendation accepted. Educative measures among the tribals as suggested are being taken.

No replies have been received from other States.

ITEM No. 29.—*Special protection to be given to salt-licks and their surroundings.*

ITEM No. 30.—*Consultation of Forest Officers by District Magistrates before issue of gun licences.*

No action called for.

ITEM No. 31.—*Setting up of an organisation for the procurement of wild life from neighbouring States for restocking deficit areas.*

Executive Committee's recommendations on these items were brought to the notice of all State Governments, and others concerned. Requests for assistance in the procurement of wild life from the following States were received which are being arranged in consultation with other State Governments.

1. *Kerala.*—For a pair of tiger cubs.

2. *Andhra Pradesh.*—For a pair of ostriches and other animals in exchange for a male tiger cub from Bombay zoo.

3. *West Bengal.*—For a pair of lion cubs.

4. *Mysore.*—For a pair of lion cubs.

ITEM No. 32.—*Export of rhinoceroses and their products.*

Position already explained against Item No. 6.

ITEM No. 33.—*Wild Life photographs drawings and painting.*

No action called for.

ITEM No. 34.—*Ecological and other surveys of the Board through the Zoological Survey of India.*

No action called for.

ITEM No. 35.—*Fixation of fees on the export permits issued and of cess on articles exported.*

The question of levy of fees and cess on wild life exports was taken up with the Ministries of Law and Commerce and Industries. The proposal however, had to be dropped ultimately because the Sea Customs Act, under which wild life exports are regulated is not a taxing Act. The other alternative of levying the fees by transferring those articles to the Export Trade Control from the Sea Customs Act was also not found feasible because in that case revenue could only accrue to the Government and not to the Board.

ITEM No. 36.—*Imprest fund at the disposal of the Secretary General.*  
Recommendation accepted.

ITEM No. 37.—*Remuneration for the extra staff working for the office of the Secretary-General.*

The Ministry of Education & Scientific Research has already since sanctioned additional posts of one Assistant, one typist clerk and one peon for the Z.S.I. in consultation with the Ministry of Food & Agriculture.

ITEM No. 38.—*Publication of a booklet containing full information of all the Game Sanctuaries in India.*

In accordance with the recommendations of the Ex. Committee a list of Game sanctuaries and National Parks in the country has been compiled (Enclosure 'E'). It will be published after the Board has approved of it or suggested improvements.

ITEM No. 39.—*Difficulty in obtaining wagons for despatch of zoo stock.*

As recommended by the Ex. Committee the question of according high priority to the movement of live zoo stock on the railways was taken up with the Railway Board. In response the Railway Board has informed that the existing rules already provide for high priority for the movement of zoo animals on Railways. A copy of railway Board's letter in-question was circulated to all zoo Administrations and others concerned.

ITEM No. 40.—*Despatch of zoo stock-concession in freight charges.*

ITEM No. 41.—*Ventilation measures in transporting zoo stock.*

No action called for.

ITEM No. 42.—*Import and Export Licence.*

The matter was taken up with the Ministries of Commerce & Industry and Finance. Both the Ministries accepted the Committee's recommendation and the Ministry of Finance issued necessary instruction to all Collectors of Customs, Central Excise, Land Customs etc. for permitting expeditious clearance of live animals for zoos.

ITEM No. 43.—*National Policy for Wild Life.*

Superintendent, Delhi Zoological Park has been requested to prepare a draft of National Wild Life Policy. He has not yet been able to complete the work due to other pre-occupations. It will be placed before the next meeting of the Ex. Committee for approval.

ITEM No. 44.—*Monal (Laphophorus impejanus) and Kalij (Gennaenus hamiltonii).*

The Himachal Pradesh Administration has suggested this item again for consideration by the Board.

ITEM No. 45.—*Revision of the constitution of the Indian Board for Wild Life.*

The revision of the constitution on the lines indicated by the Ex. Committee is already under the consideration of the Govt. of India. There was thus no occasion for arranging any meeting of the Special Committee proposed.

ITEM No. 46.—*Illicit shooting—Prevention of.*

A circular letter to all State Govts. was issued as recommended by the Executive Committee.

ITEM No. 47.—*Radio talk on wild life.*

ITEM No. 48.—*Date and venue of the next meeting.*

ITEM No. 49.—*Introduction of new species in the Periyar Game Sanctuary.*

No action called for.

ITEM No. 50.—*Artificial attraction for animals and birds in the Periyar Game Sanctuary.*

The Bird Wing and the Botanical Survey of India were consulted about the birds likely to do well in the Periyar locality and the plants and shrubs for attracting such birds. The advice tendered by both these organisations on the subject was passed on to the Govt. of Kerala.

ITEM No. 51.—*Deputation of officers of the Game Department to other sanctuaries for training and observation.*

No action called for (Position already explained under item No. 22 ante).

ITEM No. 52.—*Appointment of separate permanent staff as Game Wardens etc.*

The recommendation was commended to State Governments for implementation. It was also suggested that efforts may be made to appoint suitable retired army officers as Game Officer. In response to requests from certain State Governments dossiers of some army officers on the verge of retirement were also obtained from Defence Ministry and supplied to them for consideration and necessary action.

ITEM No. 53.—*Forest Fires and Wild Life.*

The recommendation of the Ex. Committee was circulated to all State Governments for their comments and views in the matter. The comments received from various State Governments are at enclosure 'F'.

Ex. Committee may kindly consider them and make suitable recommendations.

ITEM No. 54.—*Removal of ban on the Export of peacock feathers—consideration of.*

The Ministry of Food & Agriculture reviewed the question of relaxing the ban on the export of peacock feathers. But after further examination it was decided to continue this ban though it was relaxed to the extent that these could be exported as specimens illustrative of natural history.

ITEM No. 55.—*Notification of proceedings of the first meeting of the Representatives of Wild Life Export Trade held at Calcutta on 16th and 17th July, 1956.*

Apart from Agricultural Marketing Adviser, Ministries of Finance and Commerce & Industry were also approached for data on the export of wild life and its products. Unfortunately the data collected by customs Houses and the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics is neither species-wise nor does it provide for a separate column for the export of wild animals and its products. As a result, no reliable data could be collected. The matter is again placed before the Ex. Committee for consideration and suitable recommendations.

ITEM No. 56.—*Existing notifications on the export of wild animals and its parts revision of.*

The notification was circulated to the Ministries of Finance, and Commerce & Industry after some modifications. It has since been examined in the light of comments received from these Ministries and will be finalised after a discussion in an inter-Ministrial meeting.

As regards the concluding remarks of the Chairman regarding Guindy Park the Chief Conservator of Forests Madras has informed that as against the original proposal for transferring 500 acres for setting up a Higher technological Institute for South it has now been decided to transfer only 200 acres, for this purpose. It will thus be seen that an area of 300 acres has been saved for the Park due to the efforts of the Forest Department, Madras.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—The report of Secretary on action taken on the various conclusions of the Executive Committee at its last meeting in Periyar in January, 1957, was noted. It was observed that with reference to Item No. 8 of those conclusions, the list of salt licks when prepared should be, if at all, only for official information and not be made generally available.

At the suggestion of Shri Abdulali of the Bombay Natural History Society, it was agreed that a summary of the proceedings of every meeting should be made available to all members of the Board so that they may know what was being discussed. It was agreed that this would be done in future.

The Board would support the Government of West Bengal in its efforts to get the Railways to accept an alternative site outside the Mahanadi Sanctuary for its stone quarry.

The Secretary's report was formally confirmed.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2.—*Formation of Natural History Societies, Wild Life Clubs etc. particularly in Educational Institutions.*

1. Suggestion for the Central and State Educational Departments to encourage the formation of wild life clubs or Nature Study Societies in schools. Proposed by the Bengal Natural History Society. Darjeeling with the following explanatory note :—

Explanatory note by the Bengal Natural History Society.

*Aim.*—The object of the clubs would be to inculcate in the younger generation, a love of nature and an aesthetic appreciation of its beauty, and to give instruction which will enable them to understand the value of the world round them.

*Organisation.*—The activities of the Club would be extra curricular in line with other extra curricular activities. Each School would need an organiser preferably the Nature study master. These organisers will have to be trained since their knowledge of nature other than that obtained from text books is bound to be vague. For training it will be necessary to have summer schools for these teachers in one of the Wild Life Sanctuaries. The school to be run by the Forest Department with the help of the Education department and with the co-operation of the museums in the State and other interested bodies. The subjects for study at these summer schools should be general instruction in the different type of animal life, and training in the field identification of animals as well as plants, and also conservation methods.

2. Proposal that the State Governments be requested to encourage the formation of Natural History Societies in their areas and also that such societies be given financial and other assistance by the Governments to undertake regional surveys of wild animals. Proposed by the Registrar, Utkal University with explanatory note as follows :—

Explanatory note by Utkal University.

In response to the circulars of the Indian Board for Wild Life, the Utkal University has prescribed the following study at B.Sc. Pass the Honours stage in Zoology.

An elementary knowledge of the habits, breeding and distribution of at least of the following common wild animals, of Orissa :—

“Deer, Nilgai, Bison, Wild Buffalo, Wild Dog, Tiger, Bear, Elephant, Wild boar.”

Considerable difficulty however, is being experienced in teaching the above subject as our knowledge about distribution of these wild animals in different parts of the State is very limited. Such surveys will not only add to the knowledge of the natural history of the fauna of the area, but will also enable taking suitable measures for the preservation of scarce species. Very few States in India have Natural History Societies. The usefulness of such societies needs no further emphasis. The activities of such societies must remain extremely limited unless Government aid is available.

3. The Kerala University has also proposed the encouragement to local natural history groups and Associations.

4. The Wild Life Club, Forest Research Institute Dehra Dun has also sought financial assistance for setting up a Wild Life Museum.

*Explanatory note*

For the study of Wild Life it is essential to have a collection of mounted birds and animals in their Natural setting and it is suggested that funds be provided for this either direct to the Forest Research Institute Dehra Dun, or to the Wild Life Club of the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun. If a post of taxidermist can be provided the necessary trophies could be obtained from various forest officers in India. In fact an appeal has been issued to them and arrangements have been tentatively arrived at with M/s. Van Ingen and Van Ingen for mounting trophies at concessional rates but this firm does not generally deal with birds.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—The question of financial resources was raised. It was agreed that there need be no bar to such requirements being sponsored by State Governments as part of their schemes for Wild Life Conservation and State assistance could be secured in some measure for such activities.

The Board noted with gratitude the offer of the Zoological Society of India, the Bombay Natural History Society and others to provide write-ups for publication by the Board. A suggestion was accepted that outlines or proformas could be prepared by the Board as basis for such write-ups, especially by Forest Officers. Any proposal for any write-ups should be scrutinised by a sub-Committee before it is taken up, especially to avoid duplication of work and to ensure standards of production.

*AGENDA ITEM NO. 3.—Enforcement of Wild Life Act.*

Shri Dharmakumarsinhji points out that from the reports of the Honorary Regional Secretaries it is apparent that the Wild Life Protection Acts in various States are not adequately enforced as to enable certain large and small Game populations to increase. The Forest Departments are unable to control rampant poaching outside forest areas and Black buck Chinkara etc., and small game are open to indiscriminate killing by various classes of people. Co-operation between Forest and Police Departments is therefore essential, without which Game is bound to deteriorate. Forest Contractors have ample opportunity to slaughter Game at night in Forest areas and hence suitable methods to control their illegal activities should be invented.

*Seckt. Note.*—The Board may consider enquiring of the State Governments what steps have been taken or are contemplated in order effectively

to implement any acts and laws in force in respect of Wild Life Protection in and outside Reserved Forests. It would also be helpful if the Board could enumerate steps suitable for different localities in the country, for the information of the States.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—It was agreed that an enquiry might be made of the State Governments regarding the steps taken or contemplated in order effectively to implement any Acts and Laws in force in respect of Wild Life Protection in or outside reserved forests in their jurisdiction.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4.—*Educational Publications on Wild Life.*

Shri Dharmakumarsinhji draws attention to a foreign publication as an example of what could be done to educate the young to take an active interest in Wild Life :—

Today the large number of young men and students are not quite aware regarding the protection that is necessary to some of our vanishing wild life species, such as the Great Indian Bustard, etc. Recent publication named "The Last of the Curlews" by Fred Bodsworth published by Museum Press Ltd., 26 Bronton Road London SW.7, gives a poignant story in simple English of how a species can be extinguished. The story is based on scientific facts and is simple and very well written. This is the type of book that should be recommended as text books in all High Schools in the country. (The copy of the book will be shown by me to the Executive Committee).

*Sectt. Note.*—As a first item the Board brought out Shri E. P. Gee's "Why Preserve Wild Life". An illustrated publication on "OUR ANIMALS" by Shri M. Krishnan is in the press. The Board may consider inviting its member and other Naturalists to compile useful publications, which it would endeavour to publish suitably through the Government of India.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—It was agreed that as far as possible attractive books of this kind should be brought out on animals, birds etc. The Board recommended that Shri Stracey's book on Wild Life Management be published by the Ministry of Food & Agriculture.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5.—*Wild Life and Crop Protection Guns.*

Suggestion for finding out ways and means to restrict the issue of crop Protection Guns strictly for crop protection to avoid their wrongful use against wild life. The Forest Deptt. Bombay have furnished an explanatory note as follows :—

The question of destruction of wild animals and birds by the crop protection license holders was discussed in the Second Session of the Indian Board for Wild Life and it was resolved that in special localities where particular species of animals or birds are threatened with extinction through misuse of crop protection guns and require measure of special protection, crop protection licences should be withdrawn from such locality and the protection of crops may be secured through an official agency. In consonance with this resolution, the Government of Bombay in the Home Department issued instructions to all the District Magistrates and the Commissioner of Police, Bombay, to the effect that crop protection licences should not be renewed in the District in which wild life is no longer a menace to human life and property.

This is not considered enough to meet the situation. Under the guise of crop protection indiscriminate shooting by such licence holders goes on undetected & unpunished. To avoid the misuse of such crop protection guns it is necessary to find out ways and means to restrict the use of crop

protection guns only in crop season and also to ensure the protection of crop by wild animals and birds the purpose for which such licences are issued.

Among other various means that suggest itself to meet the situation the following are some :—

- (i) To issue crop protection licences for crop season only.
- (ii) To issue such licences only when found necessary by verification of the menace.
- (iii) To deposit the guns in the nearest Police Station during off season.
- (iv) To allow no other arms except muzzle loading guns.
- (v) To lock the guns during off season by locking device of seal tags as is used in America.

Unless drastic steps are taken on All-India basis it will not be possible to control so many arms, being used under the crop protection licences.

It should be made compulsory for such licence holders to submit to the proper authority, to be decided by the Committee the details of game shot under this licence. If we get this statistics, we can view the situation and take suitable action in future. This data will give us an idea of the menace caused by the wild life to the Agricultural crops.

The Revenue Department should also be requested to find out and compare the results of crop production with crop protection licences and that with no such licences issued in comparable localities. This will give us an idea if crop protection guns, in such a great number, are really essential or not.

*Sectt. Note.*—While this question has been constantly before the Board and those interested in Wild Life Protection, this reference again from Bombay would only point to it that the problem still remains. It is submitted that more than any other this could be the most significant factor in the destruction of or damage (injury) to Wild Life in the country. This deserves the special attention of the Board, for devising positive and at the same time practicable steps to prevent indiscriminate or deliberate killing or wounding of Wild Life in the name of crop protection.

2. Locking of crop protection guns during the part of the year when there are no crops standing in relevant areas. The Bombay Natural History Society has stated as follows :—

It is an admitted fact that the largest single factor contributing to the destruction of wild animals is the indiscriminate use of guns issued for the purpose of crop protection, and it is apparently not practicable to recall and store them at the nearest police station after harvesting. The only alternative is to seal them in such a manner that they cannot be used during this period and the present figures have been drawn in consultation with the American National Park Service (Enclosure J).

Extract from letter dated 16th May, 1957 from H. Wayne Weagly, Assistant Procurement & Property Management Officer, United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Washington 25, D.C. re : sealing guns, with a sketch (Enclosure J).

1. Muzzle loaders, Gun A. Tying down the hammer is not sufficient because the hammer screw can be backed out and the hammer removed from the pin and from under the wire. The wire is then slid either forward or backward, the hammer replaced and the gun is usable without breaking the seal. The only solution for this type gun, as we see it, is to

remove the nipple (see No. 1), run the soft iron wire through the nipple hole all the way down the barrel and around the outside to the starting point, string the nipple on the wire, string the seal on the wire and close it. We realise this uses a lot of wire but it is the only sure way, that we know of, of sealing this type of weapon.

2. Any gun with an external hammer, such as Guns, C.E. and F. can be wired easily. Pull the hammer back to full cock. Wind several strands of wire around the breech in front of the hammer and through the trigger guard in front of the trigger (as in Guns E. and F. between points 1 and 2). Now place the seal and close it. If you have used enough wire you can gently release the hammer and the wire will prevent it from striking the firing pin or, in the case of the pistol, it will not strike the shell in the cylinder. Sealed in this manner, the wire cannot be moved out of place and the gun cannot be used without cutting the wire or destroying the seal.

3. For guns with bolt actions such as Gun B, simply tie down the bolt (between points 1 and 2) to the trigger guard and seal. If the bolt cannot be lifted, the gun cannot be used.

4. Lever action guns like Gun C, can be sealed by wiring as explained in 2 above or the lever can be wired to the stock at points 1 and 2, preventing its use.

5. Hammerless, pump action guns, such as Gun D, present a different problem. We find the easiest way to seal this type is to open up the action by pulling back on the pump forearm. A slight pull will open it at point 1. Run the wire from this point down through the open bottom at point 2, winding it between these points and sealing it. The breech cannot be quite closed unless the wire is cut or the seal removed and the gun cannot be fired as long as the breech is open.

6. The common hammerless shotgun, Gun G, gave us the most trouble. Finally, we found by wiring the lever from point 1 to the trigger guard at point 2, we could prevent the gun from being opened to be loaded. Also, several wraps of wire around the breech between points 3 and 4 will prevent the removal of the lever. This can be done with one length of wire, and sealed.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—It was agreed that this was a very important question. In addition to any other steps already adopted States could also consider measures for sealing weapons and thus rendering them inactive, during the non-crop seasons and thus prevent at least partially the misuse of crop protection guns.

The Board would also recommend that sale or commercialisation of game meat should be made a punishable offence.

AGENDA ITEM No. 6.—*Suggestion for Wild Life studies along with working plan work.*

The suggestion for recommending to the State Forest Departments for paying more attention to wild life in their working plans is made by the President, Wild Life Club. Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, who has explained it further as follows :—

At present working plans contain only brief references to wild life as a biotic factor in Forest management and most working plans are content with a passing reference to damage done by wild life, to the forests. Unless Working Plans Officers are instructed to devote more attention to this factor in forest management, and if possible be asked to conduct surveys and censuses of wild life, there will be no progress in the study of

the ecological relationship of the various wild species in our forests with their environment.

*Sectt. Note.*—This suggestion, if at all, can serve only as an interim measure. For one thing, every Working Plan Officer cannot be expected to take that degree of interest as to collect useful data regarding Wild Life along with his normal work. So long as Forest Management does not specifically include wild life management also separate arrangement to develop the latter in and outside reserved forest areas will be necessary.

The Board could suggest to States that wherever separate organisations have not yet been set up for such work, they could consider instructing their Working Plan Officers and Divisional Forest Officers to collect as much data as possible on Wild Life in their areas, regarding habits and habitat, ecological relationship etc.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—The Board suggested a new chapter with section or para headings should be added in the outline adopted for writing up working plans in order to ensure greater attention being paid in working plans work, to questions of the incidence ecology and management of wild life in the area covered.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7.—*Status of Marine and Estuarine animals.*

1. The fisheries Development adviser to the Government of India has suggested that marine animals should be brought within the purview of the Indian Board for Wild Life. He states :—

The question is only to include an item in the agenda inquiring whether the Board would include marine life within its competence. The dugong which is a rare marine mammal occurs in the Palk Bay & Gulf of Mannar and is hunted down and species is fast dwindling. It has been very common, in other Seas as well but all over the species is becoming more and more rare. It is for examination whether the subject could be considered by the Board of Wild Life.

2. The Head of the Department of Zoology, Annamalai University requests the enlargement of the scope of the Board to include Wild Life in rivers and estuaries.

A local problem in South Arcot District is the indiscriminate and wholesale destruction of Molluscan fauna of the estuaries. Oyster, Meretrus and several other types of molluscs are being destroyed. I am told that the State Government leases out the estuary (Vellar and Kille estuaries at Porto Novo and Kille) for collection of shells for manufacture of lime. There is no check on the collection and from what I see there is the risk of total extermination of many of the molluscs in the estuarine arms. This has been going for years and in my opinion some regulation is very necessary.

*Sectt. Notes.*—The Board has already taken cognisance of the status of crocodiles, reptiles etc. It would be but logical to accept the proposals, made here.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—It was suggested from the Chair that for the time being the Board may leave marine fauna out of its purview.

Incidentally the large scale export of frogs was mentioned and the assurance was given by Dr. Pannikar, Fisheries Development Adviser that collection of frogs was seasonal and their commercial exploitation was unlikely to cause any set back to their incidence.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8.—*Export restriction versus export promotion—Proposed by the Secretary, Indian Board for Wild Life.*

Three notifications were issued (Nos. 173, 174 and 175) in 1955 under the Sea Customs Act notifying certain species of animals live or dead or their parts as prohibited for export (i) wholly, (ii) almost wholly or (iii) under permits respectively. These restrictions were imposed mainly on the recommendations of the Board but were apparently based only on empirical information regarding the incidence of the animals, birds or reptiles concerned.

Subsequently, the general need for stepping up of our exports in order to improve the balance of India's trade and the difficult foreign exchange position, necessitated the Government of India to re-examine the question with a view to liberalising export restrictions. The Export Promotion Council has also examined this question in some detail.

In effect, the main items of interest to the Board which attract attention under export promotion are (i) Reptile skins (other than crocodiles) particularly of lizards of various kinds (ii) Crocodile skins and (iii) Peacock feathers.

With regard to lizard skins, this is the largest single item of export with reference to wild life parts. Except for one or two special types of lizards such as the monitor lizard there is no indication that our lizard population is in any danger. Much of the material is also collected from areas completely outside reserved forests (*i.e.*, areas over which it is extremely difficult to exercise any control. There is also the risk that no undue restriction may result in the diversion of our resources to export trade through ports outside India. It has been therefore suggested that the free export of lizards skins other than of monitor lizards should be allowed.

(ii) An amendment to Notification No. 174 was issued in December, 1955 (Notification No. 203) to permit export by the trade of crocodile skins under permits instead of only for scientific purposes. This had to be agreed to on the grounds that the incidence of crocodile might have improved as a result of the almost total protection afforded for over two years. Some members of the Board, particularly from Western India, have however now indicated that there might be a case for the restoration of fuller restriction. The Board may advise suitably in order that the Ministries of Commerce & Industry and Finance may be approached again if necessary.

(iii) With regard to peacock feathers the trade insists on maintaining that this is a very valuable commodity for earning foreign exchange and that only shed feathers are collected and marketed and no harm would be done by allowing export, especially as the internal market yields extremely small returns compared to the export market. The ban has however been continued in order to avoid any rise of destruction of this beautiful bird for the sake of its feathers. At the same time it is probably a fact that in localities, like Eastern Rajasthan and Western U.P. the bird is plentiful. Also local sentiment protects it against vandalism. Further collection and profitable marketing of shed feathers could help usefully to add to the income of rural people in these parts. The Board may examine this question afresh and advise suitably.

The administrative arrangements in connection with enforcing the provisions of these export restrictions also require to be reviewed. In order to assist the Customs Authorities who indicated their inability to

distinguish the restricted varieties apart from others, the Secretary-General at Calcutta (assisted by technically competent persons at Bombay and Madras) undertook to issue permits after due examination of consignments presented for export. This was in addition to suitable illustrations of the nine items wholly restricted under Notification 173, supplied to the Customs Authorities.

In practice this has, however, led particularly in Calcutta, to much heavier work for the Secretary-General than was anticipated especially as the Customs Authorities require not only positive permits to cover doubtful items but "No Objection" certificates in respect of all consignments. The Commerce & Industry Ministry have urged that this might tend to inhibit exports besides adding considerably to the work of Secretary-General. The Board might consider and advise on a simpler procedure particularly as the examination and acceptance for export under the Sea Customs Act should ordinarily vest only in the Customs Authorities.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—After detailed discussion the Board came to the following conclusions :—

(i) *Reptile skins.*—The present restrictions should continue *viz.* that skins of all lizards other than *Varanus Salvator* may continue to be exported and skins of all snakes other than *Python molurus* (the python),

(ii) With regard to crocodiles the Board came to the conclusion that all export of crocodiles skins should be banned as there has been rapid depletion of numbers in the recent past in almost all parts of India and the species stood in danger of extinction.

(iii) With regard to the export of peacock feathers the Board recommended that the *status quo* (*i.e.* ban on their export as specimens illustrative of natural history) should remain.

It was also recommended that the bird itself should be declared as completely protected all over the country.

(iv) Export of elephant bones. The Board was of the view that elephant bones should not be differentiated from other (cattle) bones for purposes of export. In other words, exports should be limited to crushed bones only.

(v) The Board felt that it had no particular views on the question whether the notifications restricting exports of wild life and its parts should continue to be under the Sea Customs Act or under Export Trade Control Order. It would emphasise, however, that the requirements of wild life preservation should not be in any way jeopardised by any change in the present position.

#### AGENDA ITEM No. 9.—*Export of Butterflies.*

Amendment to the Ministry of Finance (R.D.) Customs Notification No. 122 dated the 16th October, 1954 for export of butterflies. The Secretary-General, Indian Board for Wild Life has suggested that the following should be added :—

Irrespective of anything said in this Notification the Secretary-General will have the discretion to regulate or disallow the export of any particular species of butterflies which, in his opinion is rare, threatened with extinction or whose export is otherwise not desirable.

He has also proposed that the enforcement of this notification should be facilitated by preparing suitable charts :—

It is desirable to prepare about half a dozen small charts of the butterflies which are to be protected under Government Notification No. 122

dated 16th October, 1954, and to popularise the charts by hanging them at post offices, customs sheds and other suitable places. These charts would serve a double purpose. First, they will provide the customs and postal authorities some knowledge of the subject. Secondly, they will popularise natural history among the public.

The notification referred to read as follows:

TO BE PUBLISHED IN PART II, SECTION 3 OF THE GAZETTE  
OF INDIA, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (REVENUE DIVISION)  
NEW DELHI, THE 16TH OCTOBER, 1954.

NOTIFICATION.

Customs.

No. 122.—In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 19 of the Sea Customs Act (VIII of 1878), the Central Government hereby prohibits the taking by sea or by land out of India of butterflies, except when a consignment is accompanied by certificate from the Honorary Secretary General, Indian Board for Wild Life, 34 Chittaranjan Avenue, Calcutta-12, to the effect that the butterflies are being exported for scientific or educational purposes, or to a recognised private collector of butterflies.

Sd./—(E. RAJARAM RAO).

JOINT SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF INDIA.

The Board may consider the issue and make a suitable recommendation.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—The Board directed Dr. Roonwal to furnish a technical note in order to initiate further action.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10.—*Proposals for Wild Life Services.*

1. Shri K. S. Dharmakumarsinji has put forward the following plea for the establishment of separate wild life service.

As the endorsement of the Wild Life Protection Acts in the State forests and outside require much more personnel for its successful implementation, it is reasonable to suppose the establishment of a Wild Life service within the administrative control of the Forest Service. Alternatively to this, in areas where the returns of timber are of less importance or negligible, a separate Wild Life Service should take control of the areas selected for wild life and game and in areas where soil conservation is needed. The wild life service could be of immense assistance in areas where important species need protection.

*Sectt. Note.*—The Board may consider recommending to the States the suggestion to set up Wild Life Services and for its officers to be allowed to keep in touch with the work of the Board.

2. Association of wild life officers with the biennial meetings of the Indian Board for Wild Life. Proposed by Shri M. D. Chaturvedi.

*Sectt. Note.*—Some of the States e.g., Uttar Pradesh, have appointed special officers presumably for protection, conservation and management of wild life. It is considered that it would be of advantage to them in the discharge of their duties, if they could be afforded facilities to attend the meetings of the Board and thus keep abreast of the latest developments in the field of wild life.

The Board may resolve suitably to commend this suggestion to the State Governments. It will have to be indicated however, that the Board will be in no position to bear any expenses on this account. Presumably the officers will attend the proceedings of the Board only as observers.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—The Board recommended that the suggestion for the establishment of separate wild life services may be forwarded to the State Governments for such action as they may consider necessary and practicable. It was also recommended that the State Governments may be requested to permit the wild life officers (where there are such officers) to attend meetings of the Board particulars regarding which are usually furnished to States well in advance.

On the suggestion of the Chief Conservator of Forests, U.P., the Board agreed that the details of requirements of organisation for wild life preservation in the States could be usefully discussed by a sub-Committee. It was accordingly agreed that a sub-Committee of four, consisting of representatives of the Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh and the Director of Forests Education, Dehra Dun as convenor should go into this question and report to the Board at its next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11.—*Need for facilities for audio-visual education & Publicity.*

1. Audio-visual education especially of the vanishing species of our country : Explanatory note by the head of the Zoology Department, Calcutta University.

In the present set-up of education, the importance of audio-visual instruction cannot be overemphasized. The idea of preservation, conservation and importance of wild life especially of vanishing species, can be better brought home to our common people by some documentary film shows.

Documentary films on wild life may be prepared by Films Division of the Government under the advice and supervision of the Indian Board for Wild Life or State Board for Wild Life. Arrangements should be made periodically to show these films in schools and colleges and universities as well as in public cinema houses.

From the points of view of general education on wild life these will surely have great effect on the minds of people and students.

I understand a few such silent films are already available in our country. These may in the first instance, be purchased by the Government, and copies may be done from them and distributed to the States in the country. They may even be sold to interested parties, such as universities and colleges, forest divisions and tea gardens in order to educate the respective folks.

If the above principle is agreed upon I would suggest the formation of a committee which should discuss about the feasibility of producing such films, arranging available films for shows in schools, colleges (Zoology) and Universities (Zoology Departments), and further development of documentary films for audio-visual education.

2. Shri K. S. V. Raman, I.C.S., Chairman, Bihar Public Service Commission has also suggested preparation of documentary films of wild life in India, showing lives and habits of the important animals of our forests and the need for protecting them. Compulsory exhibition of such documentaries all over the country must be ensured.

3. Acquisition of latest 16 m.m. feature films and shots on wild life for propaganda purposes :—Explanatory note by Shri B. V. Ramanjulu, Madras Zoo :—

Much propaganda is necessary to rouse the enthusiasm of our people in the matter of affording protection to wild life. The Wild Life Week Celebrations throughout the country and focussing lot of attention, but it is felt that there is not enough material to do proper propaganda. Good feature films and shots on wild life with commentaries in regional languages will prove very popular in this behalf.

There are very few wild life enthusiasts who produce films on wild life in our country. Many such films are produced in other countries. The Indian Board for Wild Life will do well to acquire copies of different films from all over the world and maintain a wild life film library, and these films could be distributed to various State Boards in rotation for screening in the districts during the wild life week celebrations.

The Fauna Preservation Society maintains a big collection of wild life films, and we may seek their help in the matter of acquiring some of the following important films :—

1. "Kinship of the Creature"—The animals of East Africa, with a plea for their preservation. 20 minutes.
2. "Stronghold of the wild"—East African animals and the work of the game departments—35 minutes.
3. "Kazring—The Wild animals of the Kaziranga Sanctuary, Assam—12 minutes.
4. "Wild Life in Uganda"—12 minutes.
5. "Animals of Australia"—10 minutes.
6. "The African elephant"—10 minutes.
7. "Wild animals of the Indian jungles"—20 minutes.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—The Secretariat was directed to ascertain prices and other particulars for the information of State authorities, in order to enable them to consider acquiring such films.

Mr. Gee's offer to prepare film strips in the manner the Board may brief him to do, was gratefully noted.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12.—*Wild Life and dangers of radiation from atomic fall out :*

Condemning the misuse of atomic energy in the name of wild life protection and to request the Atomic Energy Commission and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources to take necessary steps for preventing this evil—Proposed by Shri B. V. Ramanjulu.

The position of wild life can never be safe unless the nuclear tests are stopped. We in India may think that we need not worry about this, but considering the biological hazards caused by the atomic fall out wild life will be the first to be wiped out soon. It has been established that radiation gives rise to the genetic hazards which affect future generations and does not show up for generations.

Radiation may first kill the insect life, which is the main food of most of the birds. Killing of insects and birds will seriously hamper vegetative reproduction which in turn will tell upon the lives of herbivorous animals. Thus the whole cycle of animal life gets terrifically and hopelessly upset.

Particularly this danger is not so imminent to our country, but considering the spread of this disastrous evil to all nations in course of time, we may record our protest against the nuclear test first on behalf of the wild life of India in particular and that of the world in general.

The International Union for Protection of Nature might have already been considering this problem, and we may support them by sending India's protest on behalf of the wild life.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—The item was discussed and the Board did not consider it necessary to record any resolution on the subject.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13.—*Training in Wild Life Preservation.*

A suggestion for setting up of a Central Institute imparting advance training in game preservation, is made by the Himachal Pradesh Government as follows :—

In order to raise the standard of knowledge of Game Preservation Officers in this country it is essential that they should have an advance course of training or refresher courses in Game Preservation on all India basis in some centralized Institute.

The training Institute may be located at such a place in India where facilities may be available to trainees for the study of varieties of wild life. The period of training may last six to nine months, courses of training may include ornithology, ecology management of Game sanctuaries, National Parks and Zoological Gardens on modern lines, practical training for the upkeep of various Birds and Animals in a Zoo, maintenance of Wild Life Museum, preliminary course in taxidermy, and other allied or special subjects.

This Institute shall be purely meant for imparting training to Game Wardens, Deputy Game Wardens or Game Preservation Officers and Game Rangers, and shall be more or less on the basis of Central Inland Fisheries Research Station, Barrakpur, Calcutta. Preliminary course of such training have already been included in the training course of Forest Officer at Dehra Dun, but forest Officers remain so busy with Forestry work that they can hardly utilise their knowledge for the Game Preservation which is purely a separate type of technical work. If such training Institute is opened certainly we can have better hands to organize Game Preservation work on sound footing in India. Such Institute when run and Game is conserved on scientific basis, this will attract scholars and tourists from other Asiatic countries for study and to see the preserved Wild Life in this country.

The Committee may consider it for suitable action.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—This item was discussed.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14.—*Settlement of tribes who make a living from destruction of wild life.*

Settlement of tribes living on bird catching and other Game animals on land (*e.g.*, Hakki Pikki tribe in Mysore). The C.C.F. Mysore has put forward his proposition as follows :

There is a bird catching tribe called the Hakki Pikki in parts of Mysore state who are in the habit of catching and destroying various kinds of game birds and other kinds of vermin on a large scale. Such destruction may cause the disappearance of one or two of our important game

birds especially of Partridges, Quail, etc. These bird catchers are a nomadic type who wander from place to place, live mostly on meat of any kind which they could get hold of and are thus believed to be the source of great destruction to our land birds. It is suggested that suitable steps be taken to make these people settle down to agriculture by granting them free land, bullocks, habitations etc. In this connection it is suggested that the Wild Life Committee for Mysore State should approach the Department of Social Welfare Organisation to take charge of this nomadic tribe and make them settle down by granting them the same concession as is given to our forest tribes like, Kurubers, Soligar, etc. Unless they are made to settle down in colonies and take up agriculture by granting them all the concessions required, it is difficult to wean them of this habit of catching birds.

*Sectt. Note.*—There are probably similar tribes in almost every other part of India. The Board may bring to the notice of State Governments, the desirability of rehabilitating such tribes in settled modes of livelihood.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—The Board felt that States were alive to the problem, e.g., Uttar Pradesh, Bombay and Madhya Pradesh, where such nomadic tribes were being suitably settled to the extent possible. Bombay had an Act also for the purpose. Other States might consider the question suitably according to local conditions.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 15.—*Game Laws and Rules in adjoining areas of different States.*

Drawing up of uniform set of game laws and rules for the adjoining States where wild life conditions are more or less similar. The C.C.F., Mysore has stated the proposition as follows :

It is a well known fact that our game laws and especially the rules framed thereunder are diversified. Each State has formed rules according to its own past tradition and convenience. Close and open seasons for game, open and spawning seasons for fish, licence fees, methods of obtaining, shooting and fishing licences and authorities from which they are obtained are often bewilderingly different. Even the animals classified under "Big Game", "Small Game" and "Vermin" are separate. This is a source of no small inconvenience and difficulty for the game lover and the genuine shikari. To quote a single instance, in some States a licence once taken holds good for a whole season or a year, while in another it may be valid for only half a month. The authority for issuing licences for weapons is different from the authority issuing shooting licences. There are, at present, perhaps six different sets of game rules in South India alone. It is suggested that this wild life meeting may bring this fact to the notice of the concerned authorities in the different States, and suggest to them the desirability of evolving a common set of shooting and game rules applicable to the whole region. If this be done, shikaries who wish to shoot will have to understand and remember one set of game rules and go about their shikars without difficulty. It is suggested that the evolving of the common set of rules should be taken up by the Regional Secretary of the South, Indian Board for Wild Life who may co-opt one or two sportsmen and one or two senior Forest Officers to assist him in this connection.

*Sectt. Note.*—It is not known if in practice this is such a general problem that the Board should deal with it on an All India level. Where such question arise the Regional Secretaries could probably have them satisfactorily dealt with.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—It was observed that this question had been dealt with by the Board suitably *vide* Govt. of India letter No. 5-7/56-IBWL, dated 11th July, 1956, addressed to State Governments of the Southern Region.

AGENDA ITEM No. 16.—*Financial resources for wild life conservation.*

Central Contribution for the maintenance of sanctuaries. The Government of Kerala has proposed as follows :—

The smallest State in the Indian Union—Kerala—With a land area of about 15,000 sq. miles is maintaining a Sanctuary of 300 sq. miles. This should be considered too big a sacrifice on the part of a thickly populated State like Kerala in having earmarked 300 sq. miles of the forest area when a sanctuary need not be more than 100 sq. miles and the balance area could have been used to develop plantations for feeding pulp and wood industries etc. The larger the area of the sanctuary, the more difficult it becomes for wild life conservation.

2. Revenue derived from Game licensees in Kerala is small and financing wild life protection from the above fund is of negligible value. No entrance fee to the Game Sanctuary is charged in the State. No license fee or duty on sporting arms and cartridges are collected. The revenue derived from fines imposed on illicit shooting cases is inappreciable in this State. The Government do not also make any collections during wild life week. Import duties on guns are ostensibly collected by the Government of India. There is thus inappreciable revenue in the State for the proper maintenance of the Sanctuary—Periyar—which is one of the most enchanting beauty spots in India.

3. The Indian Board for Wild Life has recommended that the catchment areas of Reservoirs may be declared as Game Sanctuaries. Accordingly under the Second Five Year Plan, it is proposed to constitute the catchment areas of Neyyar, Vazhani-cum-Peechi and Malampuzha Reservoirs into Game Sanctuaries. The implementation of these schemes would entail the additional burden of maintaining nearly another 150 sq. miles of area under Game Sanctuaries.

4. In the absence of definite and adequate funds, Wild Life Conservation would remain a pious wish. It is, therefore, suggested that with a view to finance the proper maintenance of the Game Sanctuaries, the Central Government may give adequate annual contributions to the State Governments. If necessary the Central Government may suggest uniform standards to the State Governments.

*Seckt. Note.*—In the Second Five Year Plan the centre has made a provision of 130 lakhs for assistance to States (and for a Zoo at Delhi) in their schemes for Wild Life Preservation. The assistance is limited to 50 per cent of non-recurring expenses States may incur in the establishment or development of Game Sanctuaries, National Parks, etc. Where States have not included any schemes for the purpose in their Second Plan, it will be open to them to take up new schemes with the prior approval of the Planning Commission, so long as they can plan for them within the plan ceilings already adopted.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—The Board suggested that the attention of the Kerala Government should be drawn to the previous resolution of the Board on the formation of "Abhayaranya", *i.e.*, wholly protected areas, inside wild life sanctuaries.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 17.—*Revision of Game Laws in respect of Bison.*

Suggestion to confine the shooting of bison only to those heads, tips of whose horns have a tendency to converge—Proposed by the C.C.F., Mysore.

It is often stated by Sportsmen that there are two varieties of Bison or at least there exist two tendencies in the development of horns of Bisons. They are (i) Bisons in which the tips of the horns recede from each other as the age of the animal advances and (ii) bisons in which the tips of the horns converge with increasing age of the animal. The former type is being sought after and shot off, for the reason that the quality of the trophy is considered superior if the distance between the horns is more. Animals with heads measuring 32 in. and above alone are permitted to be shot in parts of old Mysore State. This restriction has resulted in the depletion of the variety whose horns have tendency to diverge. There is little doubt also that heads with spreading horns look far more attractive than those with converging horns but the former are tending to disappear from some parts of the Deccan while they are getting more and more scarce in others. It is, therefore, suggested that some other character be earmarked to judge the quality of trophy rather than the distance between the horns. It is suggested that the girth at the base of the horn, *i.e.*, the point where the horn enters the animal's head be taken as the chief criterion for judging the quality of the trophy. Also, it is suggested that it should be laid down in the game Rules that animals with converging horns should be shot in preference to those of diverging horns provided, of course, that they are full grown as judged by the existence of at least 5 corrugations at the base of the horn.

*Secc. Note.*—As bisons occur outside the Southern Region also, the Board may consider this interesting issue generally.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—It was decided to refer the question to States for consideration and advice in the matter. It was felt, however, that the alternative of a minimum 18 in. girth at the base of the horn may also be adopted.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 18.—*Present status of the Musk Deer.*

1. With reference to the killing of Musk deer in the Indian Union—Shri K. S. Dharmakumarsinhji has proposed as follows:—

The Musk Deer *Moschus moschiferus* has been persecuted ever since man's demand for musk. The musk is found in a pod in the abdomen of the Musk Deer. For its extraction the Musk Deer has to be destroyed and its exploitation of its numbers far exceeds the numbers that are reared, thus causing a threat to the very existence of the species. Man appears to be its greatest enemy apart from birds of prey such as the Golden Eagle and predators like the snow leopard and lynx. At the IV Executive Meeting of the Indian Board for Wild Life held at Sasan the issue was discussed regarding putting a stop to the indiscriminate slaughter of the Musk Deer. After discussing different aspects of traders and their demands, it was understood that the large amount of trade in musk pods came from outside India into the Union. Moreover it was, therefore, difficult to ascertain whether the animals were killed in Indian territory or not. There is no doubt that a large number of musk deer are found in Indian Territory. There is no doubt that the trade causes a threat to the musk deer population. At last there is in view a possibility to stop the indiscriminate killing of this animal. Recently it has been discovered that musk can be

produced from a vegetable extract. This new discovery has been made by the National Chemical Laboratories at Poona. If this product can be substituted for the musk of the deer it is possible to prevent the slaughter of the animal and a complete ban on killing of Musk Deer could be imposed. The Board should seriously consider how it, would be possible to encourage the synthetic musk and afford protection to the Musk Deer.

2. The Himachal Pradesh Government has suggested prohibiting the sale of musk and its products for medical purpose except through authorised persons and under a licence permitting possession and sale. The suggestion is, further explained:—

Musk Deer is prized much for its musk by commercial enterprizers with the result that this species is being poached and slaughtered for commercial gain in spite of the fact that this species is protected throughout the year in this State. It is at the verge of extinction in this State and it is presumed that the same is the state of affair prevailing in other parts of this country where it is found in little number.

Therefore in order to afford better protection to this species, it is proposed that possession and sale of Musk (raw) or in any form should be prohibited throughout India except under a licence or purchased from a licensee for medical purposes. The Government of India may be moved to take necessary steps.

3. *Sectt. Note.*—The need for preventing uncontrolled destruction of the musk deer has been discussed in previous meeting. It is understood that a considerable part of the trade in musk is for export purposes. It would be for consideration of the Board if it should bring the musk deer under the purview of one or other of the notifications (173—175) under the Sea Customs Act restricting exports, internal restrictions on internal trade are proposed. The Board may also seek full particulars about the new vegetable substitute reported, with a view to giving due publicity to it.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—The Board directed that enquiries may be made suitably from Europe, America and the recently set up Indian Ayurvedic Board regarding synthetic or vegetable substitutes for musk, so that these could be developed and the inducement for killing the musk deer thus reduced.

#### AGENDA ITEM NO. 19.—*Protection for Black Buck and Chinkara.*

Shri K. S. Dharmakumarsinhji has proposed the establishment of a sanctuary for Black Buck and explained the need as follows:—

The Black Buck population owing to its thriving in open country has been reduced by indiscriminate slaughter and encroachment by man of its natural habitat. The Black Buck is an animal which thrives on large herbs and once its population is reduced to small numbers the species can easily be extinguished. Sufficiently large areas established as sanctuaries in suitable localities of the Indian Union should be set aside for the Black Buck and Chinkara whose number are dwindling.

2. H.H. the Maharajah of Baroda has also proposed that immediate steps should be taken to save the Chinkara or Indian gazelle from extinction:—

The handsome gazelle, above any other species of game, is threatened with immediate extinction. Distributed at one time in large numbers over a large area of North Western and Central India, extending Southwards

across the Deccan to a Little South of the Krishna River, but now almost extinct in very large areas of its former range. The gazelle requires full protection over the entire country for a period of not less than five years. Nowhere it is found in sufficient numbers as to be a menace to the cultivator. I believe a suitable site for a Chinkara Sanctuary would be the Bikaner area of Rajasthan. Copy of a printed note on the Black Buck by these members is also attached. (Enclosure 'I').

*Recommendation of the Board.*—The Board was informed that in some States like Madras and Mysore the Black Buck was already fully protected. It was, however, felt that States should be requested to extend wherever such was not the case at present, complete protection to these two animals.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 20.—*Status of the Cheetah.*

1. Importing wild cheetahs from Africa for introduction in Andamans — Proposed by Shri B. V. Ramanjulu as follows:—

It is reported that the deer population in the Andamans is increasing by leaps and bounds as there are no natural predators. There is a need for introducing natural predators to manage the game.

The Indian Board for Wild Life has been considering the question of introducing cheetahs in the Indian Forests as a measure of species' resuscitation. But there are various points, ecological, which come in conflict with such activities. As there are not many other predators and as there is plenty of food for the cheetahs, they may be first introduced in these Andaman islands as an experiment, and if the species multiplies quite well we may remove some for introducing in the forests of the mainland.

2. The Indian Cheetah—Proposed by Shri K. S. Dharmakumarsinhji.

It is believed that the Indian Cheetah has now become extinct. But there is a remote possibility of its existing in certain areas of the Indian Union. Quite a number of years ago some male cheetahs, presumably a litter, were shot accidentally in the erstwhile Korea State. Although the action was duly condemned, there was no further investigation regarding the existence of the Cheetah in that area. A survey therefore should be made in such areas as may likely contain the Indian cheetah and if found surviving, proper protection should be afforded to it.

*Sectt. Note.*—Shri Ramanjulu has mentioned the need for taking ecological relationships into consideration and has yet suggested the Andamans. The Cheetah is generally associated with dry tracts and open countryside. The Andamans have a wet climate and are characterised by dense forests.

The Board could consider, however, the principle involved of importing of animals for the purpose of introduction into the 'Wild Life of India'—and advise suitably.

The suggestion for a survey of likely areas for the last surviving specimens of the Indian Cheetah should be welcome but before recommending it to the States, the Board may have to consider how this can be attempted without involving heavy expenditure.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—It was suggested from the Chair that forest officers and others all over the country should be requested to undertake surveys of their areas and report on the existence of the cheetah anywhere in the country.

It was agreed that leopards should be preferred for introduction into the Andamans to cheetahs, if at all this method of keeping down the deer population was to be adopted.

The cheetah could be best helped to re-establish itself in the country, perhaps only by reproduction first in captivity, after securing a few specimens from Africa.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 21.—*Present Status of crocodiles in India.*

1. Shri Dharmakumarsinhji points out that all the three species of Crocodiles found in India are becoming scarce. *Porosus* is a man eating variety and therefore cannot be encouraged and yet specimens should be preserved in Zoological Gardens. *Gavialis* is a fish eater and is not harmful to man and hence can be preserved in certain waters where it should be allowed to increase. It is a typical Indian Crocodilians which has its origin in the prehistoric Crocodilians of the world. *Palustris* is the common Muggar which has of recent years been indiscriminately persecuted and reduced to extinction in some areas. Its wholesale slaughter is a threat to this species and the Board may consider giving protection to the species in certain lakes where they can be studied by people and Naturalists.

2. Referring to *Crocodilus palustris* H. H. the Maharajah of Baroda points out that it is time the Board took note of the fact that the crocodile is fast disappearing from our rivers and lakes. The rate of decrease is so great and the reduction in number so drastic that immediate action has to be taken if the destruction now going on is not to reach a point from which recovery will be impossible. For example, the crocodile has almost totally disappeared from the rivers of Bombay State: in Rajasthan, it has been so ruthlessly exploited that in waters where it once existed in large numbers, the crocodile has become a rarity. From what one hears, matters cannot be much different in any of the other States. It can therefore, be safely asserted that if immediate protection is not given, the crocodile will be entirely exterminated in this sub-continent at no distant date.

The fact that, unfortunately for the victim, the crocodile hide produces the best type of leather has been the main cause of this wholesale destruction. Commercial exploitation by the traders, directly encouraged by the Government by way of contracts and licences, has to be stopped if the crocodile is not to be wiped out of existence in India. Our lack of exact knowledge of the crocodile's ecology and its relation to natural biological economy has produced a callousness of attitude to the crocodile, which will spell its doom. It seems to be a widely held view that the Crocodile is a voracious feeder, that its main item of diet is fish, that it is destructive to edible fish and that therefore it is to be destroyed wherever found. Whatever knowledge has been gained by the study of the crocodile in the protected areas in the East and Central Africa has shown up the fallacies people are labouring under. In fact a study of the dietary habits of crocodiles at the various stages in their growth has shown that the crocodile is useful to fresh-water fisheries by keeping down the number of predatory, inedible fish, water-beetles, fresh water crabs, others and other predators which prey on fish, fry, and eggs; indeed, in waters from which the crocodile has disappeared, edible fish has also vanished owing to the increase in the number of predators which were formerly kept in check by their natural enemy. It appears then, that before man took a hand in the destruction of the crocodile the natural balance was being maintained by the otters lizards and birds feeding on

the crocodile's eggs, and by the crocodile in turn keeping a check on the number of these predators. But with the entry of man into the field of destruction, the scales are heavily weighed against the crocodile. The cupidity of the traders looking for immediate gain and the destruction of the young crocodiles before they have reached sexual maturity—at a stage when they cannot reproduce their own species—cannot be viewed except with alarm. Provided that this kind of commercialised slaughter is stopped immediately, it is not, even now, too late to let the crocodile recover its natural status in the biological economy. It is imperative, therefore, that no further reduction in number should be countenanced. All commercial licences should be cancelled forthwith, and the crocodile should be given complete protection for at least a period of 10 to 15 years.

If crocodiles are protected and preserved in our waters, our fresh-water fisheries will improve. But of course this can be contemplated, only after we have stopped further destruction and after the crocodile has multiplied at its normal rate and regained its position. Creation of lake sanctuaries and protection of crocodiles in the rivers where they have normally lived and multiplied till now are some of the methods which can be adopted to achieve our ends.

Apart from all these considerations, it will be a great loss to science if such an important link with the past is cut for ever by the complete destruction of the crocodile which has been in existence for millions of years and which has come down to us as one of the earliest forms of reptiles which existed perhaps a hundred million years before man made his appearance on the face of this earth.

*Sectt. Note.*—The Crocodile furnishes a useful commodity for export. In the absence of any data in support of the alleged rapid decrease in its numbers, it has been difficult to satisfy the Export control authorities (especially in view of the present impetus from Government for export promotion) that restrictions on this item are imperative.

The Board may consider the question in all its aspects and adopt a suitable recommendation.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—In continuation of the discussion on the subject under Agenda Item No. 8 the Commerce Ministry's view for the need for export promotion was presented. The memorandum of the Trade indicating size limits already voluntarily adopted by them was also brought to the notice of the Board. The Board, however, felt that as a Body responsible for the preservation of wild life in the country it could not agree to any relaxation from a total ban even temporarily. It was, however, agreed that the Secretary-General might obtain particulars of existing stocks of skins, allowing a very short period within which to declare such stocks, with a view to permitting exports of such stocks only.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 22.—*Present status of the Kashmir stag.*

Need for preservation of Kashmir Stag (*Cervus Hanglu*) in Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department J. & K. has brought this subject to the notice of the Board, in the following note:—

The Kashmir Stag is perhaps found only in Kashmir and it is feared that it may not become extinct. Before the raid in 1947 A.D. it was found in large numbers not only in its famous Dachigam Sanctuary but also in other Reserves and Sanctuaries.

Due to its great venison value it is poached regularly. Although Dachigam Sanctuary is over 50 sq. miles but the Kashmir Stag migrates to distant cooler regions outside the sanctuary in search of food. After shedding its antlers in April-May it avoids flies as they cause irritation to the succulent new antlers and as a consequence is forced to move with the snowline.

During its stay in Dachigam sanctuary from October to April it moves out of the sanctuary also in adjoining areas in search of salt earth near Balhma and hay stacks. The renowned poachers live in adjoining villages and quickly shoot them whenever they get a chance.

Before raid very few people were given gun possession licences in Kashmir Province and after that every body could possess a gun if he so liked. As a result the number of guns has increased enormously.

In the areas where Kashmir Stag migrates in Summer the nomadic goatiers (known as Bakarwals) play a havoc with this animal as there is no staff to watch their nefarious activities.

It is therefore clear that the protection of this majestic deer is as important outside the sanctuaries and Reserves as it is inside.

The State Board for Wild Life was constituted *vide* Government Order No. 1269/C, dated 14th September, 1954 since then we have had three meetings but have been debating much on the preservation of Kashmir Stag. According to the recommendations of the Board the Game Act has been amended to improve the law so that prosecution of offenders in Law Courts improves. In the past when venison with skin etc. was caught from poachers, the cases used to fail in Law Courts as this item did not exist in the definition of the word "Game" in the State Game Act.

Now other rules also by which we can tighten the control are under the scrutiny of the Sub-Committee of the State Board for Wild Life and these will be passed in the coming meeting of the State Board for Wild Life. To give a start to improvements to the State Board for Wild Life declared Kashmir Stag as a protected animal and also suggested taking away of guns from all residents of villages which are situated within 5 miles from important Kashmir Stag Sanctuaries and Game Reserves in Kashmir Valley in the first instance in the hibernation period of black bears from December to March.

The public got gun licences for crop protection and in order not to arouse public feeling too much against us it was considered to take this step in the hibernation period of black bear only when due to winter there are no crops and black bears also hibernate. This will be implemented as soon as suitable opportunity comes without arousing public feelings.

This deer dies in large numbers from Rinderpest as in the night time it comes to graze in the village grazing grounds and when rinder-pest is in epidemic form in the village it cannot escape, its on-slaughter. In high level grazing grounds the goatiers are there and so there also it gets infection. This year many goats of migratory goatiers died during their upward movement in May-June and so this year reaction on Kashmir Stag is yet to be known.

We intend to have annual census figures to watch improvement also.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—It was explained by the Jammu and Kashmir representative that recent difficulties in the protection of the Kashmir Stag were largely due to the military personnel encamped there. The attention of States would be drawn to the general circular issued earlier by the Heads of Services on the request of the Board so that State may approach local military authorities suitably and secure their co-operation in wild life protection in areas frequented by military personnel.

AGENDA ITEM No. 23.—*Status of the four-horned antelope.*

Suggestion to place the four-horned antelope in the list of fully protected animals. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Mysore has proposed that this animal is becoming extinct in his parts and has recommended as follows:—

It is stated, that a four-horned antelope was recently shot in Chamarnagar State Forest. Such antelopes are very rare. It is desirable that they should be allowed to multiply without hindrance as they are probably a distinct race or at least a separate gene. It is proposed, therefore, to class the four-horned antelope among the fully protected animals in the State of Mysore, Kerala, Madras and Andhra.

*Sectt. Note.*—The Board may consider if the four-horned antelope should be added to the list of rare animals requiring total protection only over a restricted area as proposed or generally all over the country.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—The Board recommended especially to the Southern States for total protection to be accorded to this species.

AGENDA ITEM No. 24.—*Disposal of Wild Dogs.*

Wild Dog population—Shri K. S. Dharmakumarsinhji states:—

It is admitted by most wild life conservationists that the Indian Wild Dog is the most destructive predator in the forest and is responsible for the destruction of large number of Game species such as deer. There is no doubt that deer population in areas where the wild dog is found, has been considerably reduced and therefore an organised campaign to destroy the wild dog should be taken up for the preservation of the deer. Methods for the destruction of the wild dogs may also be suggested.

*Sectt. Note.*—In some States inducements (by way of rewards) are offered to shikaries for destruction of wild dogs. In Periyar Sanctuary, it is one of the functions of the Wild Life Officer to destroy Wild dogs in the area. The Board may recommend suitably on ways and means to keep down (if not eliminate) the numbers of wild dogs in our forests.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—The subject was discussed and it was agreed that the *status quo* might continue.

AGENDA ITEM No. 25.—*Status of the bear and the panther.*

1. Suggestion for removal of bear from the list of game animals and classifying it among the vermin.

2. Suggestion for removal of panther from the list of game animals in several States of South India. Putting forward these suggestions, the C.C.F., Mysore has observed as follows:—

The South Indian Bear is one of our very common animals especially in the drier tracts of South India. It inhabits rocky hills breeds and

multiplies profusely, attacks men unprovoked and under certain circumstances can be very dangerous to human life, and also causes loss of property. This animal has been classified under game and especially under big game in some of the States. Hunting this animal does not provide much of the thrill associated with the hunting of other animals which have been classified as big game. There seems to be no danger of the disappearance of the South Indian Bear as far as the writer is aware in any part of the hilly portions of South India. Of course, in localities where human population is very dense and there are no hills, bears are also absent because they have absolutely no cover. Perhaps they were never found in such places. It is, therefore, recommended that the South Indian Bear be deleted from the list of game animals and classed along with vermin.

2. Panther continued to be classed among vermin for a long time. This carnivore though classed and mentioned along with the tiger far outmatches that animal in alertness in its cunning, capacity of hiding under the most meagre cover, etc. It is also more widespread than the tiger. As a cattle lifter and man eater, it is far more dangerous than the tiger.

There is not adequate reliable evidence to prove that the population of the Panther has been rapidly decreasing in important parts of South India. It is, therefore, suggested that as in the case of bear the panther may be classed among vermin except in those areas where there is positive evidence of this animal losing in population.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—The subject was discussed in some detail. It was agreed that this would be a matter for local action in the State concerned.

AGENDA ITEM No. 26.—*Future of the Delhi Ridge.*

Declaring the Ridge in Delhi to be sanctuary—Proposed by Delhi Bird Watching Society and Soil Conservation Officer, Delhi.

The only forest area around Delhi is Ridge. If this area is declared a sanctuary and provision is made for storing of water, especially in summer, in this area it will attract wild life. Probably some wild animals like deer, hare etc. may be released so that it will become a very attractive area for the people of Delhi to take advantage of.

*Sectt. Note.*—That this is very much to be desired would be beyond question. How far wild life, especially animals like deer, can be effectively protected and maintained in the midst of the large population all around would be a matter for earnest consideration, before the subject is remitted to the Delhi State Government for consideration and necessary action.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—It was agreed that the suggestion may be communicated to the State Government with the advice that the scenic attraction of the ridge might be developed.

AGENDA ITEM No. 27.—*Wild Life Pictorial Map of India.*

Bringing out of a Wall Map depicting pictorially the Wild Life of India through a good publisher—suggested by the President, Wild Life Club, Forest Research Institute and Colleges, Dehra Dun.

This map has been prepared under the personal direction of Shri P. D. Stracey and will be sent to the meeting. It is suggested that in order

to encourage interest in wild life in the schools of India that this map be brought out in mass production form at as cheap a rate as possible. The Wild Life Club of the Forest Research Institute and Colleges, would be glad to have some royalty per map sold.

*Sectt. Note.*—A pictorial map showing the incidence of wild life in India was prepared under the guidance of the Secretary-General and published by M/s. Chandy Charan Das & Co., 150, Dharmatala Street, Calcutta. This map is on sale to the public at Rs. 6-2-0 per copy. The map now prepared by the Wild Life Club is artistically more pleasing but not otherwise very different from the map already published. As copies are still reported to be available for sale, the Board may consider advising that the publication of the new map may be deferred.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—The pictorial map proposed by the Wild Life Club of Dehra Dun was appreciated. In view of the facts that copies of similar map were still available and that the Zoological Survey of India has also under preparation a Zoological atlas, it was felt that the reproduction of this might be deferred. The President of the Club withdrew the map for making other arrangements.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 28.—*Travel facilities for Honorary Regional Secretaries.*

The Honorary Regional Secretaries proposal for grant of free Railway passes for their regions—Proposed by Shri K. S. Dharmakumarsinhji.

In view of high cost of living and owing to the larger regions in which the Honorary Regional Secretaries are expected to deal with it should not be too much if they are given free Railway passes for their respective regions in order to enable them to assess the Wild Life position in important areas. The Executive Committee may consider the feasibility of allowing such facility.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—The Board recommended that the States could usefully make the Regional Secretaries as members of the State Boards. The Board also recommended that periodical visits to the States by Regional Secretaries would be useful and that for any journeys of regional secretaries at the invitation of States the travel expenses might be borne by the latter.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 29.—*Acknowledgement of Shri Y. Rama Rao's services to the Board.*

Shri V. R. G. K. M. Prasad, Member, Indian Board for Wild Life has proposed as follows:—

It is painful to know that Shri Y. Rama Rao has left the Board. The Board is what it is today because of his indefatigable efforts and energies. He has nourished and nurtured the Board from its very inception and gave it strength and stability. Not only he laid the foundations of the Board well and firm but built up an edifice which the members can look at with pride and satisfaction.

Every meeting and every conference, every bulletin and every pamphlet of the Board had the imprint of Shri Rama Rao. The Board may acknowledge with thanks the great services rendered by Shri Rama Rao

to this Institution and convey to him the Board's appreciation of his invaluable services.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—The Board agreed to record its appreciation.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 30.—*Administration of the Indian Board for Wild Life.*

Review of the Administration of the Indian Board for Wild Life—Need for additional staff—Proposed by Shri E. P. Gee, as follows :—

At the Sasan Gir Meeting in January, 1956 it was admitted that there was an average weekly incoming of 200 letters dealing with wild life in India. In addition to this there are reports and returns to be compiled and a considerable amount of various types of works to be done. At present letters to the Secretary are often not answered, probably due to the fact that he is also engaged on other work. It is an anomaly that certain States of the Indian Union have been able to appoint whole-time officers for the preservation of wild life but that the Central Government has not been able to create a single whole-time knowledgeable officer for this important work.

*Sectt. Note.*—It is expected that an additional Deputy Inspector General of Forests will be in position shortly. This strengthening of the Inspector General of Forests' organisation will, it is expected, help to meet the requirements indicated here.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—The item was discussed and the Inspector General of Forests indicated that efforts would be made at an opportune time to secure for the Board a whole-time officer in the Secretariat of the Board.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 31.—*Information tables for National Parks, Reserves etc.*—Proposed by Shri E. P. Gee.

Seasonal, climatic, ecological and other conditions vary so much, even from place to place in the same country, that some system of tabulating information as to the times of the year when suitable conditions may be encountered for particular objectives becomes desirable.

Nearly everyone is familiar with the seasonal and climatic variations of the country, or at least the region, in which he has resided for some time. But a visitor from Europe or North America can be very little aware of the changing conditions, from region to region of countries in Africa and Asia, and *vice versa*.

In many parts of Africa and Asia there are one or more rainy seasons during which some of the parks/reserves become quite inaccessible. These rainy seasons are often preceded by dry, hot and dusty periods, to be followed by spring-like or summer-like conditions. Even if the seasonal and climatic conditions of a given region or country could be fully ascertained in advance, there are many other conditions which are not altogether dependent on seasons and climate, but which vary according to altitude, existence or otherwise of water, types of terrain and vegetation, migrations of certain species of wild life and so on.

Accordingly it is suggested that a Table be drawn up for each park/reserve, giving such general information as to show the months of the year in which visitors with varied interests can visit and also such visits can be successfully planned by persons from far-away countries without frustration, disappointment and unnecessary expenses.

At first sight it might appear that there would be a danger of too much crowding of visitors during the months which are shown on the Table to be the most suitable months for a visit. In actual experience, however, exactly the opposite is the result. For by studying the appropriate Table beforehand visitors would see at a glance that certain months are more popular with the general public, and they themselves could avoid these rush months—especially if certain other months are favourable for particular objectives and individual interests.

For instance some national parks in South Africa are very crowded during certain school holiday periods. A careful study of Tables giving information about these parks would reveal that this crowded season could be avoided, with entirely satisfactory results. Again the crowded vacation season fills some of the national parks of North America during the months of July and August, while June and September are almost as good but very much less crowded and the best months for photography of wild animals in them are actually April and October.

Particular items can be shown in the Tables for persons with special interests, *e.g.*, the flowering times of lower and higher altitude flowers, autumnal colours, best months for fishing in rivers and in lakes, best months for mountaineering and so on. As these times often differ from those which attract the greater holiday crowds, there would be a wider selection of months resulting in less crowding and less disappointment for persons with special interests. The information contained in these Tables will be of benefit both those with scientific or specialised interests as well as to the general public.

Thus, far from resulting in overcrowding during the rush months, such Tables would actually produce a levelling-out effect, both to the benefit of the park/reserve administration and to the visitors themselves. Many other questions affecting personal clothing to be worn, equipment to be taken and so on can be effectively and concisely answered in such a Table.

In the first place, a separate Table is necessary for each park/reserve, to be drawn up by the administrative officer and those best acquainted with local conditions. Then a comprehensive Table showing the parks/reserves of a country, preferably region by region, giving monthly index figures only, could be made thus enabling visitors to plan beforehand a tour to include several places in the order in which the most favourable conditions for their particular objective could be found. If such Tables could be internationally accepted and standardised, considerable advantage would result.

A Table for a park/reserve, once made, need not remain as a rigid and permanent fixture; amendments and modifications can be made after a study both of human and of wild life interests. In cases where disturbances by visitors might be harmful, such as the breeding seasons and localities of rare species, this item or information could be excluded from the Table. Improvements in all-weather roads and accommodation may enable an upgrading of a low-indexed month to a higher rating to be made.

Two specimen Tables are given: (i) a Table for Kaziranga Sanctuary in India, with which the writer has been closely associated for over thirty years. (ii) a comprehensive Table for the whole of India showing the chief wild life reserves region by region.

*Best Months of the Year for Visitors of Kaziranga Sanctuary, Assam*  
(Altitude 250 feet above sea level. Annual rainfall 80 in.)

Months	Index	Weather	Temperature		Remarks
			Max.	Min.	
January ..	4	Fine, cool	75	45	Early morning mists. Dry. Afternoon visits better.
February ..	5	Fine, cool	80	55	Grass being burnt off. Best time.
March ..	5	Fine, cool	85	60	Grass burnt off. Best time.
April ..	4	Showers, warm	90	65	New grass growing up. Good time.
May ..	3	Rains	95	70	Conditions uncertain. Alright if dry.
June ..	2	Rains	95	75	Only small areas of Sanctuary may be visited, where a few rhinos graze.
July ..	2	Rains	95	75	Do.
August ..	2	Rains	95	75	Do.
September	2	Rains	95	75	Do.
October ..	3	Rains	90	65	Do. Improving
November	4	Fine, cool	85	50	Swamps foggy, grass high in places improving.
December	4	Fine, cool	75	50	Early morning mists. Drier. Afternoon visits better.

Key to Index Numbers :

5. Best time of all.
4. Nearly as good.
3. Alright, but less good.
2. Possible, not fully recommended.
1. Just possible at times, not recommended.
0. Impossible, or not allowed, or closed.

A TABLE SHOWING THE BEST MONTHS OF THE YEAR FOR VISITING INDIA'S WILD LIFE RESERVES

Month	Kaziranga	North Kamrup	Jaldapara	Corbett Park	Rajaji	Kashmir	Kulu	Nanda Devi	Gir Forest	Keolandeo Ghana	Shivpuri	Kanha	Taroba	Seringapatam	Bandipur	Mudumalai	Vedanthangal	Periyar Lake
January	.. 4	5	4	3	4	0	0	0	5	3	4	3	4	1	4	4	5	5
February	.. 5	5	5	4	5	0	0	0	5	3	4	4	5	1	4	4	5	5
March	.. 5	5	5	5	5	2	2	3	5	1	3	4	5	1	4	4	5	5
April	.. 4	3	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	1	3	5	5	1	5	5	4	4
May	.. 3	2	2	4	5	5	5	5	5	1	3	5	5	2	5	5	3	4
June	.. 2	0	0	0	5	5	5	5	3	1	3	4	5	4	5	5	2	3
July	.. 2	0	0	0	1	5	5	4	1	3	4	1	2	5	4	4	2	2
August	.. 2	0	0	0	1	5	5	4	1	5	4	0	2	5	3	3	1	2
September	.. 2	0	0	0	1	5	5	4	1	5	4	0	2	5	3	3	1	2
October	.. 3	0	0	0	2	4	3	3	2	5	5	0	2	4	3	3	2	2
November	.. 4	3	2	0	3	2	1	2	3	3	4	1	3	1	2	3	4	3
December	.. 4	5	3	2	4	0	0	0	4	3	4	3	4	1	3	3	5	4

Key : 5. Best time of all.  
 4. Nearly as good.  
 3. Alright, but less good.  
 2. Possible, but not fully recommended.  
 1. Just possible at times, not recommended.  
 0. Impossible, or not allowed, or closed.

**Recommendation of the Board :-**

The Board agreed to recommend the suggestion to the States for implementation,

AGENDA ITEM NO. 32.—*Wild Life Survey and Census.*

Shri Dharmakumarsinhji has proposed as follows :—

At the meeting of the Executive Committee held at Periyar in January, 1957, the Chairman of the Indian Board for Wild Life suggested that a Committee comprising the Honorary Regional Secretaries, the Inspector General of Forests or his nominee and the Chief Conservator of Forests of the State concerned should be formed for the survey of National Parks and sanctuaries in various States for assessing the wild life situation and progress of the Sanctuaries of the States. The importance of forming such a survey Committee is of much importance when our wild life and game resources are diminishing in the country.

Whereas State Governments are doing active propaganda for the protection of wild life, the position of the big game species on the whole is deteriorating so as to cause considerable alarm. At present State Governments do not know the density of big game populations found in their forests, and hence it is desirable to organise wild Game Censuses in suitable localities and especially in State Parks and Sanctuaries in which the Union Government is providing subsidy. The Indian Board for Wild Life has prepared a comprehensive booklet for carrying out Big Game Censuses and this booklet should be taken as a guide by all Forest Departments for carrying out census work. An officer from the Centre may be deputed to assist and advise on how the censuses could be organised if necessary.

*Sectt. Note* :—(i) The recorded recommendation of the Periyar meeting, *vide* Appendix III (Pp. 153—162) of the printed proceedings do not include any reference to the Committee referred here. The Board may, however, consider the suggestion and advise.

(ii) A book on Wild Life Census compiled by Shri Dharmakumarsinhji is in the press and it is expected that copies will be made available to all concerned in the near future.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—It was agreed that the publication in hand should be entitled "Field Guide to Big Game Census".

#### Agenda for the Bird Wing Meeting

AGENDA ITEM NO. 33.—*Action taken on the recommendations of the second meeting of the Bird Wing of the Indian Board for Wild Life held at Bombay in March, 1956—Secretary's Report.*

Item No. 2.—*Flamingo Breeding Grounds.*

Necessary arrangements for Dr. Biswas to visit these breeding grounds—incidentally to any other work he may have in western region, have been made through the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research.

Item No. 3.—*The Great Indian Bustard.*

The State Governments were addressed to let us know the present position of Great Indian Bustard in their territories and also to declare the bird a protected one. The State Governments comments on the subject are as follows :—

*Bombay.*—The bird is completely protected and not at the verge of extinction in their territory.

*Mysore.*—The bird has been declared as a prohibited species for shooting and killing.

The bird is reported as not occurring in Madras, Tripura, Andaman, Manipur, West Bengal, Bihar, Delhi, U.P., Kerala, Assam and Orissa.

No information has as yet been received from the other States.

Shri Dharmakumarsinhji has written a note on the ecology of Great Indian Bustard which is proposed to be published in the Journal of Zoological Society of India.

Item No. 4.—*Pink Headed Duck.*

Coloured illustrations of the pink headed duck along with other similar birds were passed on by Dr. Biswas to the Chief Conservators of Forests, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam and Orissa as also to well-known naturalists in that area along with a questionnaire for ascertaining if any live specimens existed in these areas. No report about the existence of this bird has, however, been received so far.

Item No. 5.—*Protection of white winged wood duck.*

The Government of Assam and the Zoological Survey of India were requested to enquire into the present status of white winged wood duck. In response the Zoological Survey of India promised to render all assistance in the matter to the Government of Assam, and also to undertake a survey of Assam during 1956 itself for the purpose. Further reports in this regard are awaited.

Item No. 6 & 9.—*Protection of wild ducks and Bag limits on Game Birds.*

Dr. Biswas has been requested to prepare a note regarding protection of wild ducks and bag limit on game birds, so that it may be circulated to State Governments/Game Associations for their comments. The note is awaited.

Item No. 7.—*Golden Eagle—Protection of.*

Item No. 8.—*Protection of peacock and peahen.*

No further action appeared to be called for.

Item No. 10.—*Red Munias—Ban on export during breeding season.*

The recommendation was commended to all State Governments for implementation specifying the breeding period of red munias as June to March. In response comments from Madhya Pradesh, Bombay, Kerala, Tripura, West Bengal, Punjab, Madras, Bihar and Orissa only were received. All these State Governments except Tripura and Orissa where the bird does not occur have either agreed to implement the recommendation or reported the bird as already duly protected.

Item No. 11.—*Collection of bird-specimens.*

No further action appeared to be called for.

Item No. 12.—*Migratory Water birds—Preservation of Eggs.*

The recommendation was brought to the notice of the Chief Conservator of Forests of Jammu and Kashmir.

Item No. 13.—*Official list of Indian Birds—Compilation.*

Item No. 14.—*Exchange of resident game birds.*

Item No. 15.—*Central organisation for distribution and exchange of bird wealth.*

Item No. 16.—*Reservoirs under River Valley Schemes—Constitution of Protected areas for birds.*

Item No. 17.—*Keoladeo Ghana.*

No further action appeared to be called for.

Item No. 18.—*Bird Life—Publicity.*

The agricultural Extension Adviser who was contacted in the matter welcomed the proposal for inclusion of a short course on bird life in the training of Village Level Workers and he requested for the supply of suitable books and lecture notes for this purpose. Accordingly the question of preparing lecture notes or a book in a popular style on this topic was taken up with the Bombay Natural History Society. Director, Zoological Survey of India, Shri M. Krishnan, Shri P. D. Stracey, Shri E. P. Gee, Dr. Roonwal, Secretary-General, Indian Board for Wild Life and Dr. B. Biswas but nothing positive has emerged upto date. It has, however, been decided to have a book prepared by Shri M. Krishnan, on the commoner birds of peninsular India, in the first instance. Various details and the outline of the book have already been settled also, and it is hoped the Board will soon be in a position to bring this out as a companion volume to the book on our animals now under publication.

Item No. 19.—*Bird Sanctuaries—Illustrated brochures.*

The recommendation of the Wing was commended to State Governments for implementation. In response almost all States (of those who have responded) have agreed with the proposal in principle. The Governments of Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, Andamans, Delhi, Bombay and Punjab have, as yet, no Game Sanctuary or National Park in their territory (information furnished in 1956) and the recommendation will be implemented when any bird sanctuary is constituted. The Governments of Manipur, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Kerala, and Orissa have promised to do the needful in due course. The Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Madras, West Bengal and Mysore have already issued brochures as suggested. The Board may draw the special attention of Rajasthan Government to do so in respect of the Keoladeo Ghana near Bharatpur.

Item No. 21.—*Bird Wing—Review of the composition of.*

No action called for.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—The Secretary's report was formally approved.

Item No. 34.—*Declaring the closed season for shooting of birds from 1st April to 15th October—Proposed by Forest Department, Bombay.*

In the inaugural session of the Indian Board for Wild Life held at Mysore from 25th November to 1st December, 1952, it was recommended that in order to observe the uniformity in all States in respect of the close-season, the period from 1st April to 30th September may be prescribed as close season for all practical purposes.

The close-season for wild animals and wild birds depends upon the season at which they actually breed and there is considerable variation not only in different species but also in different States. In order therefore, to cover the breeding season of most of the animals and birds, the period from 1st April to 30th September, has been declared as close-season in whole of the *ex-Bombay State* under the Bombay Wild Animals and Wild Birds Protection Act, of *ex-Bombay State*.

However, on reconsideration of the present close-season, it is felt that it would be better if this close-season is extended further up to 15 October. It is now certain that the Wild Life Week is to be celebrated in the first week of October every year throughout the Indian Union though State Governments have been given discretion to observe the same at a time suitable to them. Apart from the celebrations of the State Wild Life Week, we have got to give due consideration to the All-India Wild Life Week celebrations in the 1st week of October. It is not proper to issue game licences during such periods or immediately after the week is over. The second week of October can be left free to consider applications for game licences and the shooting season can commence comfortably from 16 October. It will help us avoiding the probable resentment from the sportsmen towards the request for a lay-down of arms during the All-India Week and will facilitate to observe the sanctity of the wild life preservation by not utilising the guns during the Week and immediately after it. In view of this if the closure is extended up to 15th October, it will help to avoid any resentment from the sportsmen to lay down arms in open season. It would also be possible to observe the sanctity of wild life preservation by not utilising the guns during the close-season, and to observe the Wild Life Week in its true spirit.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—The Board considered this question and recommended that the Wild Life Week may continue to be celebrated in the 1st week of October every year as done hitherto.

AGENDA ITEM No. 35.—*Destruction of crows in the vicinity of Bird Sanctuaries—Proposed by Shri Salim Ali.*

It has been found that very great devastation is caused by crows (chiefly the House Crow, *Corvus splendens*) to the eggs and hatchlings of water birds that nest in close-packed colonies such as at Vedanthangal and Bharatpur. The damage is particularly heavy when the nests are visited by photographers or ornithologists wishing to study the breeding behaviour of the various species at close range. As the observer approaches the nests the owners fly off temporarily, but soon return. The short interval, however, is enough for the battalions of crows who have shadowed the observer to pounce upon the nests and hack open the eggs or tear to pieces and devour the helpless fledglings. Even when no observers are about to disturb the nesting birds, the crows incessantly hang about the colonies and descend upon the nests as soon as the owners have left to feed or otherwise.

For the better preservation and improvement of the heronries it is essential that the crow population of the areas surrounding bird sanctuaries should be drastically reduced, if complete elimination is not practicable, certain methods for destruction of crows, suggested by the International Committee for Bird Preservation who were approached in the matter, have either already been tried in India and found ineffective or they would be too dangerous to try in the neighbourhood of human habitations. One such suggestion was the use of dynamite at the communal roosts of crows, which in India are characteristically situated either within or in the immediate neighbourhood of villages.

Among the more feasible practical measures which the Chairman would like to suggest for reducing the crow population in cities and in the environs of bird sanctuaries is the systematic and continued destruction of crows, nests and eggs in those areas year after year. This could be effectively done if a small bounty was offered for each crow's egg destroyed. The work could be conducted under the supervision of the

local forest officer or village headman. The cost involved would not be considerable, and in the long run the effort might prove well worth while and the expenditure justify itself.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—The Board drew attention to the large amount of damage done by crows in protected heronries and other protected sanctuaries with a view to take suitable measures to reduce the number of crows in such areas. A practicable method recommended was the payment of a small bounty to the local people during the birds nesting season for their eggs.

AGENDA ITEM No. 36.—*Bird Life Protection and restriction on the issue of gun licences for crop protection—Proposed by the C.C.F., Mysore.*

It is an indisputable fact that birds are more a source of help than menace in general. The role played by birds in arresting the increase of insect pests is a bliss in disguise as also in other various aspects. The Bird Wing of the Indian Board for Wild Life in the second meeting held at Sachivalaya Bombay on the 14th and 15th March, 1956 have also pointed out the various benefits that are being derived from birds in the common interest of man and stressed the need of affording protection to the bird life, as they are now being indiscriminately destroyed and most of the valuable species have gone extinct or on the verge of extinction, due to the culpable acts of man.

At present our State, and the other States also have taken protective measures, only to those birds that come under the definition of Game and to some other species of economic, commercial, religious and hygienic importance. In reality, a large scale destruction of all kinds of birds is going on every day and the meagre protective measures contemplated in respect of a few species of birds as detailed above are not adequate enough, compared to the beneficial role that the birds play in the economy of man.

Every kind of bird must have protection as they directly or indirectly play a great role in maintaining the biological balance. Large scale destruction of bird life is rampant in forest areas, chiefly done by illiterate villagers and certain Hill Tribes, who have made it a profession to capture and kill them either for food or for sale by setting traps, snares and other various devices. Further as almost all the virgin forests have been tapped and vast areas have been thrown open for cultivation has resulted in the dearth of fruit trees to feed on by birds and suitable harbourage for resting and building their nests. In other words, the transgression of irresponsible man all over has disturbed the peaceful atmosphere of forest areas that the bird life enjoyed hitherto with the consequence that most of the unrecognised birds are on the verge of extinction or already extinct unnoticed.

It is an admitted fact that to ensure protection all over to all kinds of birds is not an easy proposition. But this fact should not come in the way of our effort to implement certain protective measures with earnest enthusiasm and zeal by taking expert advice.

I, therefore, submit the following proposals for placing before the members of the Bird Wing, Indian Board for Wild Life to discuss, consider and decide *viz.*, (1) all the areas within the limits of major Municipalities, cities and Corporations, whether they are private holding or not in the Indian Dominion to be declared as Bird Preserves. (a) Shooting, killing, injuring by any means, capturing, removal of eggs, removal of

young ones, destroying nests and soaring of any bird or birds in the above specified areas must be strictly prohibited, imposing heavy penalty for the breach. (b) In case of any kind of bird or birds if found to be a menace in the Municipal area, the elimination of such species to be done by the Municipal authorities with the prior permission of Wild Life Board.

(2) Every year during the tree planting week, apart from ornamental trees fruit trees also must be planted within the Municipal limit and in the premises of schools and colleges.

(3) Every year during Wild Life Week, arrangements to be made to install artificial nests on trees in the Municipal limits to attract birds to occupy them.

(a) The required number of artificial nests must be supplied by Technological institutes and these to be installed on tree by the High School and College Students.

(b) The Forest Department must arrange to supply various kinds of birds for releasing them in the Municipal limits every now and then and especially during Wild Life Week.

(4) Every municipality, and Corporation must maintain a register and record the results of such action in co-operation with the High School and College authorities, as it will be easy for them to study and educate the students about bird life.

The object of submitting the above proposals are for the following reasons viz. :—

Nowadays every where keen interest is evinced in tree planting to beautify the towns, cities and corporations and these trees are known to form a good harbourage for bird life. But at present safety is not ensured for birds to live in the midst of citizens. In case suitable measures are taken as above, most birds which are craving companionship of man and also other birds of wild nature will congregate within the municipal limit making them their permanent abode, live and propagate at large.

*Restriction on issue of crop protection licences.*

I would like to suggest that it may be proposed to the Government to restrict Arms License on plea of agricultural crop protection and encourage the use of crackers and rockets to drive the wild animals as once a person gets the licence he is likely to misuse it in poaching and destroying game etc.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—The Board endorsed the strictest restriction on crop protection guns.

AGENDA ITEM No. 37.—*Suggestion for setting up an Organisation for studying the stomach contents of different birds during different periods of the year for destroying the categories of birds harmful to the agricultural crops and publicity thereto—Suggested by Forest Department, Bombay.*

Usually an agriculturist considers the bird population as a menace to his crops and he does not appreciate their utility and the help they afford in protecting the crop from the damage to corns of the standing crop. This may be true only to a certain extent. The birds are more interested in picking up larvae and insects as their food than eating away the corns. But no regular studies are made in this direction.

It would be very interesting to analyse the stomach contents of various birds during the agricultural season so as to ascertain the type of food taken in by them. This will give us some idea as to whether they live on the agricultural crop during the season or on some other food. Such results can be compared with those obtained in the non-agricultural season and in course of time, we may be able to classify the birds into various categories, e.g.,

- (i) Birds useful to the agricultural crops.
- (ii) Birds detrimental to the agricultural crops.
- (iii) Birds unconcerned with the agricultural crops.

On the results obtained by such studies, necessary guidance can be given to the agriculturist in knowing his friends and foes from the bird kingdom so that he can deal with them suitably.

Therefore, it is suggested that such organisations should be set up as soon as possible throughout India.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—The Board recommended that the study of the food and feeding habits and life histories of different birds in all parts of the country was essential in the interest of agriculture and forestry and in order to make a success of Govt.'s Grow More Food Campaign some competent organisation like the I.C.A.R. should undertake the work on a comprehensive plan to be drawn up in consultation with the Bird Wing.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 38.—*The advisability of establishing a sanctuary for breeding pelicans in the Aredu Sarepalle area near the Koolair Lake in Andhra—Proposed by Shri Salim Ali.*

This pelicanry, situated, 13 miles from Thadapallegudem Station on M. & S.M. Railway from Madras to Calcutta at a village called Ganapavaram 7 miles from Koolair Lake, is perhaps the most populous at present known in India. It was described fully by Shri K. K. Neelakantan in the Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society, Volume 48, No. 4, Pp. 656—666, where he suggested that the breeding colony may be adversely affected by the draining of the major part of the Koolair Lake (where the birds obtain their food) in connection with the Ramapada Sagar Project which was then (1949) in progress. As the breeding of pelicans in India is not common, the continuance and encouragement of this large pelicanry, which is perhaps the most populous in India, deserves to be assured. The co-operation of the Government of Andhra Pradesh must be sought to enable an investigation to be made in order to decide what steps should be taken to establish a sanctuary here. It is also essential to obtain an up-to-date first hand report on this pelicanry, and it is suggested that Shri K. K. Neelakantan, who first visited the place in 1949 and several times thereafter, should be requested either to undertake a proper survey on behalf of the Bird Wing by himself or associate himself with a survey conducted by the Chairman or Technical Secretary. Since he is acquainted with the background, he will be able to supply valuable comparative data on the conditions then and now.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—The Board recommended that suitable arrangements should be made to protect the pelicanry situated 13 miles from Thadapallegudem station on M. & S.M. Railway from Madras to Calcutta at a village called Ganapavaram 7 miles from Koolair Lake and if possible, the place be declared a sanctuary. The Government of Andhra

may be requested to get a proper report made on it. It was suggested that in the enquiry, co-operation may be sought from Shri K. K. Neelakantan (Victoria College, Palghat) who is well acquainted with the place.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 39.—*Increase in the number of parakeets in Delhi—Proposed by Delhi Bird Watching Society.*

It has been noticed that number of Parakeets that fly over Delhi area— are very considerable. These birds cause a lot of damage to fruits and crops. Therefore, trapping of these birds and exporting them or destroying them may be considered.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—No specific recommendation was made.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 40.—*Improvement and popularising Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary in Chinglepat District, Madras—Proposed by Shri B. V. Ramanjulu.*

The Vendanthangal Bird Sanctuary is becoming more popular. Some improvement of the physical features of the sanctuary are contemplated in the State Government's scheme, but the following immediate improvements are highly desirable from the visitors point of view.

1. A small pavilion may be built on the tank bund on the Western side.
2. One or two big boards showing the colour pictures of all the birds that arrive at the sanctuary with short notes about each in English and regional language may be put up.
3. Arrangements may be made to sell literature, pamphlets, guide books etc.
4. Cameras, films and binoculars may be made available for hiring them out by visitors.
5. The State Transport may arrange excursion buses every week-end.

*Seckt. Note* :—Similar improvements could also be considered in respect of other birds or other sanctuaries in the country, for general recommendations from the Board.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—No specific recommendations were made.

AGENDA NO. 41.—*Need for protection of the Great Indian Bustard from Extinction—Proposed by H.H. Maharajah of Baroda.*

#### THE GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD (ARDEOTIS NIGRICEPS)

This grand Bustard has been exterminated over most of its former range. It is now but rarely seen in a few areas and is nowhere abundant. Laying but a single egg, this species is not able to hold its own or even survive the ceaseless persecution it is subjected to by so-called sportsmen and certain of the vagrant tribes who indulge in indiscriminate trapping. While this bird should be fully protected, throughout India, the need for several sanctuaries with proper guards is very urgent. Certain areas in Rajasthan and Dharangadhra area of Saurashtra are suggested for this purpose.

*Recommendation of the Board* :—

The Board fully endorsed the urgent need for the complete protection of the Great Indian Bustard in all parts of the country and recommended that all States should give the highest priority to its effective protection and conservation. It recommended that more information be obtained regarding

the proposed sanctuaries and that this report be submitted to the Bird Wing before finalising the proposal of the sanctuaries.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 42.—*Functions and responsibilities of the Bird Wing of the Indian Board for Wild Life—Proposed by Shri Salim Ali.*

You will remember that at the instance of the International Committee for Bird Preservation, the Government of India appointed in 1950 a committee called the National Committee for India for Bird Preservation, nominating me as the Chairman. Subsequently, when the Central (Now Indian) Board for Wild Life was formed in 1952, it was decided that to avoid duplication of Bird Preservation work it was desirable to combine the function of the two bodies in this regard so that for internal purposes the older committee would function as an expert wing of the Indian Board to deal exclusively with matters connected with birds. For international contacts the Bird Wing was to function as the Indian Section of the International Committee for Bird Preservation through the appropriate Ministry of the Government of India. Certain glaring anomalies have come to notice in the working of Bird Wing as a technical section of the Indian Board for Wild Life. Various notifications have appeared, or been drafted, and other matters connected with birds treated without any formal reference to or consultation with the Bird Wing, at least without the knowledge of myself as its Chairman. It may be that the Secretary of the Bird Wing was sometime consulted, but certainly not in all cases as should have been done. I feel that unless Government seriously feels that the Bird Wing has an important function to discharge, and that the advice given by it on matters connected with birds is more worthy of consideration and better informed—than can be procured from non-specialists, there is no particular purpose in maintaining a separate Bird Wing as a so-called expert body, and it may as well be merged with the Board. I feel that a discussion at the Board meeting would help to clarify this issue.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—No specific recommendation was made.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 43.—*Substitution of Kalij Pheasant by Horned Pheasant in Item No. 44 of the proceedings of the Vth meeting of the Ex. Committee of the IBWL held at Periyar—Proposed by Himachal Pradesh Administration.*

In continuation of item No. 44 of the proceedings of the Indian Board for Wild Life held in Periyar Game Sanctuary in January 1957, it was emphasised to declare Monal (*Lophophorus impejanus*) and Kalij (*Gemnaeus hamiltoni*) as protected-species in Himachal Pradesh. Instead of Kalij Pheasant the Western Horned Pheasant—(*Tragopan melanocephalus*) may please be corrected.

It is further suggested that Government of India may prohibit taking by Sea or by land out of India these two species, whether dead or alive, or any part thereof or produce therefrom or the egg shells, nests or plumage of any such Bird.

*Explanatory Note.*—With a view to afford full protection to these species which are at the verge of extinction, this State has already taken steps to declare them protected species throughout the year but still it is imperative that the export of these species, their eggs, nests or plumage in any form be prohibited out of India by means of their legislative restrictions.

The Committee may therefore consider this and make suitable recommendations to Government of India.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—No specific recommendations were made.

*Agenda for the Zoo Wing Meeting.*

AGENDA ITEM NO. 44.—*Action taken on the recommendations of the first meeting of the Zoo Wing held at Mysore in May, 1956—Secretary's reports.*

ITEM NO. 1.—*Action taken on the last Zoo Superintendent's Conference—Secretary's Report—Review of.*

Para 2. Dr. M. Sardar Khan was requested to send a self-contained note regarding transport facilities for zoo animals on the railways to enable the Board to take up the matter with Railway authorities. He promised to do so in consultation with the Superintendent, Calcutta Zoo in due course. But no such note has so far been received.

Para 3. Similarly Shri Ramanjulu was also requested to let the Board have a note on transport facilities for zoo animals by air. No such note was received from him either.

ITEM NO. 2.—*Setting up and development of Zoos—Financial assistance by the Government of India.*

The recommendation was brought to the notice of State Governments and Zoo Administrations with the request to make provision for the development of zoos, if possible, even at this late stage. They were also requested to permit their zoo officers, to attend the Zoo meetings and to meet their T.A. and D.A. expenses on this account.

ITEM NO. 3.—*Administrative Control.*

The recommendation was brought to the notice of all the Zoo Administrations. The Delhi Zoo (under construction) has an Advisory Committee to guide its programme in every way.

ITEM NO. 4 & 29.—*Zoo Superintendent's delegation to foreign countries—Training of Zoo Personnel.*

In accordance with the recommendations of the Zoo Wing it was decided to depute at least 2 zoo officers for training abroad under various aid programmes. Accordingly for a start, the Government of Mysore and West Bengal were requested to recommend suitable candidates for the purpose. The proposal, however, had to be dropped as Government was advised that only such proposals could qualify for foreign aid under various aid programmes as had a direct bearing on the economic development of the country and the improvement of zoos could not be included in such programmes.

ITEM NO. 5.—*Indian Wild Animals in the Zoos—Adequate representation.*

The recommendations was commended to all the Zoo Administrations.

ITEM NO. 6.—*Unintended cruelty to zoo animals—Elimination of.*

The recommendation was commended to all Zoo Administrations.

ITEM NO. 7.—*Wild animals in captivity—Study of.*

ITEM NO. 9.—*Detailed record of animals and birds in zoos.*

In accordance with the recommendation all Zoo Administrations were requested to collect relevant material and pass it on to Shri Ramanjulu every six months to enable him to utilise it in the publication of the proposed zoo bulletin. In response the Governments of Mysore, West Bengal,

Kerala and Zoo Administrations of Poona and Junagadh Zoo conveyed their agreement with the proposal. No reply from others has so far been received. Shri Ramanjulu has also since intimated that this work has not progressed much because of lack of response from other zoos.

ITEM NO. 10.—*Labels for the Zoos.*

Commended to State Governments.

ITEM NO. 11.—*Feeding of animals and birds.*

Shri Ramanjulu was requested to address a circular letter to all Zoo Administrations and circulate the information so collected to all Zoos. It has, however, been learnt from him that he has not been able to make much progress in the matter due to lack of response from other Zoo Administrations.

ITEM NO. 12.—*Alopecia Melanism in lion cubs.*

Comments received from various organisations addressed in the matter are at enclosure (G).

ITEM NO. 13.—*Virus diseases among tiger and panther cubs.*

As recommended, Director, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta Zoo, I.V.R.I. and Bombay Natural History Society were addressed in the first instance. None of these organisations has replied so far.

ITEM NO. 14.—*Rabbits in zoos.*

No action called for.

ITEM NO. 15.—*Transport of zoo Animals.*

No action called for.

ITEM NO. 16.—*Diseases of Wild fauna—Constitution of an Investigation Committee.*

Recommendation was brought to the notice of all Zoo Administrations.

ITEM NO. 17.—*Veterinary Surgeons for Zoos.*

The recommendation was commended to all Zoo Administrations for compliance.

ITEM NO. 18.—*Diseases and treatment of wild animals facilities for study in the Veterinary colleges.*

The recommendation was commended to all State Governments. The States of H.P., J. & K. Tripura, Mysore, Manipur, Andamans, Delhi have no veterinary college in their jurisdiction. Reaction of other States to the recommendation is as follows :—

*Kerala.*—Recommendation accepted and initial steps taken to implement it.

*Andhra.*—Instructions on the lines of the recommendation already being given in the Veterinary College under Osmania University.

*Bombay.*—Recommendation accepted.

*Orissa.*—The State Government does not consider the introduction of additional courses as recommended by the Wing necessary in view of the already heavy syllabus. They have suggested the introduction of a Post-Graduate course for the purpose.

*Madrass.*—Recommendation accepted, and steps for its implementation initiated.

No replies from other States have been received.

ITEM No. 19.—*Exhibits of wild life in the zoological gardens—improved methods.*

The Zoo administrations were requested to furnish information in a proforma and the information furnished by them is as follows:—

Name of State	Cost of Ptg. the guide books (including paper)	No. of copies proposed to be printed	Price at which the publication is proposed to be sold	No. of copies expected to be sold every year	Annual returns from sales	Any other relevant information
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1. Delhi	.. Zoo under construction yet.					
2. Bombay Saurashtra only).	1,000	200	As. 8 to Re. 1	100 to 500	Rs. 200 per year.	—
3. Kerala	5,350	5,000	Re.1/-	1,000	Rs.1,000/- per year.	—
4 West Bengal (15 pages and 26 plates)	4,130	1,000	Rs. 1/4	—	—	—

No information from other states has been received.

ITEM No. 20.—*Preparation of zoo manual.*

Madras Zoo Administration was requested to permit Shri Ramanjulu to undertake the compilation of the zoo Manual. Shri Ramanjulu is already on the work. A draft contents of the proposed manual prepared by him is at *Enclosure 'H'*. As, however, the compilation of this manual involves consultations with zoos in India and foreign countries its compilation will take some more time.

ITEM No. 21.—*Display of animals—Specialisation.*

Commended to all Zoos.

ITEM No. 22.—*Delhi Zoological Park—Assistance by sister zoos.*

Commended to all Zoos and Zoo Administrations.

ITEM No. 23.—*Export of wild animals—Standardisation of prices.*

No action called for.

ITEM No. 24.—*Import and Export of wild animals—Control and collection arrangements.*

No action called for.

ITEM No. 25.—*Breeding and rearing of rare species in the zoos.*

In view of Shri Gee's comments that the cheetah does not breed in captivity it was decided to place this question again before the zoo Wing. Shri Gee's comments on this point are reproduced below :—

“But about two years ago I learnt that the cheetah just does not breed in captivity. I learnt from a very reliable authority that no zoo or person in the world has ever succeeded in getting cheetahs in captivity to breed. I learnt that the Maharajah of Kolhapur (I think it was he who tried) tried to breed them

by keeping them in semi-natural conditions, *i.e.*, in a very large enclosure so that they could race about, for it was thought that cheetahs might breed if they had enough room to race about, for the full exercise of their running powers. But even he failed to get them to breed."

Apart from this, efforts were made to obtain an Indian female cheetah and State Governments were addressed accordingly but to no avail. Efforts were also made to obtain the female cheetah now with the Maharaja of Kolhapur. This proposal also had to be dropped because that cheetah was stated to be too old for reproduction purpose.

Further a report was also received about the possibility of existence of a female cheetah in Madanpalle range of Andhra Pradesh. The work of investigating the matter was entrusted to the Regional Secretary, IBWL, Shri Ghorpade whose report in this connection is still awaited.

ITEM No. 26.—*Sterile isolation of animals in zoos—Prevention of.*

The item was entrusted to Shri Ramanjulu for implementation. In response to an enquiry recently made from him in this connection he has informed that he has not been able to make much progress in the implementation of this recommendation due to lack of response from other Zoo Administrations who were addressed in the matter.

ITEM No. 29 & 30.—*No action called for.*

*Recommendation of the Board.*—The minutes of the previous meeting together with the action taken thereon were considered as follows :—

ITEM No. 1.—*Action taken on the last Zoo Superintendent's Conference—Secretary's report—Review of.*

In view of the non-availability of adequate information in regard to facilities of transport by rail and air, the self contained note could not be prepared. The Board however, recommended that the Railway authorities and the Airlines Corporation may be approached for according priority and provide facilities of transport of consignments meant for recognised zoos by fastest service. The restriction on the weight imposed for each consignment may also be relaxed under special circumstances.

ITEM No. 2.—*Setting up and development of Zoos—Financial Assistance by the Govt. of India.*

It was noted with regret that only a few Superintendents participated in this meeting. The Board recommended that the importance and necessity of adequate representation may be emphasised on the various Zoo administrations in the interest of general improvement of Zoos.

ITEM No. 3.—*Zoos—Administrative Control.*

The Board recommended that Zoos which have not yet constituted an Advisory Committee, so far, may do so and include eminent naturalists professional Zoologists and others actively interested in the welfare of the Zoo.

ITEM No. 4.—*Zoo Superintendents' delegation to foreign countries Training of Zoo Personnel.*

As it has not been possible to depute Zoo Superintendents abroad for training, it was recommended that steps may be taken immediately to afford facilities to the various Zoo Officers to visit other Zoos within India to obtain first-hand information as regards management and maintenance of animals. It was also recommended that efforts may be made to obtain the deputation of some Zoo Superintendents through Ford and Rockefeller foundation etc.

ITEM No. 9.—*Detailed record of animals and birds in zoos.*

In view of the non-availability of scientific information it was recommended that Shri R. K. Lahiri, Superintendent, Calcutta Zoo and Technical Secretary, Zoo Wing, be requested to prepare a suitable proforma for recording detailed information regarding animals and birds and send it to Secretary, Indian Board for Wild Life, for circulation to various zoos. It was felt that for dissemination of such information amongst the various zoos and others interested, the publication of the Zoo Bulletin which had been agreed in earlier meeting may be taken up as early as possible. The Secretary, Indian Board for Wild Life was requested to go into the details of printing and issue of the bulletin.

ITEM No. 11.—*Feeding of animals and birds.*

The matter was further discussed and it was recommended that Shri Ramanjulu may pursue this item and obtain the necessary information and make it available for publication in the contemplated bulletin.

ITEM No. 13.—*Virus diseases among tiger and panther cubs.*

It was recommended that the matter may be pursued to obtain correct information, if available.

ITEM No. 19.—*Exhibits of wild life in the zoological gardens—Improved methods.*

It was recommended that the matter may be pursued.

ITEM No. 20.—*Preparation of Zoo Manual.*

The necessity of the publication of a Zoo Manual was urgently felt. The draft contents of the proposed Manual were examined and it was suggested that it could be abridged further. As the work involves expenditure in stationery and correspondence it was recommended that expenses involved may be provided to Shri Ramanjulu, Technical Secretary, as soon as possible, to enable him to proceed with the work.

ITEM No. 23.—*Export of wild animals—Standardisation of.*

Though no action was called for in the previous proceedings the item was reconsidered in view of the difficulty being experienced in fixing prices of Zoo animals for exchange and sale. This was also considered desirable in order to safeguard the Govt. as well as institutional interest. It was, therefore, recommended that Shri R. K. Lahiri, Technical Secretary, may be requested to prepare a list of popular and important animals and their prices based on the ruling market rate and those obtained from various zoos. in this respect.

ITEM No. 25.—*Breeding and rearing of rare species in the zoos.*

Mr. Gee's following note on breeding of Cheetah in captivity was read with interest.

"Prior to 1956 it was true to say that no cheetahs had ever been known to breed in captivity in any part of the world. But on March 24, 1956, the Philadelphia Zoo's female cheetah (received from Africa six months previously) gave birth to three cubs, of which one was killed by the mother and the other two, after being rescued and bottle-fed, died three days later.

Again on April 25, 1957, the same female cheetah gave birth to two cubs, and cared for them at first but when they were two weeks old she became very restless and so the cubs were removed and hand-reared. The period of gestation was believed to have been 90—92 days. I saw these

two cheetah cubs and played with them when I visited the Philadelphia Zoo on June 29, when they were just over two months old. Unfortunately they died early in August of feline distemper, although they had received the vaccine against this disease.

Mr. Fredrick J. Ulmer Jr. who was responsible for the breeding of these cheetahs and whom I met at the Zoo, considers that physiological factors, not psychological ones, were reason for these cheetahs breeding. He thinks that nutrition is probably the important factor. A special diet had been given, and he thinks that the increased palatableness and the multi-vitamins of this diet contributed to their breeding. (It could be noted here that a change in the diet given to the male Indian rhino at Whipsnade is believed to have led to the mating which produced the calf born there on October, 29, 1957).

These two cases are the only known records of cheetahs, whether African or Indian breeding in captivity."

The Board recorded its thanks to Mr. Gee for this piece of valuable information.

It was recommended that copies of the note may be circulated to all Zoos.

ITEM NO. 26 & 27.—*Sterile isolation of animals in Zoos—Prevention of inbreeding in Zoos.*

The matter may be pursued further.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 45.—*Starting of zoo in Assam—Proper place for breeding the Great Indian Rhinoceros and distributing them to various zoos—By Shri Ramanjulu.*

It is very heartening to note about the formation of a zoo at Gauhati in Assam. Since Assam is now the home of the Great Indian Rhinoceros for which there is a great demand from all zoos, it will be decidedly advantageous both in the interests of the species and zoos to make this zoo more important to breed rhinos in captivity for distribution. Eventually there may not any necessity to disturb the sanctuary for catching these animals.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—As the Indian one-horned Rhino has successfully bred in Calcutta Zoo (1925), Basle (1956) and Whipsnade (1957) it is felt that it may not be difficult to breed Rhinos in its home country under captive conditions. It was recommended that the proposed zoo in Assam will do well to concentrate on the breeding and rearing of the Rhino.

Some of the Indian Zoos have only either males or females. It was felt that it will be advisable to provide mates for them. The Board recommended that the Government of Assam may therefore, be requested to assist by providing animals of opposite sex to these zoos where specimen are exhibited in sterile isolation.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 46.—*Creation of Zoological Societies—Shri Dharmakumarsinhji.*

The creation of Zoological Societies in India in all States should be suggested to create more interest in wild life. Those willing to pay a donation and an annual membership fee would have certain privileges for visiting the zoo in their State. They would have a proper place in the Municipal Corporation or whatever body that conducts the management of the Zoo. Life members and beneficiaries would be accepted from the public interested in the progress of the Zoo. For those interested in the

progress of all zoos in the country, special designation may be given and they could have special facility of studying zoo exhibits.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—It was recommended that the State Governments may be requested to take up this matter and encourage universities and other learned bodies to assist in forming such societies. There are zoological societies already existing in a number of States and where there are none, formation of such societies should be encouraged. In view of the great diversity in the set up of administration of various zoos it was considered that it will be difficult for the zoos to start such societies by themselves. When the co-operation of zoos was sought for by such societies may be gladly extended.

AGENDA ITEM No. 47.—*Suggestion to work out the genetics of the black panther—C.C.F., Mysore.*

It is well known that the black panther compared to the ordinary panther is very scarce. It is believed that the black panther is a little more common in the evergreen forests where shade and water are far more abundant than in the open dry maiden areas with small hills which is the typical country where the ordinary panther abounds. It is stated that the black panther exhibits what is commonly called melanism as opposed to albinism. There is little doubt that one who has had the good fortune to bag a black panther considers himself 10 times more lucky and prizes his trophy a 100 times more than one who shoots an ordinary panther. It has a jet black, scintillatingly glossy fur. The fur is far more attractive than that of a tiger, ordinary panther or any other animal. It is, therefore, suggested that genetic studies on the black panther be undertaken in one of the South Indian Zoo gardens to see whether the black panther breeds true and if so try and multiply the animal.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—In view of the rarity and value of these animals, it was recommended that the information may be collected first and published in the proposed bulletin. If possible, the genetical studies may be taken up at the most advanced zoos which were in possession of a number of black panthers. Mr. Gee informed as follows in this respect.

"I think it is an established fact that black leopards always breed true. This has been borne out in the Calcutta Zoo in 1926 and in the Kolhapur Gardens, where successive litters born to black parents, were 100% black.

AGENDA ITEM No. 48.—*Utilisation of the Zoos for disseminating knowledge of animal life and stimulating popular interest in the fauna of the country—Proposed by the Superintendent, Zoological Gardens, Calcutta.*

A scheme for offering facilities in the Zoo for propagating knowledge of animal life and stimulating popular interest in the fauna should be formulated without further delay. In doing so the educative value of the scheme should be pointed out. It should be emphasized that so far nothing has been done to stimulate enlightened interest amongst our people in the fauna of the country and an intelligent approach to the problem of their preservation as well. The meeting may discuss and suggest a suitable scheme for implementation.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—The matter was discussed in detail. In view of the educative value and great popularity of zoos, it was recommended that a detailed draft scheme may be prepared at a very early date by Shri R. K. Lahiri, Technical Secretary, for consideration and adoption after circulation to various zoos.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 49.—*Tame or domestic animals in zoos.*

1. Introduction of zoological exhibits of commercial importance and economic importance under the name and style of "Farming in the Zoos"—By Shri B. V. Ramanjulu.

*Explanatory note.*—As an educational programme of zoo work it is necessary to exhibit domestic animals of commercial and economic importance. Small units of model cattle yards where first class pedigree cattle like the Gurnseys, Jerseys, Holstein Freiser etc. are displayed. Many in India would not have seen such beautiful animals. These animals in a Zoo's farm will serve two purposes. They create a great show value and at the same time they are of high utility value. Similarly there may be several units in the farm showing different kinds of sheep and goats, pigs, fowls etc. Small demonstration units of sericulture, honey culture, and lac production etc. will form zoological exhibits of economic importance.

2. The removal of domestic animals from zoo exhibits—Proposed by Shri Dharmakumarsinhji.

*Explanatory note.*—It has been noticed in most zoos in India that domestic fowls and animals are caged with wild species. This not only appears odd but is inconsistent with exhibits shown of Wild Life species. No Zoo should have domestic species caged with wild species. If the Zoo intends to keep domestic fowls and fancy pigeons as a supply of meat and eggs for the provision of food for wild life exhibits, it should, however, maintain a separate poultry farm or some such enclosure to keep the required food supply. Zoological Gardens are established for education and research of wild life species, in contrast to keeping of domesticated animals. Zoos should be advised accordingly.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—The Board deferred the consideration of this item to some later meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 50.—*Guides in Zoological Parks & Gardens.*

1. Introduction of Guides in Zoological Gardens—Proposed by the Head of Zoology Deptt., Calcutta University.

The plates containing scientific and popular or vernacular names with such other information as geographical distribution etc. do not seem to be enough to educate our common people in animals that are exhibited to the public in Zoological Gardens. Sometimes more than one species are kept in a cage or a park which confuse the onlookers and sometimes even a professional zoologist. Furthermore, it will have been noticed that our common people when accompanied by younger folks of their family visit the zoos give often fantastic and romantic stories about animals to the impressionable minds of younger folks. This practice has done and is still doing immense harm in the dissemination of knowledge about animals. In order to improve, upon the situation, it is suggested that well-informed guides who must be professional zoologists should be appointed to cater useful and interesting information, *i.e.*, natural history of animals, to groups of people during hours of public visit to the gardens. This practice will rouse greater interest at least in the younger folks of our country about animals. The Zoological gardens will thus be educative not only to the common people but also to students of zoology in the country.

2. Introducing a question house in the Zoos—By Shri B. V. Ramanjulu.

*Explanatory note.*—As a part of educational activity every modern zoo is establishing what is called a question house in the zoo. This is a

first class information service to promote zoology and to tell people about animals. Almost every visitor to the Zoo will have one or more "animal questions" and will be delighted to get a quick and authoritative answer. The zoo staff is constantly besieged by questioners from many sources: individuals, schools, colleges, newspapers, writers, and general public. They can very well seek their way to the question house and get their questions answered. The Madras Zoo will be having a question house shortly well equipped with a good library. Other important zoos may also adopt this information service.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—The suggestions are recommended.

AGENDA ITEM No. 51.—*Progress of zoological gardens in India—Proposed by Shri Dharmakumarsinhji.*

Since the inauguration of the Zoo Wing considerable progress has been made by the various zoos in the Indian Union and much cooperation for the exchange of animals between zoos has been seen. For the interest of all concerned it would be of benefit if an annual report be published by the Zoo Wing for the information of the members of the Indian Board for Wild Life and State Governments. This report should include a list of animals and birds, their ages since they were entered in the zoo, the breeding of various species and deaths, also animals exchanged with other zoos.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—The Board recommended that periodical progress reports may be published in the proposed zoo Bulletin already recommended. Those Zoo Administrations as were not publishing an annual report embodying desired information may start doing so. It was also recommended that annual reports may be exchanged among the zoos as well as made available to the interested members.

AGENDA ITEM No. 52.—*Children's Zoo—Animal lending library—By Shri B. V. Ramanjulu.*

The idea of children's zoo is gaining momentum every where, and all zoos are trying to adopt this, but I find that what they call the children's Zoo, are mostly amusement parks. By children's Zoos, we mean special enclosures to which children have access and in which young animals are kept mostly domesticated, kids, lambs, piglings, ducklings, besides Guinea pigs, rabbits, squirrels, parrots and occasionally quite young wild animals too. Every modern zoo has this special branch for children, and some zoos are now attempting to establish "animal lending libraries". Children are allowed to take one particular animal home, keep it for some time, care for it, learn its habits etc. and return it and take another animal. The idea underlying all this is to allow children to have the most intimate contact with the animals and to develop a love for living things.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—It was considered that setting up of children's corner as a unit in the Zoo may be encouraged, but it was too early to think of animal lending library as proposed.

AGENDA ITEM No. 53.—*Teaching teachers how to conduct visiting school classes—By Shri B. V. Ramanjulu.*

Every year thousands and thousands of school children accompanied by their class teachers visit the zoos but it has been observed that the programme of instruction and the information imparted by teachers to the children are far from satisfactory. In order to make the Zoos more useful as a teaching source, it is necessary to conduct twice a year a course exclusively for elementary school teachers in the uses of a zoo, and how to conduct the children's visit.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—This may be considered later.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 54.—*Introduction of booklets on animals of zoo gardens—Proposed by the Head of Zoology Department, Calcutta University.*

Steps should immediately be taken to introduce booklets on individual animals or groups of animals that are exhibited in the zoos. The booklets should be written in simple language (English, Vernacular) and will contain such useful information as can evoke interest and curiosity in the general public as well as in the younger folks, especially the boys and girls of schools. They are to be so priced as to suit the pockets of common people.

It need not be emphasised that money invested on such a project will pay in the long run a good dividend.

An experiment on this line should be launched as early as possible.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—It was recommended that production of booklets on zoo animals may be encouraged. The Secretary, I.B.W.L., may investigate from the various zoos regarding the animals on which they would be prepared to write booklets.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 55.—*Purchase of Exhibits from zoos abroad.*

Procurement of foreign specimens on cash payment extending facilities for etc.—Proposed by the Superintendent, Zoological Gardens, Calcutta.

Indian Zoos are understocked in popular foreign specimens. The Government of India allow procurement of foreign specimens on barter system rather than cash transaction. But negotiation for procuring foreign animals, on barter system is much protracted. Moreover, popular Indian specimens of demand in foreign country are not readily available for such exchange. The dealers in foreign countries offer specimens on direct sale necessitating cash purchase by Indian Zoos. Under these circumstances, it is essential to purchase foreign animals on cash payment basis whenever necessary. The meeting may move the Government of India for providing adequate facilities for such procurement to approved Zoos only.

Difficulties are also experienced in importation of animals. The present system of obtaining import clearance permit for wild livestock is not suitable for zoos as in each and every case, import licence is to be obtained failing which no clearance is possible. A standing licence for importing all popular foreign exhibits by zoos seems desirable to avoid unnecessary delay and difficulties. The meeting may discuss it and move the proper authorities for better facilities of importation of animals by the recognised zoos only.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—The Board recommended that every effort should be made to obtain exotic species on barter system. Where it is not possible and when procurement of such animals is considered essential, these may be purchased directly on cash payment for which foreign currency facilities may be extended. It was further recommended that in the absence of relevant documents including the import licence, the Customs Authorities may be requested to release the animals on the production of indemnity bonds from the zoo concerned. It was, however, emphasised that indigenous animals should continue to occupy an important position in the Zoos.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 56.—*Transportation of live snakes (poisonous and non-poisonous)—Facilities for the zoos—Proposed by the Superintendent, Zoological Gardens, Calcutta.*

At present the railway authorities allow only the Director, Haffkins Institute, Bombay to fetch by railway live snakes without any attendant

but provided with a certificate that "the snake boxes are locked and absolutely safe for conveyance of live snake by railway without any attendant".

Similar facilities may be extended to all the recognised zoos in India under similar conditions.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—It was recommended that similar facilities may be extended to the recognised zoos in India for transportation of live snakes.

AGENDA ITEM No. 57.—*Exchange of animals and birds between the Zoos—Proposed by the Superintendent, Government Gardens, Hyderabad through the Government of Andhra Pradesh.*

This item was discussed in the Zoo Superintendents Conference held at Madras in May, 1955 and certain recommendations were made. As nothing substantial has since come out and this question is of vital importance to most of the zoos at present running on modest scale, it is proposed that it may be taken up for discussion again.

Ways and means may be explored as to how best such zoos can be helped. Would it be possible for bigger zoos to consider offering surplus species of animals in their zoos at nominal prices or as gifts from them.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—It was highly recommended that the practice of exchange of animals between the zoos on reciprocal basis should develop.

AGENDA ITEM No. 58.—*Wild animals in captivity—Study of—Proposed by the Superintendent, Government Gardens, Hyderabad through Government of Andhra Pradesh.*

This item came up for discussion in the First Meeting of Zoo Wing held at Mysore in May, 1956. It was then stressed that there is a great need for publishing leaflets on the management of :—

- (a) Lion,
- (b) Tiger,
- (c) Elephant  
in captivity.

The intention was that the experience gained at various zoos in the management of the above stated animals may be published for the benefit of the other zoos.

No action has been taken on this which may be expedited.

It is suggested that while making available information on general management of these animals, diseases common to them, their symptoms and prevention and treatment may also be published.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—This item was already covered by item No. 54. However, it was recommended that publishing of leaflets on the management of important species in captivity may be taken up in the right earnest. The leaflets will be based on the experience gained and information made available by various zoos.

AGENDA ITEM No. 59.—*Scientific study-starting of a Research Division in Zoos—Proposed by the Superintendent, Zoological Gardens, Calcutta.*

The question of starting a research division in zoos deserves consideration. So far little attention has been paid in developing this aspect.

Various problems *viz.* life history of indigenous animals, birds, etc., food and feeding, breeding and rearing, habits and habitats, etc. and other allied problems are to be taken up.

The meeting may discuss the above and find out ways and means to develop the scientific study of wild life under captive condition.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—As scientific development of the various zoos in India is desired it is essential that they should be equipped with a small research laboratory to work out their own problems connected with specific management and up-keep of animals. The Board recommended that zoo administrations may be requested to set up such units, wherever possible.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 60.—*Vandalism in zoos—Shri Dharmakumarsinhji.*

A large number of the public visiting zoos spends much of their time loitering on lawns and roadside, they are often seen spoiling the lawns and vegetation. Such people sleeping on benches and creating a nuisance to real visitor interested to see the exhibits should be properly handled and the maintenance of lawns and vegetation carefully managed. Uniforms and badges should be given to the zoo staff so that visitors are aware of the Zoological Garden personnel. The rules, if any, of the Zoological Gardens should be strictly enforced.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—It was strongly recommended that zoo staff should be given distinctive uniforms and badges. Vandalism could be checked by providing adequate Rules and Regulations and giving suitable powers to the Zoo authorities to handle the offenders. Further the importance of observing Rules and Regulations by the Public should be emphasized by placing suitable notice boards at prominent places.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 61.—*Building enclosures—Large places unnecessary for carnivorous animals—Proposed by Shri B. V. Ramanjulu.*

It is likely that some of the schemes for starting zoos will be shelved on the grounds that there is no adequate space for establishing zoos, and that huge enclosures are necessary for animals. A Zoo can be started in any small place and developed gradually. From experience we can say that some animals like the bigger carnivores and carnivorous birds do not need any large enclosures. They are content with a very limited space, and these animal space relationship have direct influence on taming the animals.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—The item was discussed at length. It was recommended that while remodelling or constructing new zoos, the idea of providing sufficient open space on scientific lines may be considered specially for carnivora. These enclosures may be constructed without bars and cages.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 62.—*Zoological Gardens entry fee—Proposed by Shri Dharmakumarsinhji.*

Municipal Corporations in charge of Zoo in many States do not charge entry fees. However, in order that people should appreciate the value of animal life in captivity, a nominal fee should be charged. Most zoos abroad have an entrance fee to their Zoos and special privileges are afforded to members of Zoological Societies for seeing animals therein.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—In view of the scanty financial resources and to stop vandalism it was necessary that some sort of entry fee is levied.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 63.—*State aid to Zoos managed by Municipalities and Corporations in the form of gifts of indigenous animals—By Shri Ramanjulu.*

All the Zoos managed by their respective States are in an advantageous position in the matter of procuring indigenous animals either for stocking the zoo or for making exchanges with other zoos. But zoos managed by Municipalities and Corporations are not in a position to claim such privileges. Though this subject was taken up in the first conference of the Zoo Superintendents held at Madras in 1955 there has not been that appreciable help from the forest departments. Periodically elephants are gathered from pits in the Madras Forests, and if arrangements are made to supply one elephant calf every year we would make decent exchanges for exotic animals as is done by the Mysore Zoo and the Trivandrum Zoo.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—It was recommended that the attention of the State Governments may be redrawn to this item.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 64.—*The Zoo Wing may render necessary advice for furnishing schemes and for selecting sites for establishing new zoos in various States—Reporting to the Zoo Wing about such advice rendered to Bhopal Municipality in Madhya Pradesh and T. T. Devasthanams, in Thirupathi, Andhra—By Shri Ramanjulu.*

*Explanatory Note.*—On the request of the Bhopal Municipal Board, Madhya Pradesh, and the Thirumalai Thirupathi Devasthanams, Andhra, the Madras Corporation deputed the Superintendent of the Madras Zoo there for selecting sites and for furnishing schemes for organising zoos. The sites were selected and necessary schemes were furnished in both the cases. A copy of the scheme with plans and papers can be made available for perusal of the meeting.

Here it is desired that now as many States and Municipalities and Corporation are coming forward with proposals for starting zoos, the Indian Board for Wild Life may notify to all States and Municipalities and Corporations that the Zoo Wing of the Board might be consulted for necessary advice.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—It was recommended that information contained in item No. 64 may be circulated to all State Governments to avail of this.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 65 :—

1. Export of a few numbers of protected animals—Relaxation of rule—By Shri Ramanjulu.

Some of the animals classified as protected are in demand by German Zoos. Black buck, four horned antelope, Black langur and Lion-tailed monkeys are needed by certain zoos in Germany, and they are prepared to give in return African antelopes and African monkeys. In such cases the Indian Board for Wild Life may relax the rule and advice the customs to accord necessary permission for export.

2. Exchange of animal gifts between nations to be arranged by the Ministry of External Affairs—By Shri Ramanjulu.

In the last one year we have received about half dozen requests from foreign zoos for Indian animals through the Ministry of External Affairs. Similarly arrangements could be made through the Ministry of External Affairs to request our ambassadors in foreign lands to arrange for suitable exchange of animal gifts.

3. Exchange values of popular specimens for barter purpose fixation of—By the Superintendent Zoological Gardens, Calcutta.

At present different zoos put different valuation on specimens for bartering purposes creating confusion and undesirable competition in the foreign market. To avoid difficulties some definite steps are required to be taken to fix valuation of popular indigenous animals and birds on the basis of which exchange may be worked out by individual zoos.

4. Difficulties experienced by Zoos and Zoo Administrations in obtaining zoo exhibits from foreign countries on barter basis etc.—Proposed by Garden Superintendent, Municipal Corporation, Poona.

In this connection I would request you to please include the following in the Agenda of the second meeting of the zoo wing for consideration :—

The Zoo authorities should be permitted to obtain without restriction an export or import licence required in connection with the Zoo Live-stocks. The existing rules have certain restrictions whereby the zoos have to depend upon private parties for exporting Monkeys or for importing Exotic Ornamental Fishes and Shell Curios for Aquarium, that is also a part of the Zoo Garden.

The Poona Municipal Corporation had arranged to get a pair of Mandrills from Germany in exchange of 50 Rhesus Monkeys from Poona. After several months of correspondence, the Chief Controller from Delhi informed that the export of Monkeys from India should be arranged through the four business firms that hold license for this purpose. On referring to these firms, all except one refused. The one that agreed also quoted fantastic charges. For one Rhesus Monkey Rs. 80 was quoted only as cost excluding freight and other charges to Germany, although in India a Rhesus Monkey does not cost more than Rs. 4 to Rs. 5.

In the circumstances, it is considered that the Zoo Gardens should not be made to depend on such private licensees.

Then some Ornamental Exotic Fishes and Shell Curios had to be purchased from Ceylon and America respectively. The permit was refused in these cases too because there are some established importers who only are authorised to deal with such imports, but the Government could not supply us with a list of such dealers.

Such rules are not conducive to the development and improvement of our Zoo Gardens in India and hence I propose that the Zoo Gardens should be given unrestricted licenses to import or export any Zoological Fauna without depending on any private licensees.

5. Importation of animals—Foreign Exchange difficulties certain facilities needed—By Shri Ramanjulu.

On account of the recent restrictions imposed on foreign exchange we are not able to import animals from other countries. There is not a big chance of getting exotic animals from Africa, America and Australia. If the restrictions are mainly for preventing Indian currency from going to other countries, certain alternative arrangements are necessary to make. certain animal dealers are prepared to receive the money in India and spend the same in India. In such cases the Reserve Bank of India may be requested to allow these transactions to facilitate the importation of animals.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—It was recommended that restrictions on the export of the animals in the protected list should be relaxed where the recognised Zoos are able to get the exotic animals on exchange basis.

(ii) It was recommended that the Ministry of External Affairs may be requested to afford necessary assistance in replenishing the stock of exotic species whenever approached.

(iii) This has already been dealt with under Item No. 2.

(iv) It was recommended that the various zoos should not be made to depend on private licences for effecting the exchange of animals. The restriction should be waived in case of zoos.

(v) In view of the restrictions on the foreign currency and the exchange negotiations being of protracted nature, it was recommended that under special circumstances, the foreign animal dealers may be paid in Indian money when animals were obtained by recognised zoos through them or cash payment in India. For this the Reserve Bank of India may be requested to issue "no objection certificate".

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 66.—Zoo Superintendents Training Abroad—Proposed by Shri B. V. Ramanjulu.**

It was decided in the last meeting that every year one superintendent will be sent to foreign country under one of the foreign aid programmes for a period of about 6 months to undertake an intensive study of the management of Zoo. One of the Superintendents was selected for training in U. K. under the Colombo Plan. After finalising all arrangements he was asked to be in readiness to go, but suddenly the proposal was dropped without reasons.

By this time at least we would have sent two superintendents abroad. This matter may be pursued by the Board and arrangements may be made to send one superintendent at least in the year 1958.

The Board may also consider to give the trainee a 16 m.m. cine camera and sufficient film to bring back a visual record of the activities of the various zoos. The camera and the films will be in the office of the Board.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—It was understood that it had not been possible under the Colombo Plan to send the Zoo Superintendent, for training abroad. Other channels, in this direction may be explored to enable them to acquaint themselves with the most suitable methods of zoo techniques.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 69.—Date and Venue of the Next Meeting.**

The Board may decide date and venue for the next meeting of the Executive Committee, and its Wings.

Members may discuss any other item in the meeting with the prior permission of the Chairman.

*Recommendation of the Board.*—The Board took note of the provisional invitation from the Jammu and Kashmir State to hold the next meeting of the Board at Srinagar.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1.

ITEM NO. 3.—*Regarding Study courses in Nature Conservation—Comments received from State Governments and Universities.*

STATE GOVERNMENTS

*West Bengal.*—Recommendation accepted. The State has agreed to provide all facilities to the Universities within its territory in arranging the extra curricular lectures on the subject.

*Andhra.*—Recommendation accepted.

*Assam.*—Recommendation accepted. The wild life conservation will be included in the courses for Agriculture in the Higher Secondary Schools.

*Manipur.*—Recommendation accepted.

*Madhya Pradesh.*—The Director of Public Instructions, Madhya Pradesh does not consider it feasible to start brief courses at University level. He is of the view that to begin with some more accessible Centre for teaching the younger generation in this subject will be desirable.

*Rajasthan.*—Recommendation accepted.

*Kerala.*—These subjects are already part of general science syllabus of the 3 year degree course of Kerala University. Nothing further in this direction can be done.

*Uttar Pradesh.*—The matter will be placed before the Board of High School and Intermediate Education, Uttar Pradesh for consideration and the reaction of the Board would be communicated in due course.

*Punjab.*—The subject will be included in science books for middle classes.

*Bombay.*—It will not be useful to introduce such courses at school level, though the importance of the subject can be stressed to the students at the social and cultural occasions like the celebrations of Wild Life Week. The State Government will, however, be prepared to consider the matter further if the details of such courses are indicated.

*Madras.*—Tamil and English books approved by the Text Book Committee for schools already include chapters dealing with conservation of plant and animal life in general. The recommendations of the Ex. Committee have, therefore, been executed to a small measure. The schools are also being advised to arrange extra curricular lectures on the subject and visits to Zoos.

*Delhi.*—Recommendation accepted.

*Mysore.*—Recommendation accepted. Adequate steps have been taken to suitably introduce the suggested subjects in the High school courses as part of general science, optional biology and agriculture. Further steps in this direction will be taken if Secretary, Indian Board for Wild Life can furnish the State Government with an outline of such a simple high school course.

*Orissa.*—Recommendation accepted and steps are being taken to suitably introduce the subjects in the High School courses of the State.

*Tripura.*—Recommendation accepted.

## UNIVERSITIES

1. *Vishva Bharti*.—They consider it is too early to introduce such a course as a separate subject.

2. *Patna*.—It will be difficult to introduce separate courses in Wild Life conservation. Efforts will, however, be made to arrange lectures on the subject to National Cadet Corps cadets and other students.

3. *Rajasthan*.—Lectures on the subject will be arranged for the National Cadet Corps cadets.

4. *Gujrat*.—No useful purpose is likely to be served by the introduction of regular study courses on conservation of plant and animal life in general at any stage in college education. Extra curricular lectures as suggested by Ex. Committee will serve the purpose.

6. *Aligarh Muslim University*.—Because of the already heavy syllabus it will not be possible to introduce separate courses as suggested. Need for nature conservation is, however, always impressed upon the students through various methods.

7. *Andhra*.—They find it difficult to comply with the recommendations of the Executive Committee.

8. *Calcutta*.—The Botany and Zoology Departments of the University are on the whole, of the view that such courses can be introduced with good results at post-graduate levels in the University. Before, however, they could move further in this direction they would like to be assured that the students of such courses will be extended all facilities for visits to National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries.

9. *Annamalai*.—They find it difficult to introduce the suggested courses as separate ones. Extra curricular lectures according to them will be sufficient.

10. *Delhi*.—They have agreed to introduce a course at High school and college level with the following outlines :—

“What is wild life; animals that constitute the wild life; a detailed systematic classification of these animals; elementary structure (anatomy) physiology, development and life-history of these animals according to their taxonomic groups.

Ecology and behaviour of the wild animals; rate of growth; population studies; methods of preservation in Zoological Parks, Museums, and in Wild Life Sanctuaries; methods of public propaganda.”

11. *Lucknow*.—Recommendation accepted. But better course would be to arrange refresher courses for biology teachers of schools and colleges at some suitable university centre.

12. *Jadavpur*.—They don't find any scope for teaching such subject in the University.

13. *Sardar Vallabhbhai Vidya Peeth*.—They are not in favour of the introduction of such courses at University level and consider that their introduction at school level will suffice.

No comments from other States and Universities have so far been received.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1.—*Moving rare species to alternative localities*  
*Summary.*

Rare and vanishing species can be safeguarded by moving a few individuals to a new locality; but this new locality should if possible, be within the former range and with suitable conditions of environment.

Such a move should always be preceded by a careful ecological study of the conditions both of the supplying and of the receiving localities.

In sanctuaries and national parks where the wild life has become depleted through poaching, the first step should always be to put an end to poaching and to re-habilitate the depleted wild life.

Introduction of new species into a new locality is usually a failure and a waste of money—unless accompanied by undesirable, expensive and artificial protective measures.

One of the internationally accepted standards of sanctuaries and national parks is that the native wild life should be conserved, and that no non-native species should be introduced. It is desirable that this standard should be maintained in India.

It is the policy of the Indian Board for Wild Life to find suitable alternative homes in India for some of the rarer species. In the case of the Indian lion, for example, it was resolved at the Inaugural Session of the Board at Mysore in December 1952 that an additional locality be found for this species, within its former range and with suitable conditions of environment.

As a result of this resolution, it was subsequently proposed to move a few lions from the Gir Forest in north-west India into the Chakia Forest in Uttar Pradesh. This would not be a case of introducing a new species into an area, but of re-introducing a species into a suitable locality within its former range and with suitable conditions of environment, which is in accordance with the accepted principles of present-day wild life management. (The reason why 'suitable conditions of environment' have to be searched for within the former range is that climatic and vegetative conditions in India have changed considerably in the last thousand years or so. Regions in the north-west, once green and fertile holding such mammals as rhino, have now become barren wastes.)

Recently, however, there has been a suggestion put forward that rare species from other parts of India be obtained for re-stocking sanctuaries which to some extent have become depleted of wild life by poaching. For example, it is suggested that a few Indian rhinos from north-east India be introduced into Periyar Sanctuary in Kerala; and that a few swamp deer from Uttar Pradesh, musk deer from Kashmir, brow-antlered deer from Manipur and Chinkara in Mudumalai Sanctuary in Madras.

Now let us examine these suggestions. It is obvious that the musk deer, which is a species of very high altitudes near the snow line and which feeds on mosses, lichens and such like vegetation, would not thrive in Mudumalai. It is also, of course, doubtful if the chinkara, which is an animal of dry and open regions, would thrive there. Therefore musk deer and chinkara can be ruled out.

On the other hand it is possible that rhino, swamp deer and brow-antlered deer would thrive in Mudumalai or Periyar, for these species do

well in zoological gardens in other countries. But is it desirable to introduce these species as new species into these two sanctuaries which may become national parks in the near future?

The stated object for introducing new species into Mudumalai is that it 'will not only sustain the interest in wild life but also attract tourist traffic'. The object of introducing the rhino into Periyar is 'to make the sanctuary more popular with visitors and tourists'.

Thus the objective in these two cases appears not to be to provide suitable alternative homes for rare species so that they may stand more chance of survival. If this was the primary motive, then it could very strongly be argued that there are far more suitable alternative homes for the swamp deer in central and north-east India, and for the rhino and brow-antlered deer in north and north-east India 'within their former range and with suitable conditions of environment'.

The real motive is to bring species from north and north-east India with a view to attracting more visitors and tourists to these sanctuaries. Now is this type of human intervention, *i.e.*, introducing new species in order to attract more visitors, permissible in a wild life sanctuary or national park? Certainly not, by the present-day internationally accepted principle and standards of national park administration.

At the recent meeting of the Executive Committee of the Indian Board for Wild Life held at Periyar in January 1957 it was resolved that in such cases a thorough ecological study of the conditions both of the present home of a species (such as the Kaziranga home of the rhino) and also the proposed receiving sanctuary (possibly Periyar) should always precede any definite plans for such moves. This is a correct decision, but unfortunately it implies that if the ecological studies indicated that the species (say rhino) would thrive when moved from the supplying area (say Kaziranga) to the receiving area (say Periyar), then the introduction could take place. The resolution does not take into account the principles which govern national park administration and which do not permit the introduction of new species from outside.

Both Mudumalai and Periyar are valuable wild life sanctuaries with prospects of being created as national parks in the foreseeable future. Now the emphasis in the case of national parks and wild life sanctuaries is placed on conserving the native wild life, on preserving the *existing character* of the place, on preserving the *typical or representative fauna and flora* in an area maintained unspoilt for future generations. It is not permissible, according to internationally accepted principles and standards, to allow human intervention such as the introduction from outside of new species.

One of the most valuable and interesting facts about the Gir Forest is that it contains the Indian lion now living, as it did in former days and possibly since time immemorial, a wild animal in its *natural* habitat. Similarly Kaziranga houses the Indian rhino in its *natural* habitat, just as it probably was many thousands of years ago. The brow-antlered deer of Manipur live in their last marshy stronghold near the Logtak Lake—in their primeval *natural* habitat.

The fauna of South Indian sanctuaries also, hold a similar unique position as being *truly representative* of the region in which they are found, having existed there from time immemorial. Now to put rhino from Kaziranga into Periyar, or brow-antlered deer from Manipur into Mudumalai and so on, or conversely to put 'bison' from Periyar into the Gir Forest, or chital from Mudumalai into Kaziranga, would be a case of

putting new species into places where they have never formerly existed. Such an intervention would tantamount to violating the *pristine integrity* and *natural sanctity* of these fine places. No longer would the original fauna be seen *in its natural and original habitat*, but a miscellany of wild animals from different parts of the sub-continent would be grouped together haphazardly, in the manner of zoological parks.

In any case the introduction of, say, a pair of rhino into Periyar would not solve the problem of how to provide more attraction to visitors—unless these creatures after importation were confined in an enclosure at the side of the lake and artificially fed by hand, as in a zoological park. For rhino are solitary beasts and great wanderers. They would probably not remain as a pair, but would wander far afield as individual and would be rarely if ever seen by anyone—that is if they survived being shot by poachers or by cultivators in defence of their crops.

Similarly the introduction of pair, or even several pairs, of swamp deer into Mudumalai would not provide the answer to the problem. They would probably disperse and be rarely seen by visitors—even if the wild dogs were systematically reduced or exterminated beforehand. They would also probably fall very easy victims to tiger and leopard, especially after capture, transportation and introduction into a strange and new habitat. Like the rhino, swamp deer and brow-antlered deer are great wanderers.

At this point it should perhaps be admitted that these three species could not so increase in number as to become a nuisance or harmful pests as in the case of the red deer in New Zealand and the reindeer in Alaska. The objection to the introductions of these three species from north and north-east India into south India would seem to be based on the fact that they would be a failure and therefore a waste of money, in addition to being a violation of the principle of not introducing new species into any area.

A further objection to these introductions is that 'there is evidence that parasites and diseases of introduced mammals are at least partly transferred with their hosts to new biota'.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to find wild life in Mudumalai and Periyar; and if it is required by the authorities administering these places that there should be more wild life for visitors to see, then surely the first and foremost thing to do is to reduce poaching and other illegal shooting both in the neighbourhood of the sanctuaries and also within the sanctuaries themselves.

Surely it would be advisable to preserve the integrity of these two potential national parks of Periyar and Mudumalai, and not to allow the high standards of wild life management adopted at the Mysore Session of the Indian Board for Wild Life to lapse into oblivion.

It is essential that these high standards be rigidly preserved. This subject has been thoroughly examined by other countries which have been studying the conservation of nature over a great number of years. May India not fail to profit from the experience of other countries, and may she continue to follow the highest standards of internationally accepted national park administration.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1.

Enclosure 'C'

No. F. 1-19/55-IBWL.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

New Delhi,  
dated the 27th February, 1957

FROM

SHRI A. C. JAIN,  
Under Secretary to the Government of India.

TO

All State Governments.

SUB.—*Model Bill for constitution of National Parks.*

I am directed to refer to para 3 of this Ministry's letter No. 5-27/55-F, dated the 9th June, 1955 and to forward herewith a model bill for constitution of National Parks which may be suitably adopted or added to provide for any special or local requirements. This model bill aims only at ensuring that the technical requirements will be fully covered in any State legislation regarding 'State Parks'. As will be seen, it is considered best that each Park in a State should be so constituted by a separate Act of the State Legislature. It would follow that any alternation or alienation of the area of the Park would also require sanction of the Legislature.

2. As the bill provides exclusively for action by the State in respect of an area entirely within the State, these parks, it is considered, may be designated as "State Parks". Where a State would elect to dedicate any park so constituted for use for National purposes and agree to the management control of the Park to be put on a National basis, such dedicated parks could be adopted as "National Parks".

3. In the case of Parks to be constituted entirely from areas already declared as Reserved Forests, the procedure prescribed in Sections 4 to 9 could be omitted and Section 3 suitably modified to constitute the Park straightaway. In such a case, a Section (in replacement of Section 4—9) may be inserted somewhat as follows :—

"No right within the Park which has been admitted and recorded by a Forest Settlement Officer under the \_\_\_\_\_ or which has been granted before the passing of this Act, shall be altered or interfered with except by the consent of the right holder or grantee affected thereby."

4. I am now to request that early steps may please be taken to establish 'State Parks' in suitable areas in the State accordingly.

5. Action taken in regard to the constitution of these parks may please be intimated to this Ministry from time to time.

Yours faithfully,  
(Sd.) A. C. JAIN,  
Under Secretary.

Copy together with enclosure forwarded for information to the Chairman and members of the Executive Committee of the Indian Board for Wild Life.

By Order,  
(Sd.) A. C. JAIN,  
Under Secretary.

Copy forwarded to all Heads of Forest Departments.

(Constitution of State Parks—Model Bill)

A BILL

TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONSTITUTION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE STATE PARKS, THE PRESERVATION OF FAUNA AND FLORA THEREIN AND OTHER INCIDENTAL MATTERS.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of..... in the.....year of the Republic of India as follows :—

1. (1) This Act may be called the..... Short title, extent State Parks Act, 19. and commencement. (2) It extends to the whole of the area defined under Sec.....below in the State of.....

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires :—

Definitions (1) 'Advisory Committee' means the Committee constituted under Section 12;

(2) 'Animal' includes any variety of mammal, birds, reptile, amphibian, fish, insect or other invertebrates;

(3) 'Chief Conservator' means the head of the Forest Department of the State;

(4) 'Competent Authority' means any persons or authority authorised by the State Government by notification in the Official Gazette to perform the functions of the competent authority under this Act;

(5) 'Superintendent' means the officer in charge of the State Park;

(6) 'Prescribed' means by rules made under this Act;

(7) 'State Park' means any area declared to be a State Park under Section 9;

(8) 'Trap' means any contrivance or device which is used, or intended to be used, for capturing animals;

(9) 'Weapon' includes firearms, ammunition or instrument or apparatus capable of propelling a projectile or capable of being so propelled or used that any animal can be killed or injured thereby.

3. (1) Whereas it appears to the State Government in respect of the Declaration of area defined in Section.....by reason of its intention to floral, faunal, scenic or other interest or its natural constitute State beauty or its educational, scientific, archaeological, Parks. geological or historical association or \*importance, it is desirable to take measures for preserving, protecting and enhancing the natural beauty and/or importance of the area and for providing facilities for the enjoyment thereof by persons resorting to it, the State Government propose, by notification in the Official Gazette to declare their intention to constitute the area to be a State Park.

\*Note:—Only such points as would be relevant to the case need be included in the actual bill.

(2) The notification shall :—

- (a) specify, as nearly as possible, the situation and limits of the area; and
- (b) direct the competent authority to inquire into and determine the existence, nature and extent of any rights alleged to exist in favour of any person in or over any land comprised within such limits and to deal with the same as provided in this Act.

*Explanation.*—For the purposes of this section, it shall be sufficient to describe the area by roads; rivers, ridges or other well-known or readily intelligible boundaries.

4. During the interval between the publication of a notification under Section 3 and the date specified in the notification under sub-section (1) of Section 9, no right shall be acquired in or over any part of the area comprised in the notification under sections except by succession :

**Bar of accrual of rights in area notified under Section 3.**

5. As soon as may be, after the publication of a notification under Section 3, the competent authority shall publish in the local language in every town and village in the neighbourhood of the area comprised in the notification, a proclamation :—

**Proclamation by the competent authority.**

- (a) specifying, as nearly as possible, the situation and limits of the proposed State Park;
- (b) explaining the consequences which, as hereinafter provided, will ensue on the constitution of the State Park; and
- (c) fixing a period of not less than two months from the date of such proclamation, and requiring every person claiming any right mentioned in Section 3 or Section 4 within such period either to present to the competent authority a written notice specifying, or to appear before him and state, the nature of such right and the amount and particulars of the compensation (if any claimed in respect thereof).

6. The competent authority shall take down in writing all statements made under Section 5, and shall at some convenient place inquire into all claims duly preferred under that section.

**Enquiry by competent authority.**

7. (1) For the purpose of such inquiry, the competent authority may exercise the following powers, that is say:—

**Power of competent authority.**

- (a) power to enter, by himself or any officer authorised by him for the purpose, upon any land, and to survey, demarcate and make a map of the same; and
- (b) the powers of a Civil Court in the trial of suits.

(2) In the case of a claim to a right in or over any land, the competent authority shall pass an order admitting or rejecting the same in whole or in part and if such claim is admitted in whole or in part shall :—

- (a) exclude such land from the limits of the proposed State Park; or
- (b) come to an agreement with the owner thereof for the surrender of his rights; or

(c) proceed to acquire such land in the manner provided by the Land Acquisition Act, 1894.

- 1 of 1894
- (3) For the purpose of so acquiring such land :—
- (a) the competent authority shall be deemed to be a Collector proceeding under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894;
- (b) the claimant shall be deemed to be a person interested and appearing before him in pursuance of a notice given under Section 9 of that Act;
- (c) the provisions of the proceeding sections of that Act shall be deemed to have been compiled with.

(4) The competent authority, with the consent of the claimant, may award compensation in land, or partly in land and partly in money.

8. (1) Any person who has made a claim under this Act, or any officer or other person generally or specially empowered by the State Government in this behalf may, within two months from the date of the order passed on such claim by the competent authority under Section 7 present an appeal from such order to such officer as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint to hear appeals from such orders.

(2) Every appeal under sub-section (1) shall be made by petition in writing in such form, in such manner and within such time, as may be prescribed.

(3) The officer so appointed shall fix a date in a convenient place in the neighbourhood of the proposed State Park for hearing the appeal, and shall give notice thereof to the parties and hear the appeal.

(4) The order passed on the appeal by such officer shall be final.

Notification constituting State Park.

9. (1) When the following events have occurred namely :—

- (a) the period fixed under Section 5 for preferring claims has elapsed, and all claims, if any, made under that section have been disposed of by the competent authority;
- (b) if any such claims have been made, the period limited by Section 9 for appealing from the orders passed on such claims has elapsed, and all appeals (if any) presented within such period have been disposed of by the appellate officer; and
- (c) All lands (if any) to be included in the proposed State Park which the competent authority has under Section 7 elected to acquire under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, have become vested in the Government under Section 16 of the Act,
- 1 of 1894.

The State Government shall publish a notification in the Official Gazette specifying definitely, according to boundary marks erected or otherwise, the limits of the area which is to be the State Park and declare the same to be State Park from a date, specified in the notification.

(2) The State Government shall, before the date specified in such notification, cause a translation thereof in the local language to be published in every town and village in the neighbourhood of the area.

Right not to be acquired in State Park except by succession.

10. No right of any description shall be acquired in or over the State Park except by succession.

11. The boundaries of the Park as constituted under Section 9 shall not be altered and no portion of the Park shall be capable of alteration except on the recommendation of a resolution passed by the State Legislative Assembly.

12. (1) The State Government may, by notification in the official Constitution of Ad- Gazette, constitute an Advisory Committee consisting visory Committee. of :—

- (a) the Chief Conservator;
- (b) one member of the State Legislature;
- (c) a member of the State Wild Life Board;
- (d) a person possessing special knowledge of or interest in Wild Life Conservational natural sciences, other scientific cultural interests;
- (e) one member to represent such other interest as the State Government may deem fit; and
- (f) the Superintendent.

(2) The State Government shall appoint the members and also nominate one of the members to be the Chairman of the Committee and the Superintendent to be its Secretary.

(3) Each of the members referred to in clauses (b) to (e) of Sub-section (1) shall serve for a term of three years.

13. It shall be the duty of the Advisory Committee to advise the State Government in regard to :—

Duties of Advisory Committee.

- (i) the policy to be followed in the administration of the State Park;
- (ii) the making of rules under this Act; and
- (iii) any other matter connected with the State Park which may be referred to the Committee by the State Government.

14. (1) The Advisory Committee shall meet at such time, date and place as it thinks fit for the transaction of its business; Conduct of business of Advisory Committee. Provided that it shall meet at least once a year.

(2) The Advisory Committee shall follow such procedure as it may determine by bye-laws made for the purpose.

15. Subject to the control of the State Government and the advice of the Advisory Committee, the Chief Conservator shall be the authority to control, manage and maintain the State Park and for that purpose :—

Control of State Park and duties and Power of Chief Conservator.

- (a) shall take such steps as will ensure the security of animal life in the Parks and the preservation of the park and the animals therein in a natural state;
- (b) may construct such roads, bridges, buildings fences, and barrier gates and carry out such other works as may be considered necessary; and

(c) may permit the erection of buildings for the accommodation of visitors or of shops or other undertakings; provided that arrangements are made for their proper regulation and control.

(2) Besides the Superintendent and the regular staff of the State Park or in lieu thereof, the C.C.F. may utilise from time to time such officers of the Forest Department, as he may find necessary for carrying out the objects of this Act.

16. The State Govt. may on the recommendation of the C.C.F., appoint any persons as Hony. Game Wardens to help the Superintendent in the proper maintenance of the State Park. Such persons will be selected for their interest in, knowledge of or attitude for Wild Life Preservation and Management.

17. No person shall enter into or reside within the Park otherwise than in accordance with such rules as may be made in this behalf.

Prohibition of certain Acts in a State Park.

18. No person shall :—

- (a) convey into the park, or within the confines thereof be in possession of, any weapon, explosive, trap or poison, except with the permission of the Chief Conservator or any officer authorised by him in this behalf;
  - (b) within the Park, kill, injure, capture or disturb any animal, or take or destroy any egg or nest of any bird; provided that the Chief Conservator may permit the destruction of any animal to prevent injury to life or property;
  - (c) wilfully or negligently cause damage by fire or otherwise to the Park or any object therein;
  - (d) except with the permission of the Chief Conservator or any officer authorised by him in this behalf, introduce any animal or wilfully permit any domestic animal to enter into the Park;
  - (e) except with the permission of the Chief Conservator of Forest or any officer authorised by him in this behalf; remove from the Park any animal or any part thereof, whether alive or dead;
  - (f) fell any trees within the Park or remove any plants therefrom;
- Provided that nothing in clause (a), (d), (e) or (f) shall apply to any officer of Government entering the Park on duty; provided further that nothing in clause (d), (e) or (f) shall apply to the holders of rights and concessions to the extent admitted in any order passed under Section 7.

19. Whoever contravenes any of the provisions of this Act, or any rules made thereunder shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees or with both; and any court trying such contravention may, if it thinks fit, and in addition to any sentence which it may impose for such contravention, direct that any animal or product or part thereof, in respect of which the contravention has taken place, and any weapon, trap, boat vehicle or other equipment used in committing any such offence, shall be confiscated.

20. Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, all offences under this Act and the rules made thereunder shall be cognizable.

21. Any officer including an Hony. Game Warden authorised in this behalf by the State Government by general or special order who has reason to believe from personal knowledge or from information given by any person and taken down in writing that anything in respect of which an offence punishable under this Act or any rule made thereunder is kept or concealed in any place, house, building, tent boat or vehicle may :—

- (a) enter at any time by day or by night into any such place, house, building, tent, boat or vehicle;
- (b) in case of resistance, break open any door and remove any obstacle to such entry; and
- (c) search for, seize and retain any such thing.

22. The State Government may invest any officer of the rank of the Forest Department not below the rank of.....  
**Power to invest officers of Forest Deptt. with Powers of officer in-charge of a police station** .....or any class of such officers with the powers of an officer in-charge of a police station for the investigation of offences under this Act and the rules made thereunder.

**Officers and persons acting under this Act to be public servants.**

23. All officers and persons empowered to exercise any powers or to perform any duties under this Act shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of Section 21 of the Indian Penal Code.

24. No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against any officer or person empowered to exercise powers or to perform duties under this Act for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act or the rules made thereunder.

**XLV of 1860 Protection taken in good faith.**

25. (1) The State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

**Power to make rules.**

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for :—

- (a) the powers and duties of the Chief Conservator, the Supdt., and other officers and servants of the Park and of the Forest Department in respect of the matters dealt with by this Act;
- (b) the conditions subject to which a person may enter into or reside within the Park and the periods during which the Park or any portion thereof shall be open to the public;
- (c) the conditions under which the services or attendance of officers and servants of the Park may be obtained by any person entering, passing through or so journeying within the Park and the fees to be paid in respect of such services or attendance;
- (d) the fees (if any) to be paid for permission to enter into or reside within the Park, for the admission of animals or motor cars or other vehicles, or for the taking of photographs within the.....Park, or for any other purpose connected with the use and enjoyment of the Park;
- (e) the protection, control and management of the Park and the preservation of the flora and fauna and the property therein;

- (f) the regulation of traffic and carriage of passengers in the Park, the places through which persons, animals and vehicles may enter or leave the Park and the routes by which they may pass through the Park.
- (g) the protection from defacement by writing or otherwise, of any tree, bridge, rock, fence seat or other object in the Park;
- (h) the delegation by the Chief Conservator of his powers and duties under this Act;
- (i) the protection of animals, the disposal of noxious, predatory or superabundant animals and the taking of animals for scientific and propagating purposes;
- (j) the preservation of public health and the abatement and prevention of nuisances within the Park; and
- (k) the prevention of unauthorised exhibition, fixing, erection or retention of any advertisement, board, hoarding or structure in the Park and the removal of such advertisement, board hoarding or structure.

26. (1) The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to, and not in derogation of, the provisions of any enactment for the time being in force in the State relating to Forests.

**Savings.**

(2) Nothing in this Act shall be deemed to affect any enactment for the time being in force in the State relating to ancient and historical monuments, and archaeological sites and remains, declared by Parliament by law to be of national importance.

Ref. Item No. 25.—*Collection of Natural History specimens—Share of Government.*

1. *E. A. Ministry's comments.*

(i) The sponsorship of the expeditions should not be restricted only to an academic, research or other organisation. Sometime foreign Governments may also sponsor such expeditions and the rules should provide for that contingency also.

(ii) As regards this Ministry consulting the Indian Board for Wild Life when considering the requests received from foreign countries, it is felt that this Ministry should refer the matter to the Ministry of Agriculture who should make the requisite reference to the Indian Board for Wild Life.

2. *E. & S.R. Ministry's (and also Director, Z.S.I.'s) comments.*

(a) DEFINITIONS

Page 1 :

1. *Sponsoring Body.*—The words "Secretary-General I.B.W.L." should be replaced by "Director, Zoological Survey of India".

NOTE.—Although at present the two offices are combined under the same person, it is conceivable that they can be separated, in which event the proper authority to approve would be the Director, Zoological Survey of India in his capacity as the Zoological Adviser to the Government of India and not the Secretary-General, I.B.W.L. The change recommended is, therefore, *essential in principle.*

Page 2 :

2. *Specialists.*—The last words "Z.S.I." should be replaced by "Director, Zoological Survey of India".

(b) RULES

Page 3 :

*Rule 6.*—The words "Secretary-General, Indian Board for Wild Life" should be replaced by "Director, Zoological Survey of India".

NOTE.—For reasons, please *see* item No. 1 (above) under 'Definitions'.

3. *Orissa Government's comments.*

They have objected against the discrimination which according to them appears to have been made between Indian Specialists and foreign specialists regarding deposit of holotypes and securing topotype from the paratypical series. Apart from this they have also suggested that instead of always depositing the specimens with the Zoological Survey of India the States concerned may be allowed to retain such of the specimens as may be decided by the Zoological Survey of India for their zoological museum, if any.

4. A note regarding the collection of Wild Life specimens by foreigners residing in India and by foreign expeditions or individuals visiting the State received from the Government of Bombay is as follows :—

During its sixth meeting held in March 1956, the Bombay State Wild Life Advisory Board considered a note prepared by the Wild Life Preservation Officer of this State specifying the conditions under which special licences for collection of specimens of Wild Life for research purposes should be issued both to the foreigners residing in India and to foreign expeditions visiting this country. The note prepared by the Wild Life Preservation Officer was approved by the Board and the procedure suggested therein recommended to be adopted. Similar recommendations were also made by the Executive Committee of the I.B.W.L. after consideration of the question in its meeting held in January, 1956. This Government accordingly issued the necessary order as contained in G.L. No. W.I.P. 2256/56296-E., dated the 31st July, 1956.

2. According to the recommendations of the Bombay State Wild Life Advisory Board the Bombay Natural History Society was to be requested to make available a list of species, which it considered to be threatened with extinction and should not, therefore, be allowed to be collected or allowed to be collected in very small numbers. The Bombay Natural History Society, which was approached in the matter made the following suggestions :

#### *Birds*

- (1) Excepting the Great Indian Bustard and the Pink-headed Duck, if existing in the Bombay State, no bird needs complete protection.
- (2) Four specimens of each species should be allowed to be collected for natural history specimens.
- (3) If more are desired to be collected, the applicants should be required to detail the purposes and the applications for additional collections should be considered separately for each species.

#### *Animals*

- (1) The terms and conditions of the existing game licences should be made applicable.
- (2) For any departure from the existing terms and conditions of the game licences, there should be applications, therefor, to be considered on merits.

3. The Great Indian Bustard and the pink-headed Duck recommended to be protected by the Bombay Natural History Society already stand protected. Whereas this Government is in agreement with the suggestions of the Bombay Natural History Society it is necessary to obtain the concurrence of the I.B.W.L. as the policy relates to collection and exports of specimens by foreigners.

4. The above suggestions may be considered by the Executive Committee of the I.B.W.L. during its next meeting and its recommendations in the matter conveyed to this Government.

## GAME SANCTUARIES IN INDIA

Name of the State	Name of the Sanctuary	District in which it is situated	Area covered	Main and important species of wild life in the sanctuary	Best period for visiting the sanctuary
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1. Assam	1. Kaziranga Wild Life Sanctuary.	Sibsagar	166 sq. miles	1. Rhinoceros, wild Buffaloes, Deer & variety of wild birds.	January to April.
	2. North Kamrup or Manas Wild Life Sanctuary.	Kamrup	105 Do.	2. Elephants, Wild Buffaloes, Bison Rhinoceros, Sambhar, Deer, Hogs Deer, Swamp Deer, Barking Deer, Tiger, Bear, Pigs.	Do.
	3. Sonai-Rupa Wild Life Sanctuary.	Darang	85 Do.	3. Elephants, Bisons, Deer, a few Rhinoceros & variety of birds.	Do.
	4. Pabha W.L.S.	Lakhimpur	20 Do.	4. Wild Buffaloes & Deer.	Do.
	5. Garampani Wild Life Sanctuary.	Sibsagar	2.29 Do.	5. Bison, Deer, Elephants, Imperial Pigeon & a few Rhinoceros.	Do.
	6. Orang Game Reserve.	Darang	31 Do.	6. Rhinoceros, Hog Deer Barking Deer.	Do.
	7. Lookhowah Reserve.	Nowgong	29 Do.	7. Rhinoceros, Wild Buffaloes & Sambhar Deer.	Do.

GAME SANCTUARIES IN INDIA—*contd.*

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
2. Andhra Pradesh.	1. Pakhal Wild Life Sanctuary.	Warangal	339.0 sq. miles	1. Tiger, Panther, Bear, Sambhar, Spotted Deer, Chital, Blue Bull, Wild Bear, Crocodile, Chinkara.	December to March.
	2. Eturangan Wild Life Sanctuary.	Do.	314 Do.	2. Tiger, Panther, Bear, Sambhar, Deer Blue Bull, Spotted Deer, Chinkara, Wild Bear & Bison.	Do.
	3. Pocharan Wild Life Sanctuary.	Medak and Nizamabad.	50 Do.	3. Tiger, Panther, Sambhar Wild Goat, Bear.	Do.
	4. Sri Venkateswara Wild Life Sanctuary.	Chittoor & Cud-dapah.	184 Do.	4. .. ..	
3. Bihar ..	1. Tebo Game Sanctuary.	Singhbhum	56 sq. miles appr.	1. Bison, Sambhar, Spotted Deer, Barking Deer, Wild Goats & Birds.	October to March.
	2. Bamiaburu Sanctuary	Do.	50 Do.	2. Sambhar, Tiger Winter leopards, Wild Fowls.	
	3. Bares Wild Life Sanctuary.	Palamau	22.94 Do.	3. Tiger, Leopards, Spotted Deer, Sambhar Deer, Bear, Pigs, Bison Elephants & other birds.	October to June.
	4. Lat Sanctuary	Do.	36 Do.	4. Bison, Tiger Leopard, Bear, Sambhar, Chital, Peafowl, Junglefowl, Green Pigeons.	November to June.
	5. Kerh Sanctuary	Palamau	43 sq. miles	5. Bison, Tiger, Leopard Bear, Sambhar, Chital, Peafowl, Junglefowl, Green Pigeons.	November to June.

GAME SANCTUARIES IN INDIA—Contd.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)		
3. Bihar—contd.	6. Hazaribagh Park.	National	Hazaribagh			6. Tiger, Bear, Sambhar, Barking Deer, Wild Bear, Blue Bull, Panther, Peacocks & Junglefowl.	October to June.
	7. Koderma Sanctuary.	Wild Life	Do.	68 sq. miles		7. Royal Bengal Tiger, Leopard, Winter Sambhar, Barking Deer, Bears.	
	8. Dumka Life Sanctuary.	Damin Wild	Santhal Parganas	35	Do.	8. Leopard, Bear, Deer, Pig.	December to March.
	9. Sarangda Sanctuary.	Wild Life	Singhbhum	7½	Do.	9. Elephant, Bison, Sambhar, Chittal Barking Deer, Four-horned Antilopes, Tiger & Birds.	November to April.
4. Bombay	1. Gir Sanctuary		Sorath	525	Do.	Lion, Sambhar, Nilgai Chittal, Barking Deer, Wild Boar, Hyenas, Foxes, Jackals, Wild Cats, Porcupines.	January, February, May and June.
5. Kerala	1. Periyar Sanctuary.	Wild Life	Kottayam	300	Do.	Elephants, Bisons, Sambhar, Deer, Wild Boar, Jungle Sheep, Tiger, Bear, Panther, Monkey, Squirrel, Wild Dogs.	
6. Madhya Pradesh.	1. Kanha National Park.		Mandla	97.7	Do.	1. Barasingha, Chital, Black Buck, Sambhar, Tiger, Panther & Bisons.	March to June.

GAME SANCTUARIES IN INDIA—*contd.*

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Madhya Pradesh— <i>contd.</i>	2. Taroba National Park.	Chanda	45 sq. miles	2. Tiger, Panther, Bison, Sambhar, Chital, Nilgai, Barking Deer, Peafowl, Spurfowl, Junglefowl.	March to May.
	3. Kehoni Wild Life Sanctuary.	Dewas	20 Do.	3. Tigers, Panthers, Sambhars, Spotted Deer, Bear.	November to January.
	4. Shivpuri National Park.	Shivpuri	61 Do.	4. Tiger, Panther, Bear, Sambhar, Spotted Deer, Blue Bull, Four-horned antelope Indian Gazelle, Peafowl, Spurfowl & variety of birds.	December to June.
	(Vindhya Pradesh).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. One in Panna Division.</li> <li>6. One in Rewa Division.</li> </ul>			
7. Madras	Mudumalai Wild Life Sanctuary.	Nilgiris	120 Do.	Elephants, Bisons, Spotted Deer, Tiger, Panther, Bear, Wild Pigs, Barking Deer, Hyena, Four-horned antelope, Sambhar, Nilgiris Thor (Ibex) Grey Langur, Malabar Squirrel, Mouse Deer, Civet-Cat, Red Mangoose, Flying Squirrel, Wild Dog, Peafowl, Grey Junglefowl, Spurfowl, Quail, Partridge, Green Pigeon, Malabar Trogon, Black-Headed Owl & Wood Pigeon.	April to June.

GAME SANCTUARIES IN INDIA—*Contd.*

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
8. Mysore	1. Venugopala Wild Life Park & Bandipur Game Sanctuary.	Mysore	310·34 sq. miles	1. Elephants, Bisons, Spotted Deer, Sambhars, Barking Deer, Tiger, Panther Bears etc. & Birds Such as Peafowl, Junglefowl, Partridges, Rock Pigeons.	May to end of September.
	2. Dandeli Wild Life Sanctuary.	Kanara	79·82 Do.	2. Elephant, Goat, Sambhar, Chital, Barking Deer, Mouse Deer, Tiger, Leopard, South Bear, Black Panther.	January to May.
	(Bandipur Sanctuary of 22 sq. miles is Sanctum and Sanctorum within the Venugopala Wild Life Park.)				
	3. Muthodi Game Sanctuary.	Gaggar Valley	61·29 Do.	3. Bison, Sambhar, Spotted Deer, Barking Deer, Mouse Deer, Tiger, Panther, Bear, Wild Bear etc. & Bird such as Junglefowl, Peafowl, Rock Pigeons & Green Pigeons.	May-June, November-December.
	4. Chamarja Nagar Game Preserve.	Mysore	35·00 Do.	4. Elephants, Bisons, Tigers, Panthers, Deer, Wild Pigs, Bear & variety of Birds.	May to September.
	5. Kahankoti Game Preserve.	Mysore	55·00 Do.	5. Elephants, Bisons, Spotted Deer, Barking Deer, Wild Bear, Tiger, Panther & variety of Birds.	Do.

GAME SANCTUARIES IN INDIA—contd.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Mysore—contd.	6. (i) Tiger Preserves	Mysore	50·81 Do.	6.	..
	(ii) Do.	Chick Magalur	44·63 Do.	(i) Tiger	..
	(iii) Do.	Shimoga Distt.	27·50 Do.	(ii) Do. (iii) Do.	..
	7. Renganthitoo Bird Sanctuary.	Mysore	187·37 Do.	7. Cattle Egret, Cormorant, Gaggles Eyed Plover, Open bill Stock, White Lbis, Night Heram, Dartar.	June to November.
	8. Dandeli Game Sanctuary.	North Kanara	79·80 Do.	8.	..
	9. Nagarhole Game Sanctuary.	Coorg	III Do.	9. Elephants, Bisons, Tigers, Panthers, Bears, Spotted Deer, Sambhar, Barking Deer, Wild Pigs, Porcupines.	Throughout the year except June to September.
9. Orissa	1. Balukhand Sanctuary	Puri	5 Do.	1. Black Buck.	November to April.
	2. Chandaka Sanctuary	Do.	7627 acres.	2. Elephant, Sambhar, Spotted Deer, Bear, Tiger, Panther & Bisons.	April.
	3. Debrigarh Sanctuary	Sambalpur	5½ sq. miles.	3. Tigers, Leopard, Sambhar, Antelope, Bisons, Nilgai.	December to February.
	4. Raigada Wild Life Sanctuary.	Dhonkanal	17 Do.	4. Elephant, Bisons, Sambhar, Spotted Deer Bear & variety of winged game including Junglefowl & Peafowl.	Between December to February.
10. Punjab Hoshiarpur Division:	1. Lohara Sanctuary RII b. Lohara B.C.2	Hoshiarpur	about 2 Do.	1. Spotted deer, Hog, deer, barking deer & Leopard.	15th December to 15th March.

GAME SANCTUARIES IN INDIA—Contd.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
<i>Anritsar Forest Division:</i>					
	2. Shahpur Kandi Protected Forests.	Gurdaspur	43½	sq. miles	2. Tiger, Leopard, Sambhar Chital, Barking Deer, Coal & Pig. For small game see schedule to Rule 2 of Punjab Forests Game Rules except pave cristatis.
<i>Kulu Forest Division:</i>					
	3. (1) Kothi Manali (2) Kothi Kais (3) Kothi Khokhan (4) Kothi Kahawar (5) Kothi Nagar (6) Kothi Khokhan	Kangra	39·03	Do.	3. Black Bear, Bharal, Goral, Tahr, Kart, Yamu, Bubalinus & Barking Deer, Brown Bear. May, June to September, middle of November.
<i>Pepsu now Punjab.</i>					
1. <i>Kandaghat Forest Division:</i>					
A. <i>Taradevi Range:</i>					
	(i) Karol	Patiala	909	acres	.. (i) 15th September to 15 November.
	(ii) Mangaltoo	Do.	409	Do.	.. (ii) Do.
B. <i>Chail Range:</i>					
	Pargna Chail & Pashgon.	Patiala	34	sq. miles	--
2. <i>Sivalik Forest Division:</i>					
	1. Bir Shikargah	Patiala	2·92	Do.	1. Panther, Sambhar, Nilgai Wild bear, Chital, Pigs & Hare. November to February.

GAME SANCTUARIES IN INDIA—*contd.*

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	
10. Punjab— <i>contd.</i>	2. Game Reserve Forest Division.	Siwalik Patiala	85.08	sq. miles	2. Panthers, Sambhars, Spotted deer, Goral, Barking deer, Pig, Kakkar, Nilgai.	Summer season for upper hill and October to February.
	3. <i>Patiala Forest Division:</i>					
	1. Bir Motibagh Sanctuary.	Patiala	2	Do.	1. Deer, Blue Bulls, Sambhar fowls, black & grey partridges, quails. Hog deer, chital, German bear, Hare, peafowl	Throughout except during monsoons.
	2. Bir Mehswala Wild Life Sanctuary.	Do.	0.88	Do.	2. Pig, Black Buck, Chinkara, Deer, Partridges, Quail & Hare.	Do.
	3. Bir Doshajanwala Wild Life Sanctuary.	Do.	2.3	Do.	3. Pig, Black Buck, Chinkara, Deer, Partridges, Quail & Hare.	Do.
	4. Bir Bhadson Wild Life Sanctuary.	Do.	4.2	Do.	4. Do.	Do.
	5. Bir Agaul (Game Reserve)	Do.	3.1	Do.	5. Do.	Do.
	6. Bir Bhorey (Game Reserve)	Do.	1.5	Do.	6. Pig, Black Buck, Chinkara, Partridges, Quail & Hare.	Winter and Spring months.
11. Rajasthan	1. Jaisemand Reserve.	Udaipur	40	sq. miles	1. Tigers, Panthers, Chinkaras, Sambhar, & Wild boars.	15th May to 15th June.
	2. Sawai Madhopur Reserve.	Sawai Madhopur.	50	Do.	2. Tigers, Panthers, Sambhar, Chitals, Sloth bear & Wild Boars.	Throughout the year. (Except August and September.)

GAME SANCTUARIES IN INDIA—Contd.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
11. Rajasthan— <i>contd</i>	3. Sariska Reserve	Alwar	16 sq. miles	3. Tigers, Panthers, Sambhar, Chinkara, Nilgai, Wild boar, Peacock, Spur-fowl, jungali murgli.	Throughout the year (Except August and September.)
	4. Darah Reserve	Kota	40 Do.	4. Tigers, Panthers, Sambhur, Chital, Nilgai.	Do.
	5. Ramagar Reserve	Bharatpur	7 Do.	5. Tigers, Panthers, Bears, Sambhar, Chital, Chinkara & Nilgai.	Do.
	6. Ban Bihar Reserve	Do.	8 Do. approx.	6. Tigers, Panthers, Bears, Sambhar, Chital, Nilgai, Chinkara, Wild boar.	Do.
	7. Kaisarbagh	Do.	5 Do.	7. Panthers, Tigers, Bears, Chital, Chinkara, Nilgai & Wild boar.	Do.
<i>Ajmer</i>	Dandalia Game Sanctuary.	Todgarh Forest Ajmer.	132 acres	Tigers, Panthers, Sambhars, Blue Bulls, Wild Boars, Bears, Hyena & Wolves.	Just after the rainy season.
12. Uttar Pradesh.	1. Ramganga National Park.	Garhwal, Almora & Nainital within Ramnagar & Kalagarh Forest Divn.	125 sq. miles.	1. Elephants, Tigers, Leopards, Hyenas Jackals, Wild Dog, Sloth & Himalayan Black Bears, Chital, Samohue, Hog Deer, Barking Deer, Goral, Mongoose.	March to May.

GAME SANCTUARIES IN INDIA—*contd.*

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
12. Uttar Pradesh — <i>contd.</i>	2. Rajaji Sanctuary	Saharanpur	1,10,476 acres or 173 sq. miles.	2. Indian Sambhar, Spotted Deer, Kakar Wild Boar, Himalayan Deer (Black) Langooors, Pinemartids, wild elephants, tigers, panthers, Leopards, Wild Cats, Leopard Cat, Hayenas, Wild Dogs, Wolf & Fox.	20th February to 15th April.
	3. Kansaro Sanctuary.	Dehra Dun	18,709 acres or 29·2 sq. miles. approx.	3. Sambhar, Chital, Barking deer, Pigs, Panthers, Tigers, Hyenas, Bears elephants, Hog Deer, Pinemartin Himalayan Squirrel, Porcupines, python, rabbits, Checpheasant, Partridges, jungle fowls, peafowl Hornbills, Dove.	December to March.
	4. Nandadevi Sanctuary.	Garhwal	125 sq. miles	4. All species.	Summer season
	5. Govind Pashu Bihar.	Tehri Garhwal	368 Do.	5. Musk deer, Brown Bear, Thar, Goral, Leopard, Munal.	May and October.
	13. West Bengal	1. Senchal Sanctuary	Darjeeling	15·27 Do.	1. Serow, Bear (Himalayan), Barking Deer, Goral.
2. Lothjan Island Game Sanctuary.		24-Pargana	9,389 acres or 14·67 sq. miles.	2. All sort of wild Life.	December to Febru- ary.
3. Gorumare Game Sanc- tuary.		Jalpaiguri	3·8 sq. miles	3. Rhino, Elephant, Tigers, Bisons & Sambhar, Barking & Hog Deer, Buffaloes, Pigs & Fowls.	February.

GAME SANCTUARIES IN INDIA—Contd.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
13. West Bengal —contd.	4. Jaldapara Game Sanctuary.	Jaipauri	36 sq. miles	4. Rhino, Elephant, Tigers, Leopard, deer, Pigs.	1st December to 31st May.
	5. Chapramari Game Sanctuary.	Do.	3·4 Do.	5. Rhino, Elephants, Tigers, Bisons, Deer (Sambhur, Barking & Hog), Buffaloes, Pigs & Fowls except Wild dog & other.	February.
14. Jammu & Kashmir.	1. KASHMIR Dachigam (Upper & Lower)	12 miles from Srinagar near Harwan.	63 Do	1. Barasingha, Black Bear, Musk deer & Pheasants, Pigs.	Not indicated.
	2. KASHMIR Rajparyan & Bewal Basins.	Desu block in Nowbug; Kashmir Forest Divn. 25 miles from Anantnag.	22·75 Do.	2. Barasingha, Black Bear, Musk deer & Pheasants.	Do.
	3. KASHMIR Ghumnai basin.	Aru Valley above Pahalgam; Kashmir Forest Divn.	16 Do.	3. Brown bear, Barasingha, Black bear Musk deer & Pheasants.	Do.
	4. KASHMIR Shankaracharya Hill.	Srinagar	0·7 Do.	4. Chikor.	Do.
	5. JAMMU Somjan & Sapphire Mines Nallah.	Kishtwar Forest Divn.	..	5. Thar, Garal & Leopard.	Not Indicated. Information not available.
	6. J. & K. Places sacred to all Communities.	..	..	..	..

GAME SANCTUARIES IN INDIA—*contd.*

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	
15. Himachal Pradesh	1. Mangli	Chamba	16.76 sq. miles	1. Birds, Gorals, Tharas, Black & Brown Bears, Leopards, & Musk Deers.	April, May, September to November.	
	2. Gharosan	Do.	4.65 Do.	2. Birds, Gorals, Musk Deer, Black Bear Leopard, Thar, Sparrow.	Do.	
	3. Jammu Trehun	Do.	9.37 Do.	3. Birds, Ibex, Brown bear, Musk deer, Snow Leopards.	May, June & September, October.	
	4. Karhunal	Do.	19 Do.	4. Ibex, Birds, Brown bear, Musk deer Snow Leopards.	Do.	
	5. Jammuni	Do.	12 Do.	5. Birds, Musk Deer, Brown bear.	April, May, September Oct.	
	6. Khajiar	Do.	3 Do.	6. Birds, Barking Deer, Leopard, Black Bear, Musk Deer & Sparrows.	Do.	
	7. Sudhani Nalla	Do.	7.97 Do.	7. Ibex, Musk Deer, Brown Bear.	May-June, September October.	
	8. Gandhir & Pesuve	Pandvan	Do.	1.87 Do.	8. Birds, Gorals, Musk Deer Thars, Black & Brown bear, Leopards, & Snow Leopards.	June to October.
	9. Jandri Ghat	Do.	0.33 Do.	9. Birds & Black bears.	April-May, September October.	
	10. Deothal	Do.	7.50 Do.	10. Birds, Gorals, Musk Deer, Thars, Black & Brown bear, Leopard & Sparrow.	April-May, September October.	

GAME SANCTUARIES IN INDIA—*contd.*

1	2	3	4	5	6	
15. Himachal Pradesh— <i>contd.</i>	11. Tundah Block	Chamba	25	sq. miles	11. Birds, Gorals, Musk Deer, Thars, Black & Brown bear & Leopards.	May-June September to 15th November.
	12. Darjund Nallah	Do.	about 14	Do.	12. Birds, Gorals, Musk Deer, Black & Brown Bears.	May, June-September to mid October.
	13. Ahla Catchment	Do.	0.75	Do.	13. Birds & Black bears.	April-May.
	14. Bakani Nallah	Do.	9	Do.	14. Himalayan Birds, Gorals, Musk Deer, Black & Brown Bear.	May-June, Mid September Mid October.
	15. Kugti	Do.	31.25	Do.	15. Birds, Goral, Musk Deer, Thars, Black and Brown Bears, Leopards Ibex.	May-June, September October.
	16. Bhadar Khad	Do.	23.43	Do.	16. Birds, Gorals, Musk Deer, Sarrow Thars, Black & Brown Bears, Leopards.	April-May, September November.
	17. Kalatop	Do.	4	Do.	17. Birds, Gorals, Barking Deer & Himalayan Black Bear.	April-May, September October.
	18. Kaninthelee	Do.	1.5	Do.	18. Birds, Barking Deer, Black Bear, Goral & Sparrows.	April-May, September to October.
	19. Gamgul	Do.	.79	Do.	19. Birds, Musk Deer, Thar, Leopard, Brown & Black Bears, Stag Deer.	May-June and September October.
16. Manipur Keibul Lamjao Game Sanctuary to the South-West of Imphal in Bisenur Tahsil (Sub-Division)				Brow antlered Deer.	November to February.	

*Regarding Forest Fires and Wild Life*

*Madhya Pradesh.*—Forest Fires are undoubtedly harmful to the fauna and flora. They have suggested fire protection measures for National Parks and Game Sanctuaries in accordance with "Fire Protection of Class I as laid down in Madhya Pradesh (Old) Forest Manual."

*Andamans.*—They have no problem like forest fires.

*Kerala.*—They fully endorse the views expressed in Chief Conservator of Forests, Bombay's note. Special fire patrols during dry seasons, clearing of boundaries and internal roads and fire lines, a system of fire watch towers connected by telephone along with suitable field glasses, fire fighting squads with latest fire fighting equipment have been suggested as measures against fire.

*West Bengal.*—Protection of wild animals from forest fire is a necessity. But in certain areas like riverain Savannahs which are inhabited by rhinos there is no other alternative but to use fire for keeping these grassy tracts free from trees for rhinos.

*Uttar Pradesh.*—They have already taken adequate measures against forest fires and are in agreement with the proposal.

*Orissa.*—They appreciate the necessity of protection of forests from fires. But still it is difficult to deal with fires due to wide spread forest areas and numerous causes of fire.

*Punjab.*—Necessity for protection of wild life from forest fires does not require any emphasis. All possible measures for this purpose are therefore being taken in their territory.

*Bihar.*—They are fully alive to the danger to wild life from forest fires and therefore provided for a scheme in 2nd Plan specifically for this purpose. They have suggested steps like having fire lines, traces, and also proper forest protection, grazing and over felling against forest fires.

*Delhi.*—The Forest Fires really have a devastating effect on wild life especially birds. The problem needs immediate attention.

*Manipur.*—Relevant extracts from the letter received from Manipur administrations in this connection are as follows :—

"What is indicated in the note of the Chief Conservator of Forests, Bombay is quite correct and sounds reasonable; but in certain districts, particularly, in this territory of Manipur where the tribals live, there is practical difficulty to stop setting the forests on fire for the protection of wild life.

2. As an usual practice the tribals set the forest crops on fire in connection with their paddy cultivation which is locally known as jhum cultivation, for the purpose of dry paddy cultivation. But sometimes, for hunting purposes they set the growing stock of forest produce on fire to chase wild life. This practice has not only affected the forest crop but also diminished the existing stock of animal habitation in this territory.

3. To put to stop such a bad practice prevalent throughout the hill areas of this territory for the last so many years, it is considered necessary

to draw up a set of rules in order to prohibit setting the forests on fire indiscriminately so as to safeguard destruction of forest crop and wild life by the tribals”.

*Andhra.*—Forest fires require immediate attention. The believed prevalence of elephant in Tirupati Forest of Chittor Division in the past indicates that the vegetation in the area was deciduous many years ago. Repeated fires have however reduced the vegetation to scrubs which is inhospitable to elephants and other game animals.

*Himachal Pradesh.*—They are in agreement with the views expressed in the note on “Forest Fires and Wild Life” from Chief Conservator of Forests Bombay.

*Assam.*—(1) Seasonal Forest Fires must have been environmental condition in respect of wild life in India and many other parts of the world for thousands of years and unless there is evidence that the frequency and intensity of those fires have substantially increased in recent years, there is no reason to believe that fires are such as to have serious repercussions on the survival possibilities of Wild Life. It may be that due to destructive fellings in wooded lands the type of undergrowth and round cover has been changed to a new fire conducting type.

(2) It appears that in Assam at least, the continued survival of certain animals such as the hog deer, and wild Buffaloes are utterly dependent on keeping the ground cover and under growth more or less in the grass and reed states and fire-protection will lead to these forests being converted into a tree forest type which will be unsuitable to them.

(3) In this state grass lands in Wild Life Sanctuaries are systematically burnt under control to provide fresh grass for deer and wild buffaloes and this is a measure of the importance attached in Assam to the use of fire as an implement in providing suitable conditions for the survival of certain varieties of fauna.

(4) In general I would state that unless there are special grounds to believe that the intensity and frequency of fires have increased radically, there is no case for adopting artificial measures of fire control. Animals and birds in general have remarkable powers of adaptation and there are varieties of animals and birds which will be the sufferers if seasonal fires which maintain the status of their environment more or less static are abolished. In a vast country like India, no broad generalisation as regards the evils or benefits of forest fire in relation to Wild Life can be made. Each region has to be studied in relation to the environmental conditions suitable for its flora and fauna.

*Madras.*—Though there can be no two opinions about protection of Wild Life from forest fires but there has never been any serious threat to wild life from their occurrence in this State. Forest Fires are a regular feature in dry areas of the State and the wild life easily flee to safety with its scent. Public co-operation through appeals can reduce danger of fire to a great extent. Fire protection measures in game sanctuaries and national parks are however necessary in initial stages.

*Tripura.*—Burning of forests in the State is connected with shifting cultivation practised by the tribals. Measures being taken against shifting cultivation will therefore reduce the incidence of forest fires also.

Also, Shri Gee has sent a note on the subject which is reproduced below :—

### 1. Introduction

This subject has been referred by the Standing Committee of the Central Board of Forestry to the Indian Board for Wild Life. The following Note on the subject, written from the standpoint of wild life conservation, should be of value.

### 2. General.

First of all, it is not possible to generalise on the subject or to formulate a forest fire-control policy which would be acceptable to all countries, or even to all regions in any one country. Only intensive studies conducted in each region, even in each individual reserved forest, sanctuary or national park, could enable one to come to any definite policy decision for a particular place.

For instance, what might be the fire-control policy in certain forests or national parks of Canada may not be suitable for parts of Africa or India, where the local conditions of climate, environment and wild life are totally different.

Broadly speaking, it should be recognised that where such conditions exist that a forest fire could be very sudden very widespread and involving a very large area, then the fire hazard is very great and the potential loss to wild life, as well as to timber, very considerable.

### 3. United States and Canada.

Such dangerous conditions exist in parts of the United States and Canada, and elaborate precautions are taken in parts of these two countries to fight fire. In some of the National Parks of these two countries, where there are vast areas of pine forests, fire-control is done not so much to save the timber (for this is not exploited as a forest resource) but to prevent disfigurement of the park and to protect the wild life from destruction.

Here it should be mentioned that it is generally admitted by wild life conservationists in the United States and Canada (as well as in Africa and India) that (i) Nearly all wild life species' are dependent upon habitats which have not reached the limit of floral succession, *i.e.*, are sub-climax' and that (ii) Fire is one of the chief causes of a sub-climax vegetation; and that (iii) Grazing mammals require sub-climatic grasses and reeds and browsing mammals need an adequate supply of broad-leaved trees and shrubs which are not often associated with a climax growth in some parts of the world.

Forest fires can be divided into two types : man-caused (either deliberate or accidental) and lightning-cause (natural). In the United States the official policy of the National Park Service is 'to reduce the number of man-caused fires to the smallest attainable minimum, and to combat any fire which occurs, regardless of size, origin or location. Lightning causes few fires in eastern areas because the deciduous vegetation is usually green when lightning storms occur. In the Western areas lightning and man-caused fires are of about equal occurrence'.

As the result of this policy a peculiar position has arisen in some of the national parks of the United States, for instance in Yellowstone. Many years of fire suppression have resulted in a considerable amount of dead and highly inflammable tree, branches and leaves lying on the ground all over the park. Thus by suppressing all localised and small fires a situation has arisen in which, should a fire occur, it might become so serious and so

widespread as to do far more damage at one time than would have been done by all the intermittent localised fires. There is now a controversy in Yellowstone as to whether lightning-caused, natural, localised fires should not, after all, be allowed to run their course as they have done since time immemorial, and as to whether complete fire-suppression is not actually an undesirable act of intervention by man in the course of nature.

#### 4. *Africa.*

Fire-suppression and controlled burning have been the subject of much discussion in many parts of Africa. Perhaps the most interesting case in this continent is the history of the controversy in the Belgian Congo. For many years the Belgian Government practised the ideal of complete non-intervention, with a minimum of wild life management. As part of this policy, man-caused fires and also lightning-caused fires were rigidly suppressed, thus producing a climax type of vegetation quite unsuitable for the herbivorous animals which exist there in large numbers.

This was particularly so in the Parc National Albert, where through the centuries many of the antelopes and other mammals of the Rwindi Plain had become specialised for existence in and on a sub-climax type of vegetation brought about by natural fires. It turned out that these were poorly adapted to the climax growth which followed the elimination of burning. Thus to suppress fires altogether was not really a policy of non-intervention but was in fact an act of intervention by man. The Belgian authorities have now realised this, and have recently reversed their policy and now permit fires to run their course in the Parc Albert—to the benefit of the wild life of that park.

In the Serengeti National Park of Tanganyika in East Africa an interesting case occurred where burning proved beneficial to wild life conservation. African villagers living outside the park boundaries in the region of Sereneri burned off some of their grazing areas in order to attract the park animals outside the park where they could shoot them. The Park Warden cleverly countered this move by burning off a large area within the park boundaries—with great success.

In South Africa controlled burning of the veldt has been done in order 'to improve' the grazing by destroying the dense high grass of the previous year. It has been found in the Kruger National Park, however, that 'the growth of the new and palatable shoots is soon checked, and in a short time the tender current growth on unburned veldt, while less conspicuous to the human eye, is considerably taller and probably more abundant'. Consequently an investigation is now being conducted to determine the facts. An ample area, however, is still being burned to provide material for study.

#### 5. *India.*

In this sub-continent most of the wild life is found in or near the reserved forests, which are generally protected against man-caused and lightning-caused fires in order to conserve the timber. One method of fire-suppression is controlled burning of the highly inflammable grassy areas inside and around forests, often conducted in the early part of the dry season when the fire hazard is less. This 'cold burning' done in these grassy areas is undoubtedly essential for the existence of the herbivorous mammals which thrive on the resultant sub-climax type of vegetation.

In Kaziranga Sanctuary of Assam, burning of the dense tall elephant grass is done in patches each year, thus providing suitable area of sub-climax grasses and reeds for grazing and also leaving areas of climax growth which provide necessary cover for the wild life of the sanctuary.

Jaldapara Sanctuary of north Bengal controlled burning somehow came to be suspended for some years, resulting in a climax type of impenetrable vegetation unsuitable for the purpose for which the sanctuary was intended—the preservation of the Indian rhinoceros and other herbivorous wild life. This fault, I understand, has now been remedied and controlled burning has again been instituted.

An opinion was recently expressed by a Chief Conservator of Forests of a South Indian State that burning of forest areas reduces the numbers of certain undesirable insects, such as ticks. Probably some beneficial insects might also get destroyed, and this could be a subject of further research.

From a forestry point of view I understand that the natural regeneration of certain trees in India is actually benefited by controlled burning, while that of others is adversely affected. From the wild life standpoint, the burning of climax growth in patches and thus producing areas of sub-climax vegetation would be generally desirable except when such burning occurred during the breeding seasons of birds and certain mammals.

A further benefit derived from the burning of climax grass and scrub undergrowth in national parks and sanctuaries is the improved visibility for the visitors who come to see wild life. As the economic or tourism value of wild life as a forest crop is very great, it is important to have open areas where herbivorous mammals, as well as their predators, can be seen and photographed by visitors.

#### 6. *Summary.*

Burning of vegetation, either man-caused or lightning-caused, can be destructive to wild life if uncontrolled or too widespread. On the other hand restricted and localised natural fires or controlled burning, especially of tall dense grasses and undergrowth, will produce the sub-climax type of vegetation not only beneficial to but often essential to the existence of herbivorous mammals and other wild life.

Controlled burning of scrub and grassy areas in and around forests and sanctuaries, therefore, should continue to be practised in India wherever it is found that, after careful study of local conditions, it will be beneficial to wild life and not detrimental to other interests.

AGENDA ITEM No. 44

ITEM No. 12.—Alopecia and Melanism in lion cubs.

Enclosure 'G'

1. *Comments received from the Bombay Natural History Society.*—“It would, however, appear that as both the factors alopecia and melanism which are almost unknown in the wild have appeared in inbred animals, they are due to recessive genes which represent unfavourable characters not ordinarily permitting survival in a state of nature. If the factors are genetic, I suggest that you refer the problem to Prof. J. B. S. Haldane who, I understand, is now in Calcutta and who would be able to express a much more authoritative opinion.”

2. *The Alipore Zoological Gardens, Calcutta.*—No comments.

3. *Director, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.*—“It appears that the two abnormal male cubs are identical twins, that is, produced by one and same fertilised ovum by division, while the normal female cub of the same litter is a fraternal twin, that is the product of a different ovum fertilized about the same time.

The development of hairless condition at such an early age, coupled with melanism and corrugation of the skin (rhinoceros skin) leads to consider the abnormal cubs to be examples illustrating *Alopecia cogenita* or *Hypotrichosis*. Similar instances have been recorded for cattle, goat, pig, cat, dog, rat, mouse, rabbit, etc., but we are unable to trace any record for lion.

Regarding treatment, since this abnormality is genetic (a recessive mutation) we do not think any medicine can permanently cure it.”

4. No comments from the Director, Indian Veterinary Research Institute who was also consulted in the matter, have been received.

DRAFT CONTENTS OF THE PROPOSED ZOO MANUAL  
*Section I.—HISTORY AND DISTRIBUTION.*

*Introduction*

Importance of zoos  
Educational value  
Aesthetic value  
Cultural value  
Recreational value  
Aid to conservation.

CHAPTER I.—*The Institutions and how they started.*

The menagerie.  
The Zoological garden  
The Zoological park.

Histories of zoos in general—short history of some of the very important zoos in the world showing the average annual attendance and the strength of the live stock etc.

CHAPTER II.—*Zoos in India.*

The number of zoos in India, their histories, other details of extent and live stock etc.

*Section II.—THE ZOO SET-UP*

CHAPTER I.—*Planning and designing.*

1. Area requirements
2. Topographical conditions and site selection
3. Buffer zone for future expansion
4. Contour adaptations
5. Soil study
6. Reclamation and grading
7. Architectural plans
8. Garden layout
9. Landscaping
10. Walks and service drives
11. Storm water drainage
12. Sanitary sewers
13. Water supply
14. Electricity distribution
15. Transportation facilities
16. Other amenities.

CHAPTER II.—*Enclosure designs—Specifications—Requirements.*

1. From freedom to captivity—a transition
2. Biological and psychological problem of confined space
3. Cages, grottos, enclosures, paddocks, moats, etc.
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5. For old world monkeys
6. For new world monkeys

7. For half monkeys
8. For rodents
9. For canine tribe
10. For bears
11. For big cats
12. For smaller caravora
13. For pachyderms
14. For ungulates
15. For marsupials
16. For flightless birds
17. For Game birds
18. For aquatic birds
19. For carnivorous birds
20. For parrots
21. For perching birds
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23. For reptiles—a serpentarium
24. For fish—an aquarium
25. For invertebrates an insectarium.

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- (3) Hindi name
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## THE BLACKBUCK

by

R. S. DHARMAKUMARSINHJI

AND

SHRIMANT FATEHSINGHRAO GAIKWAD

*Maharaja of Baroda*

The magnificent blackbuck, pride of India, considered to be by some sportsmen as the most beautiful antelope in the world, is a fast vanishing big game species in this land of rich fauna and flora. *Krishnasara* of Sanskrit literature, now known as the Indian antelope or blackbuck and scientifically described as *Antelope cervicapra* is the only species of the Genus ANTILOPE, hence a true antelope in the real sense of the word.

The adult male blackbuck assumes a jet black coat in full breeding condition, the rest of the lower parts, including a ring round the eyes, are white. Except for the fawn nape, the glossy black coat covers the upper parts and extends like a sleeve on the front legs; the buttocks and under-tail are white. The blackbuck varies in size from north to south, becoming smaller as the range extends southwards. Thirty-two inches at the withers is the normal height of an adult male blackbuck. The female is slightly smaller and the black in the male is replaced by fawn in the female. The males alone have horns. These are V-shaped and hollow, straight and spiral, like corkscrews, ending in a smooth and pointed tip. The long beautiful horns, adorning the head of the blackbuck make him the grandest of all antelopes and the most prized amongst them. The record horns, measured straight, are almost thirty-two inches, the height of the animal itself. The beauty of the head is only matched by the blackbuck's shapely form and proportionate features; the head is held high when standing, giving him a proud appearance; at a gallop, the head and neck are drawn backwards, the horns lying on each side of the body, the muzzle pointing upwards, the chest forwards, ears pressed downwards and the short tail curled up, the blackbuck is the living symbol of handsomeness. For speed, the blackbuck competes with any mammal that exists today, and is capable of outrunning the swiftest quadruped in the world, the Cheetah.

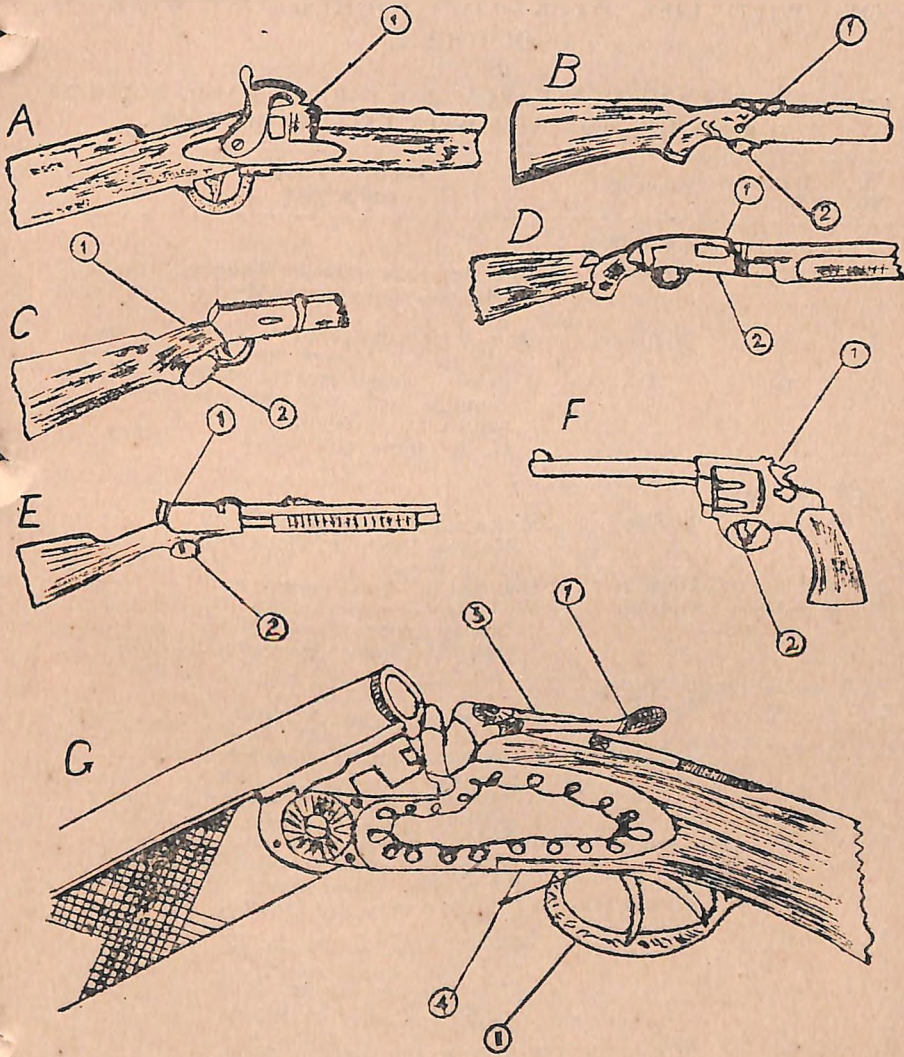
Since ancient times, Indian poets have alluded to the beauty of the dark eyes of the blackbuck and have set a standard for the description of the eyes of the fair sex. Our artists of the Moghul and the Rajput schools have depicted the blackbuck in rhythmic pose in their exquisite paintings, not only that but they have associated the blackbuck in the realm of music as in melodies like the 'Todi', and 'Bhimapalas'. Whereas, in sculpture, he has been carved freely on temples and palaces since times immemorial. What greater tribute does the blackbuck need!

No mammal so handsome and graceful as the blackbuck treads our soil. And no mammal suffers so ruthlessly at the hands of its countrymen, being relentlessly pursued and killed. It is sad to think that such a fine animal which characterised the landscape of *Aryavarta* by its abundance should now disappear in many a part of the country, seeking refuge

in remote grasslands and wildernesses. It is indeed, a poor sight to see the blackbuck in small enclosures in Zoological parks and gardens, in contrast to the open vast land in which he formerly roamed.

Gregarious in habits, the blackbuck thrives best in large herds in open spaces. It is the true lover of wild life who delights in seeing the blackbuck live happily in the wild state, there being not many who can afford to keep him in captivity in natural condition. The *habitat* of the blackbuck is jeopardised by the advance of agriculture and pasture lands, and although the blackbuck has adapted himself to living in forest land it is not enough in itself. Grasslands, rich in variety of herbs that provide sustenance and rest to the blackbuck, are being put under the plough. Where can the blackbuck feed except on crops, where man with his destructive weapons waits in ambush to take revenge? In the open desert, he is chased and slaughtered. What a fate for this splendid animal that is held by Shiva as a sign of good omen. What a fate for the animal on whose auspicious skin sat *Rishis* in meditation, praying incessantly for spiritual communion and *Moksha*. What a fate for the animal which adorns the sky in the form of a constellation and which is harnessed to the chariot of the moon. Thus we see him since ages as an imaginary form amidst the heavenly stars, bright and sparkling, while the live symbol begins to fade from its native land. Woe to the man of Bharat who destroys this noble animal indiscriminately by cruel and unsporting means, and bites with relish the meat of the blackbuck which once was sacrificed to the Gods by the Brahmins and tasted by the most devout as a holy offering.

Let not what was written in the rock edicts of Emperor Ashoka be forgotten and let not our valuable heritage in wild life be lost before it is too late. So, let us now make every effort to perpetuate the blackbuck in our Indian landscape for the benefit of posterity, for the blackbuck deserves to be protected in the land of Buddha and Gandhi, symbolic of an ancient and glorious past. There is still room for the blackbuck to survive in New India and this the people can alone help it to do.



SUMMARY OF THE REPORTS FROM VARIOUS STATE GOVERNMENTS, ZOO ADMINISTRATIONS AND UNIVERSITIES ETC., IN CONNECTION WITH THE OBSERVANCE OF "WILD LIFE WEEK—1957" (DURING 1ST WEEK OF OCTOBER)

LIST OF TALKS BROADCAST FROM THE VARIOUS RADIO STATIONS DURING THE WILD LIFE WEEK CELEBRATIONS 1957.

S. No.	Date of B'cast	Language	Name of Talker and subject	Remarks
(1) <i>Dharwar Radio Station.</i>				
1.	1-10-57	English	Shri Jayachamarajandra Wadiyar, Bahadur, Governor of Mysore.	Relayed from Bangalore.
2.	Do.	Kannada	Shri S. Nijalinagappa, Chief Minister of Mysore State.	Do.
3.	Do.	Do.	Dandeli Sanctuary: Feature in Kannada with spot recordings written & produced by Dr. H. K. Ranganath.	—
(2) <i>Ahmedabad Radio Station.</i>				
1.	1-10-57	English	Preservation of Wild Life—by Maharaj Fatehsingh Rao Gaekwad, Baroda.	—
2.	4-10-57	Gujarati	Dialogue in Rural programme.	—
3.	6-10-57	Gujarati	Wild Life Sanctuaries in Gujarat—Talk by Reuban David, Municipal Hill Garden, Ahmedabad.	—
(3) <i>Cuttack Radio Station.</i>				
1.	1-10-57	English	Dr. Mahtab, Chief Minister of Orissa.	—
2.	3-10-57	Oriya	Preservation of Wild Life People's Co-operation—Talk by Shri Radhanath Rath, Development Minister, Govt. of Orissa.	—
3.	5-10-57	—	Wild Animals Help Man: Feature script and material provided by the Chief Conservator of Forests—Programme for school Students.	—
4.	5-10-57	English	National Parks & Sanctuaries with Special Reference to Orissa Interview with Shri G. N. Mathur, C. C. of Forests, Govt. of Orissa.	—
5.	6-10-57	Oriya	Importance of Wild Life—Interview with Shri B. C. Kanungo of the Department of Forestry, Govt. of Orissa.	—
(4) <i>Jammu Radio Station.</i>				
1.	2-10-57	Dogri	Banne De Basi—Feature on Wild Life.	—

S. No.	Date of B'cast	Language	Name of Talker and subject	Remarks
2.	6-10-57	Urdu	Jangal Ke Janwar—Talk by Shri R. N. Malhotra.	—
(5) Patna Radio Station.				
1.	4-10-57	English	Preservation of Wild Life—by Shri M. Obaidullah, Member, Zoological Society, Bihar.	—
2.	5-10-57	Hindi	Animal Welfare—Talk by Shri D. Singh, Secy., S. P. C. A., Bihar.	—
3.	6-10-57	Do.	Pashuon Ka Palan Poshan—Feature by Shri J. Roy, A. I. R. Artist.	—
4.	7-10-57	English	Preservation of Wild Life—Talk by Mr. Marie Palit.	—
5.	8-10-57	Hindi	Pashuon Ki Raksha—Talk by Shri Ram Dulari Sinha.	—
6.	8-10-57	Hindi	Vanya Pashuon Ka Sanrakshan—Talk by Shri Yogendranath Sinha, C. C. of Forest, Bihar.	—
(6) Ranchi Radio Station.				
1.	1-10-57	English	Preservation of Wild Life—Talk by Mrs. M. Palit.	—
2.	4-10-57	Hindi	Chotanagpur Ke Jangali Janwar—Talk by Mrs. Jamal Ara.	—
3.	5-10-57	Hindi	Interview with Shri B. K. Sahai, Forest Research Officer on the preservation of Wild Life.	—
4.	8-10-57	Do.	Vanya Pashuon Ka Sanrakshan—Talk by Shri Jogendra Nath Sinha, C. Forests, Ranchi.	—
(7) Simla Radio Station.				
1.	2-10-57	Hindi	Wild Life —Talk by Shri D. C. Kaith, C. C. of Forests, H.P.	—
(8) Madras Radio Station.				
1.	3-10-57	Tamil	Wild Life Week—Talk by Shri Bhaktavatsalam, Minister of Agriculture, Madras.	—
2.	5-10-57	English	Wild Life & Ourselves—Talk by Shri V. S. Krishnaswamy, C. C. Forests, Madras.	—
3.	9-10-57	Tamil	Wild Life & Ourselves—Talk by Shri V. S. Krishnaswamy, C. C. Forests, Madras.	—
(9) Bombay Radio Station.				
1.	1-10-57	Marathi	Jangalche Sobati—Talk by Shri Bhanu Shirdhankar.	—
2.	2-10-57	Marathi	Topical discussion written by Shri Jayant Khopkar.	—
3.	4-10-57	Gujarati	Jangli Pashu Panckhio nun Samrakshan.	—
4.	4-10-57	English	Man's Fried—Talk by Shri Dharmakumar Singhji.	—
5.	6-10-57	Do.	Protection of Wild Life—Talk by H.H. The Maharaja of Baroda.	—

S. No.	Date of B'cast	Language	Name of Talker and subject	Remarks
6.	6-10-57	Marathi	Jangle Pranyachi Sabha—Feature by Mr. V. G. Joshi.	—
7.	7-10-57	Gujarati	Gujarati version of H.H. The Gaekwad's talk in English broadcast from A.I.R., Bombay.	—
8.	8-10-57	Marathi		
(10) <i>New Delhi Radio Station.</i>				
1.	1-10-57	English	Wild Life Week—Talk by Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh, Union Minister, Cooperation.	—
2.	1-10-57	Hindi	Van Jeevan—Talk by Shri M. D. Chaturvedi.	—
3.	7-10-57	Hindi	Wild Life Preservation—Talk by Shri G. G. Takle, I. G., Forests.	
(11) <i>Kozhikode Radio Station.</i>				
1	—	—	Message by Governor of Kerala on Wild Life Week.	Relayed from Trivandrum.
2.	—	Malayalam	Wild Life Preservation—Discussion.	—
3.	—	English	Preservation of Wild Life—Talk by Shri Ayyappan.	Do.
4.	—	Malayalam	Our Wild Animals—Talk by Dr. R. Kesavan Nair, Director of Zoo & Museums, Trivandrum.	Do.
5.	—	Do.	Wild Life Week Celebration—Talk by Mr. M. P. George, C. Forests, Kozhikode.	—
(12) <i>Nagpur Radio Station.</i>				
1.	26-9-57	Marathi	Wild Life Week—Talk by Shri B. C. Gadhe, Minister for Forests, Bombay States.	Relayed from Bombay.
2.	28-9-57	Do.	Vanya Pashunche Sanrakshan—Dialogue based on the background material received from the Department.	—
3.	4-10-57	Do.	Jangalche Sobati—Talk by Shri Banu Shirdhankar.	—
4.	6-10-57	—	Maharajbagechi Sahal.	
(13) <i>Calcutta Radio Station.</i>				
1.	1-10-57	Bengali	Wild Life Week—Discussion between S. Sarkar, M. Mukherjee & P. Banerjee.	—
2.	4-10-57	Do.	Wild Life Week—Talk by S. Banerjee, Dy. Minister, Govt. of West Bengal.	—
3.	7-10-57	Do.	Banya Jantu—Samrakshan Feature written by Pijush Bandyopadhyay.	—
(14) <i>Poona Radio Station.</i>				
1.	23-9-57	Marathi	Review of the Wild Life Preservation Week Exhibition arranged in Poona—by Shri S. G. Bhole, Wild Life Preservation Officer, Bombay State, Poona.	—

S. No.	Date of B'cast	Language	Name of Talker and subject	Remarks
2.	25-9-57	Marathi	Vanya Pansu Pakshi—Dialogue by Shri Shankar Patil (Staff)	—
3.	26-9-57	Do.	Wild Life Week—Talk by Shri B. G. Ghade, Minister for Forests, Bombay State.	Relayed from Bombay.
4.	29-9-57	English	Preservation of Wild Life in Bombay State—Talk by Shri J. A. Singh, C. C. Forests, Bombay State.	—
<i>(15) Vijayawada Radio Station.</i>				
1.	1-10-57	—	Jeevahimsa—Song on Wild Life by Shri V. Sivarama Rao (AIR).	—
2.	3-10-57	—	Adavimrugamula Samrakshana—Talk by Shri Konda Reddy.	Relayed from Hyderabad.
3.	3-10-57	—	Marrichettukrinda Lokabhiramayanam—Feature on Wild Life Week.	—
4.	4-10-57	—	Dialogue on Wild Life in Rural Women programme.	—
5.	5-10-57	—	Dialogue on Wild Life in Children programme.	—
6.	5-10-57	Telugu	Wild Life Week 1957—Talk by Shri V.G.R.K.M. Prasad, Rajah Saheb of Muktyala, Member, All India Wild Life Board.	—
7.	5-10-57	—	(i) Bangaru chiluka—a song on the Parrot. (ii) Mata Manti—Talk written by Shri Y. K. Rao and read by Shri M. G. Syamala.	—
<i>(16) Tiruchirapalli Radio Station.</i>				
1.	3-10-57	—	Wild Life Week—by Shri M. Baktavatsalam, Minister for Home, Govt. of Madras.	Relayed from Madras.
2.	5-10-57	—	Wild Life & Ourselves—by Shri V. S. Krishnaswami.	Do.
<i>(17) Hyderabad Radio Station.</i>				
1.	1-10-57	Telugu	Song on Wild Life —by Shri Prayaga Narasimha Sastry.	Relayed from Vijayawada.
2.	2-10-57	Do.	Marrichettu Krinda Lokabhiramayanam—Feature on Wild Life, by Shri Y. K. Rao.	Do.
3.	2-10-57	English	Why Preserve Wild Life—Talk by Shri A. K. Mathure, Asstt. C. Forests, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.	—
4.	3-10-57	Telugu	Preservation of Wild Life—Talk by Shri C. V. Konda Reddy, Asstt. C. C. Forests, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.	—
5.	4-10-57	Telugu	Song on Wild Life—by Shri V. S. Rao.	Do.
6.	5-10-57	Do.	Do.	Do.

S. No.	Date of B'cast	Language	Name of Talker and subject	Remarks
7.	5-10-57	Telugu	Preservation of Wild Life—Talk by Shri V. R. G. K. M. Prasad, Raja Saheb of Muktyala.	Relayed from Vijayawada.
(18) Allahabad Radio Station.				
1.	6-10-57	Hindi	Van Pashuon Ka Sanrakshan—interview with Shri H. K. Madhwal, C. Forests, Son Divn., Mirzapur.	—
(19) Bangalore Radio Station.				
1.	1-10-57	English	Wild Life Week—message by the Governor of Mysore.	—
2.	1-10-57	Kannada	Translation of (1) above.	—
3.	6-10-57	Do.	Kindness to Birds & Animals—Feature in programme for children.	—
4.	7-10-57	Do.	Wild Life Week—Talk by Shri H. S. Rudrappa, Minister for Agriculture, Govt. of Mysore.	—
5.	14-10-57	Do.	Wild Life Week—Talk by Shri H. S. Rudrappa, Minister for Agriculture, Govt. of Mysore.	The date of inauguration of the Wild Life Week in Mysore State.
6.	16-10-57	—	A short talk on the significance of the week by the C. C. F., Mysore.	—
(20) Lucknow Radio Station.				
1.	30-9-57	—	Van Pashuon Ke Sanrakshan Ka Mahatwa—Talk by Dr. Sampurnanand, Chief Minister, U.P.	—
2.	3-10-57	—	Van Pashu—Illustrated talk.	—
3.	5-10-57	English	Preservation of Wild Life—Discussion by Shri S. S. Negi, Chief Game Warden, U. P. and Shri Sher Singh, Deputy Director Publicity, Agriculture Deptt. U. P.	—
4.	7-10-57	—	Van Pashu—Feature in Rural programme.	—
(21) Gauhati Radio Station.				
1.	3-10-57	Assamese	Why Preserve Wild Life—Discussion between a Shikari & a State Govt. Official.	—
2.	8-10-57	English	Wild Life—Talk by Shri Rupnath Bramha, Minister for Forests, Assam Govt.	—
3.	8-10-57	Tripuri	Appeal for preservation of Wild Life by Shri S. L. Singh, Chairman, Wild Life Advisory Board. Tripura.	—

S. No.	Date of B'cast	Language	Name of Talker and subject	Remarks
4.	11-10-57	Assamese	Preservation of Wild Life—Discussion.	—
<i>(22) Jaipur Radio Station.</i>				
1.	1-10-57	—	Wild Life Week—Talk by Shri Mohan Lal Sukhadia, Chief Minister, Rajasthan.	—
2.	2-10-57	—	Wild Life Week—Talk by Shri Mathuram Mirdha, Minister for Agriculture & Forests.	—
3.	6-10-57	—	Chidiya Ghar—Recording from the local Zoo broadcast in the Children's programme.	—
4.	7-10-57	English	Wild Life Week—Talk by Col. Kesari Singh.	—
<i>(23) Trivendrum Radio Station.</i>				
1.	1-10-57	English	Messages by Governor of Kerala Dr. B. Ramakrishna Rao.	—
2.	4-10-57	Do.	Wild Life Preservation—Talk by Shri A. Ayyapan.	—
3.	5-10-57	Malayalam	Preservation of Wild Life—Talk by Dr. R. Kesavan Nair.	—
4.	6-10-57	Do.	Preservation of Wild Life Week Talk in Children's programme.	—

*SUMMARY OF REPORTS RECEIVED FROM VARIOUS STATES*

1. Madhya Pradesh, Rewa ..
1. Meetings were held and addressed throughout the State in which the prominent local citizens and people distinguished in the field of Wild Life spoke about the necessity of protecting the Wild Life.
  2. The Minister for Forests, M.P. gave a radio talk on Wild Life from the A.I. R. Station, Bhopal.
  3. Pledge of 'Wild Life Preservation' was taken at the various public meetings.
  4. A pamphlet entitled 'Van Pashu Pakshi Sanrakshan' was brought out and distributed to public.
  5. Essay competition on the 'Importance of Wild Life Preservation' was held in some of the Divisions and prizes awarded.
  6. Competition of Wild Life paintings and pencil sketches was also held at some places, and prizes awarded.
  7. Excursions of school children were arranged to the neighbouring forests.
  8. To observe the sanctity of Wild Life ceremony of 'Laying down arms' was observed throughout the State, and no shooting permits were issued during the week.
  9. Posters and placards were displayed in prominent places in the towns. Slides on Wild Life were shown in Cinema Houses. Films on Wild Life were also shown by Tribal Welfare Department.
  10. Balaghat Forest School museum and National Park of Shivapuri were thrown open to public during the week.
- Films on Wild Life be shown during the week in Cinema Houses and as regards the villages cinema vans of the Publicity/Forest Deptts. be used.
- Posters on Wild Life should be supplied sufficiently in advance by the I. B. W. L.

11. Children were given Joy rides on elephants.
2. Himachal Pradesh, Simla ..
1. Radio talk was broadcast by the C. C. F. from A. I. R. Station, Simla. More films on Wild Life should be prepared for educating the masses.
  2. Largely attended meetings were arranged by the D. F. Os., R. Os. and Game Wardens in their areas in which speeches were delivered bringing home the significant part played by the Wild Life in the Country's economy and the need for its preservation. Pledges to protect the Wild Life were taken in those meetings. Paintings and pencil sketches exhibitions should be organised during this week.
  3. Prizes were announced for the best essays on Wild Life and committees formed to judge them and make recommendations. Pits, water holes and paths leading to game sanctuaries should be improved with the help of local students.
  4. The shooting season has been changed from October to December. Salt licks for the animals and nesting boxes for the various kinds of birds be displayed in various game sanctuaries, near temples and other religious places.
  5. Posters received from the I. B. W. L. were displayed at conspicuous places in the districts. The Medal system introduced by the Madras State Govt. may also be adopted by other states.
  6. A film show on Wild Life was arranged by the D. C., Bilaspur.
3. Bihar, Patna .. ..
1. On 1-10-57 Shrimati A. R. Palit gave a Radio talk from A. I. R. Station, Ranchi. No permits for shooting be issued during the X'Mas week.
  2. A film show on Wild Life was arranged on 3-10-57 in the Garrison Theatre of the Eastern Command. The films exhibited were filmed by Mr. E. P. Gee. After the show the C. C. F., Bihar addressed the gathering and emphasized the significance of celebrating Wild Life Week. Sufficient number of posters on Wild Life be sent to them for wide distribution.

3. On 5-10-1957 A.I.R. Station, Ranchi broadcast an interview with Forest Research Officer, Bihar.
  4. On 8-10-1957 the Conservator of Forests Development Circle gave a radio talk from the A. I. R. Station, Ranchi, emphasising the cultural and literary aspects of Wild Life preservation and of the work done in the National Park at Hazaribagh.
  5. An exhibition of photograph of Wild Life was arranged in Netarhat School for the Students, which was very much appreciated.
4. Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad
1. A procession headed by an elephant and Police band was taken from the Gandhi Bhavan to Patel Maidan.
  2. Radio talks by well known Shikaris and F.Os were arranged.
  3. Film shows about wild life were arranged in public gardens, Hyderabad and University Campus.
  4. An exhibition of paintings and photographs of Wild Life was arranged in the Govt. College of Fine Arts. Prizes worth Rs. 300 were distributed by the Minister for Forests and Agriculture, Andhra Pradesh, who inaugurated the exhibition. The C. C. F. and Secretary of the State Wild Life Week Celebration Committee explained briefly the purpose of celebrating the week. The Minister traced the struggle between man and beast through centuries and stressed the need for preserving vanishing species to maintain the balance of nature so necessary for the progress of humanity.
5. Bombay State .. ..
1. The pledge was transliterated into regional languages and distributed to all D. F. Os, Conservators, District Magistrates and educational institutions for getting it undertaken by the public and students.
  2. The Chief Minister of Bombay sent a message to the people of the State to pledge to protect Wild Life and the Minister for Forests and the C. C. of Forests gave radio talks indicating the need for the protection of Wild Life of the country.
- Poster and pamphlets should be supplied well in advance to ensure their timely distribution.
- Postage stamps depicting Wild Life be issued during the Wild Life Celebrations Week.
- Close season may be extended upto the 15th October, every year so that the Wild Life Week falls during the Close season.

3. The State publicity department brought out folders in different languages containing useful information on Wild Life and made these available to Schools, Colleges and other institutions.
4. The State Publicity Department also made available films on Wild Life to the educational institutions.
5. The Lord Reay Maharashtra Industrial Museum, Poona arranged an exhibition on Wild Life at the Museum Lecture Hall. This remained open for a week and was largely attended.
6. A procession of Wild Life from the Peshwa Park was taken out. This was headed by an elephant and moved through the streets of Poona. The procession was accompanied by Police band.
7. The Shikaris were approached to lay down their arms during the week. Special license holders were also requested not to utilise their licenses during the week.
8. A model talk was prepared by the C. C. Forests and copies distributed to District Magistrates, D. F. Os and Conservator of forest to serve as guide.

*SUMMARY OF REPORTS RECEIVED FROM VARIOUS ZOO ADMINISTRATIONS*

Victoria Zoological Bombay.	Gardens,	Attention was paid to the welfare of Wild animals with regard to their cleanliness and diet. Voluntary donations were collected from the visitors to the Zoo for the benefit of Wild animals.
Ahmedabad Zoo	.. ..	The Zoo garden was kept open throughout the day and was visited by thousands of students. Elaborate labels were fixed on the cages of the different animals for the benefit of the visitors. Articles by the Municipal Commissioner and Superintendent Zoo on the need for the protection of Wild Life in the country were published in local newspapers. Posters were suitably displayed on buildings and Municipal vehicles.

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*Suggestion*

A few game sanctuaries be established in Gujcrat so that public may have an opportunity of seeing animals in their natural surroundings.

Zoological Gardens, Alipore

Posters on Wild Life were suitably displayed in the Zoo emphasizing the need for the protection of Wild Life in the country.

A map depicting country's fauna was also displayed suitably.  
Due to holidays there was a great rush of visitors to the Zoo during the Celebration week.

*Suggestion*

The Wild Life Week celebrations be held sometimes in winter as the weather conditions then are more favourable.

Udaipur Zoo

.. .. The Zoo was decorated with flags and buntings.

The premises and cages were properly cleaned to give a neat and clean appearance.

The Zoo was kept open even at night for which special lighting arrangements had to be made and the visitors were shown round by the employees in uniforms. They were also explained the habits etc. of various animals.

A cinema slide as per I. B. W. L. poster was inserted in a local cinema for full one month.

The significance of Wild Life Week was explained to the public over the mike.

Posters were distributed among general public as a result of which people visited the Zoo in large numbers.

*Suggestions*

Nil

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*SUMMARY OF REPORTS RECEIVED FROM THE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS*

S. No.	Name of the Institution	Summary of events	Suggestions made, if any.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1.	Vithalbhai Patel Mahavidalaya, Vallabh Vidayagar, Anand.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The importance of the preservation of Wild Life was explained to the students and staff by the Professors of Biology in a meeting held under the auspices of the Biology association.</li> <li>2. The staff and students took a pledge to preserve and protect the Wild Life of the country.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Documentaries and slides concerning Wild Life should be made available to educational institutions for enlightening the students.</li> <li>2. Pamphlets and posters covering a wide range of Wild Life of the country bearing captions in different regional languages should be distributed well in advance to various educational institutions.</li> <li>3. Financial aid be given to the educational institutions for conducting study tours of the Zoological gardens and institutions.</li> <li>4. Attractive illustrated booklets on Wild Life be brought out for sale to students at moderate prices.</li> </ol>
2.	Nagpur University, Nagpur.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The posters received from I. B. W. L. were suitably displayed.</li> <li>2. Well attended meetings of the teachers and taught were held in which speeches explaining the need of preservation of Wild Life were arranged.</li> <li>3. The staff and students then took a pledge to preserve and protect the Wild Life of the country.</li> </ol>	

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
3.	S. C. College, Ballia	1. A meeting of the staff and students was held in the College Hall on the 15-10-57 in which speeches stressing the need for the preservation of Wild Life were delivered. 2. An oratorical competition on the subject was held after the speeches.	—
4.	Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh.	1. Lectures explaining the importance and sanctity of Wild Life, its protection and preservation were arranged.	—
5.	Basic Training College, Dharmsala.	1. A meeting was held in which the aims and objects of 'Save Wild Life Campaign' were explained to the students, and a pledge taken to preserve and protect wild life. 2. Posters exhorting people to preserve wild life were displayed.	—
6.	University of Bombay, Bombay.	1. Students were taken to the Victoria Gardens to observe and study different wild animals. 2. Talks on 'Wild Life Preservation' and 'Wild Life in India' were arranged for the students.	1. Films depicting the Indian Wild Life together with literature on the importance of preservation of Wild Life be made available to educational institutions for the benefit of students. 2. Celebrations be held in the month of July.
7.	Marsinha Dutt College, Howrah.	As the college remained closed during the month of October, 1957, the students were advised to visit Zoological Gardens during the celebrations week.	—
8.	K. N. Govt. College, Gyanpur, Varanasi.	A meeting was held in which Dr. Onkar Nath Srivastva spoke at length on the importance of preservation of Wild Life in the country.	The Wild Life week should be observed at some more convenient time. During the 1st week of October, the school and college remain closed due to Puja holiday.

9. A n d h r a University, 1. Meetings largely attended by staff and students were held in various colleges in which the need for preserving the Wild Life In India was stressed. 1. Booklets with coloured illustrations of Wild animals of our country may be distributed during the Wild Life Week Celebrations.
- Waltair. 2. Films on Wild Life were shown to the students. 2. Postages stamps with Wild Life Pictures be issued during the week.
3. Posters were suitably displayed. 3. Arrangements may be made for showing films on Wild Life and 'Behaviour of animals' in public places.
4. A pledge to protect the Wild Life in India was taken. 4. A symposium on Indian Wild Life and its preservation be organised.
5. Elocution competition was held in one of the colleges and prizes awarded. 5. Suitable passages, verses and reference from old Sanskrit texts *e.g.* Kavyas, Natakas, Puranas be gathered and published.
6. Posters of species on the verge of extinction be also prepared and their distribution arranged.
7. Societies for the preservation of Wild Life be formed in all States.
10. L.D. Arts College, Ahme- 1. A meeting was held in which Shri M. D. Dubale stressed the need for preserving the Wild Life in the country and gave a brief account of the various types of animals.
- dabad. 2. A pledge was taken by the members of the staff and students to protect country's forests and Wild Life.
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(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
11. University of Poona	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Display of I. B. W. L. posters at prominent places.</li> <li>2. Pledges to preserve the Forests and Wild Life of the country was taken by the staff and students in different colleges.</li> <li>3. A largely attended meeting was arranged to stress the importance of Wild Life Preservation.</li> <li>4. A film show about the Wild Life was also arranged after the meeting.</li> <li>5. A competition of essays, paintings, photographs and posters on Wild Life was organised and prizes awarded to 3 best entries.</li> </ol>	<p>The celebrations be held in the 1st week of Oct. every year instead of during the last 2 weeks of September as was done this year as this is a very busy time for them.</p>	
12. U.P. College of Veterinary/Science, and Animal Husbandry, Mathura.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The college remained closed during the first week of October. However, the posters received were suitably displayed.</li> <li>2. Courses on treatment of wild animals are being included in the curriculum of the college.</li> </ol>	—	174
13. Mahishadal Raj College, Midnapur.	<p>A meeting was organised which was attended by the teachers and students in which the speakers dwelt upon the importance of wild animals, in God's holy plan of Wild Life, the harmony existing between the individual and the universe and the sacred duty of man in preserving wild life in all possible ways.</p>		
14. D.S.B. Govt. College, Naini Tal.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A talk by Shri A. Benson was arranged in which the speaker gave a vivid account of the Wild life in Kumaon and stressed the importance of Wild life preservation.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The programme of celebrations should be sent sufficiently in advance.</li> </ol>	

2. A local excursion of the post-graduate students was arranged and the marvels of animal life actually observed.
3. A film show on wild life was also arranged.
2. Arrangements for broadcast of talks about Wild Life from the A. I. R. stations throughout the the week should be made.
3. Posters should be exhibited on a large scale.
4. Every picture house in the country must show at least one documentary on Wild Life during the celebrations week.
5. Free film shows on various aspects of animal life should be arranged.
6. The Central/State Govts. should organise subsidised and guided tours of students and others to the towns where Zoological gardens, animal sanctuaries and other forest blocks where wild life is preserved.

15. Gorakhpur University,  
Gorakhpur.

1. Meetings were held in the University and various colleges affiliated to it in which the speakers dwelt on the desirability of preservation and protection of Wild Life in the country.
2. Maps & Posters were displayed by the students.
3. Papers on Wild Life were read by students.
4. Essay competition was held and prizes awarded to the best 3 essay writers.
1. Paper badges with beautiful paintings of Wild Life be distributed free during the week.
2. The number of zoos in the country be increased.
3. Illustrated posters, pamphlets, maps, calendars should be distributed in large numbers free to educational institutions, museums, libraries and other public institutions for display during the week.
4. Film and Cinema slides on Wild Life should be provided by the Govt. of India during the Wild Life week.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
		5. The students and the teachers took the pledge to preserve the forests and the Wild Life of the country.	
16. Govt. Intermediate College, Moradabad.		A meeting largely attended by the students and members of the staff was held in which inspiring speeches for the protection of Wild Life were delivered. Those who were present, then took a pledge to protect the forests and the Wild Life of the country.	
17. University of Jabalpure, Jabalpure.		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An exhibition of the Wild Life was arranged in the College.</li> <li>2. A largely attended meeting was held in the University auditorium in which speeches were delivered stressing the need for protecting the Wild Life of India.</li> <li>3. A trip to Kanha Kisli sanctuary has been arranged in the month of December, 1957.</li> </ol>	
18. University of Kerala	,,	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Posters exhibiting the Wild Life of India were displayed suitably.</li> <li>2. Meetings in which speeches stressing the importance of Wild Life were delivered were arranged.</li> <li>3. Visits to the Zoological gardens and game sanctuaries were undertaken by the students.</li> <li>4. Elocution and competition tests were held and the winners were awarded prizes.</li> </ol>	1. Arrangements be made in future for explaining significance and importance for Wild Life through films shows. These may be after the pattern of 'the Vanishing Prairie'.

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| 19. University of Baroda.<br>Baroda.         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Several posters on Wild Life Preservation were suitably displayed in the University.</li> <li>2. In a meeting significance of Wild Life Week was explained to the students.</li> <li>3. An essay competition in English and another in Gujarati on the subject 'Why Preserve Wild Life' was organised. These prizes were awarded to the best essay writers in each language.</li> </ol> | —   |
| 20. Government College,<br>Kota.             | An exhibition to emphasize the importance of Wild Life <i>vis-a-vis</i> human society and the need for its protection was held.   | —   |
| 21. Annamali University,<br>Annamalai Nagar. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A meeting was held in the University premises in which the Head of the Department for Zoology gave a talk on the importance of Wild Life.</li> <li>2. An essay competition has been held and 2 prizes awarded to the 2 best essay writers.</li> </ol>   | —   |
| 22. Victoria College, Cooch<br>Behar.        | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A meeting largely attended by the teachers and members of the staff was held on 23-11-57 in which the speakers stressed the need for having a Zoo in North Bengal and documentaries on Wild Life for stimulating interest of the students etc. in Wild Life.</li> <li>2. A pledge to preserve the forests and Wild Life of the country was taken by those who were present.</li> </ol>  | —   |
| 23. Vikram University ..                     | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Speeches explaining the indirect utility of the Wild Life to man were delivered in a meeting held during the week.</li> </ol>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Grants be given to Veterinary, Agri. &amp; Forests Deptts. to make the Week a success.</li> </ol> |

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	<p>2. A pledge to preserve the forests and the Wild Life of India was taken by the students and staff.</p>		<p>2. Forest departments be given thick reserve forests in which they may breed under natural conditions Wild beasts.</p> <p>3. Veterinary colleges should include in their curriculum the study of breeding and treatment of the ailments of the wild animals.</p> <p>4. During the week tamed or suitably controlled wild animals be taken round to stimulate interest of the public in them.</p>
<p>24. University of Mysore</p>	<p>Meetings largely attended by the members of the staff and students were held in which speeches emphasising the importance of Wild Life, need for its preservation and the relationship between man and Wild Life and the balance of nature were delivered.</p> <p>Those who attended these meetings took a pledge to preserve the forests and the Wild Life of the country.</p> <p>The students participated in the Competition on Wild Life paintings organised by the C. C. F. in Mysore, Bangalore.</p>		<p>1. Printed pamphlets and paintings on Wild Life of India be distributed to give a clear idea of the importance of the celebrations to students.</p> <p>2. Films on Wild Life should also be arranged for the benefit of students and general public.</p> <p>3. Central/State Govts. should provide funds so that excursions of students may be arranged to the forest areas by the educational institutions.</p>
<p>25. Gujarat University, Ahmedabad.</p>	<p>Meetings were arranged in the various colleges to stress the need for protection of Wild Life and pledges taken.</p> <p>Essay competitions were held and prizes awarded to the best writers.</p>		

Films on Wild Life obtained from U. S. I. S. and the publicity department of Bombay State Govt. were exhibited to the students.

A visit to Kankaria Gardens was arranged for the students.

26. University of Roorkee.

1. Posters depicting Wild Life were suitably displayed.

2. Group discussions on the need of protecting Wild Life of India, creation of Wild Life sanctuaries were held.

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SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF  
THE THIRD SESSION OF THE INDIAN BOARD FOR WILD  
LIFE HELD AT NEW DELHI FROM 14TH TO 16TH  
FEBRUARY, 1958.

The Board met from 14th to 16th February, 1958 under the Chairmanship of H.H. the Maharaja of Mysore, Chairman of the Board. The items on the agenda were considered and the following decisions were taken :—

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1.—*Recommendations of the 5th meeting of the Executive Committee of the Indian Board for Wild Life held at Periyar from 21st to 23rd January, 1957—Action taken thereon.*

The report of Secretary on action taken on the various conclusions of the Ex-Committee at its last meeting in Periyar in January, 1957, was noted. It was observed that with reference to Item No. 8 of those conclusions, the list of salt licks when prepared should be, if at all, only for official information and not be made generally available.

At the suggestion of Shri Abdulali of the Bombay Natural History Society, it was agreed that a summary of the proceedings of every meeting should be made available to all members of the Board so that they may know what was being discussed. It was agreed that this would be done in future.

The Board would support the Government of West Bengal in its efforts to get the Railway to accept an alternative site outside the Mahanadi Sanctuary for its stone quarry.

The Secretary's report was then formally confirmed.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2.—*Formation of Natural History Societies, Wild Life Clubs, etc. particularly in Educational Institutions.*

The question of financial resources was raised. It was agreed that there need be no bar to such requirements being sponsored by State Governments as part of their schemes for Wild Life Conservation and State assistance could be secured in some measure for such activities.

The Board noted with gratitude the offer of the Zoological Society of India, the Bombay Natural History Society and others to provide write-ups for publication by the Board. A suggestion was accepted that outlines or proformas could be prepared by the Board as basis for such write-ups, esp. by Forest Officers. Any proposal for any write-ups should be scrutinised by a sub-Committee before it is taken up, esp. to avoid duplication of work and to ensure standards of production.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3.—*Enforcement of Wild Life Act.*

It was agreed that an enquiry might be made of the State Governments regarding the steps taken or contemplated in order effectively to implement any Acts and Laws in force in respect of Wild Life Protection in or outside reserved forests in their jurisdiction.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4.—*Educational Publications on Wild Life.*

It was agreed that as far as possible attractive books of this kind should be brought out on animals, birds etc. The Board recommended that Shri Stracey's book on Wild Life Management be published by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5.—*Wild Life and Crop Protection Guns.*

It was agreed that this was a very important question. In addition to any other steps already adopted, States could also consider measures for sealing weapons and thus rendering them inactive, during the non-crop seasons and thus prevent at least partially the mis-use of crop protection guns.

The Board would also recommend that sale or commercialisation of game meat should be made a punishable offence.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6.—*Suggestion for Wild Life Studies along with working plan work.*

The Board suggested a new chapter with section or para headings should be in the outline adopted for writing up working plans in order to ensure greater attention being paid, in working plans work, to questions of the incidence ecology and management of wild life in the area covered.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7.—*Status of Marine and estuarine animals.*

It was suggested from the Chair that for the time being the Board may leave marine fauna out of its purview.

Incidentally the large scale export of frogs was mentioned and the assurance was given by Dr. Pannikar, Fisheries Development Adviser that collection of frogs was seasonal and their commercial exploitation was unlikely to cause any set back to their incidence.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8.—*Export restriction versus export promotion.*

After detailed discussion the Board came to the following conclusions:—

- (i) *Reptile skins.*—The present restrictions should continue, viz., that skins of all lizards other than *Varanus Salvator* (moniter lizard) may continue to be exported and skins of all snakes other than *Python molurus* (the Python).
- (ii) With regard to crocodiles the Board came to the conclusion that all export of crocodiles skins should be banned as there has been rapid depletion of numbers in the recent past in almost all parts of India and the species stood in danger of extinction.
- (iii) With regard to the export of peacock feathers the Board recommended that the *status quo*, (i.e., ban on their export except as specimens illustrative of natural history) should remain.

It was also recommended that the bird itself should be declared as completely protected all over the country.

- (iv) Export of elephant bones. The Board was of the view that elephant bones should not be differentiated from other (cattle) bones for purposes of export. In other words, exports should be limited to crushed bones only.
- (v) The Board felt that it had no particular views 'on the question whether the notifications restricting exports of wild life and its parts should continue to be under the Sea Customs Act or under Export Trade Control Order. It would emphasise, however, that the requirements of wild life preservation should not be in any way jeopardised by any change in the present position.

AGENDA ITEM No. 9.—*Export of butterflies.*

The Board directed Dr. Roonwal to furnish a technical note in order to initiate further action.

AGENDA ITEM No. 10.—*Proposals for Wild Life Services.*

The Board recommended that the suggestion for the establishment of separate Wild Life services may be forwarded to the State Governments for such action as they may consider necessary and practicable. It was also recommended that the State Governments may be requested to permit the Wild Life Officers (where there are such officers) to attend meetings of the Board particulars regarding which are usually furnished to States well in advance.

On the suggestion of the Chief Conservator of Forests, U.P., the Board agreed that the details of requirements of organisation for wild life preservation in the States could be usefully discussed by a sub-Committee. It was accordingly agreed that a sub-Committee of four, consisting of representatives of the Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and the Director of Forests, Education, Dehra Dun as convenor should go into this question and report to the Board at its next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM No. 11.—*Need for facilities for audio-visual education and Publicity.*

The Secretariat was directed to ascertain prices and other particulars for the information of State authorities, in order to enable them to consider acquiring such films.

Mr. Gee's offer to prepare film strips in the manner the Board may brief him to do, was gratefully noted.

AGENDA ITEM No. 12.—*Wild Life and dangers of radiation from atomic fall out.*

The item was discussed and the Board did not consider it necessary to record any resolution on the subject.

AGENDA ITEM No. 13.—*Training in Wild Life Preservation.*

The item was discussed.

AGENDA ITEM No. 14.—*Settlement of tribes who make a living from destruction of wild life.*

The Board felt that States were alive to the problem, e.g., Uttar Pradesh, Bombay and Madhya Pradesh, where such nomadic tribes were being suitably settled to the extent possible. Bombay had an Act also for the purpose. Other States might consider the question suitably according to local conditions.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 15.—*Game Laws and Rules in adjoining areas of different States.*

It was observed that this question had been dealt with by the Board suitably *vide* Govt. of India letter No. 5-7/56-IBWL, dated 11th July, 1956 addressed to State Governments of the Southern Region.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 16.—*Financial resources for wild life conservation.*

The Board suggested that the attention of the Kerala Government should be drawn to the previous resolution of the Board on the formation of "Abhayaranya", i.e., wholly protected areas, inside wild life sanctuaries.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 17.—*Revision of Game Laws in respect of Bison.*

It was decided to refer the question to States for consideration and advice in the matter. It was felt, however, that the alternative of a minimum 18 in. girth at the base of the horn may also be adopted.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 18.—*Present status of the Musk Deer.*

The Board directed that enquiries may be made suitably from Europe, America and the recently set up Indian Ayurvedic Board regarding synthetic or vegetable substitutes for musk, so that these could be developed and the inducement for killing the musk deer thus reduced.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 19.—*Protection for Blackbuck and Chinkara.*

The Board was informed that in some States like Madras and Mysore the Blackbuck was already fully protected. It was, however, felt that States should be requested to extend wherever such was not the case at present, complete protection to these two animals.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 20.—*Status of the Cheetah.*

It was suggested from the Chair that forest officers and others all over the country should be requested to undertake surveys of their areas and report on the existence of the cheetah anywhere in the country.

It was agreed that leopards should be preferred for introduction into the Andamans to cheetahs, if at all this method of keeping down the deer population was to be adopted.

The cheetah could be best helped to re-establish itself in the country, perhaps only by reproduction first in captivity, after securing a few specimens from Africa.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 21.—*Present status of crocodiles in India.*

In continuation of the discussion on the subject under Agenda Item No. 8 the Commerce Ministry's view for the need for export promotion was presented. The memorandum of the Trade indicating size limits

already voluntarily adopted by them was also brought to the notice of the Board. The Board, however, felt that as a Body responsible for the preservation of wild life in the country, it could not agree to any relaxation from a total ban even temporarily. It was, however, agreed that the Secretary-General might obtain particulars of existing stocks of skins, allowing a very short period within which to declare such stocks, with a view to permitting exports of such stocks only.

AGENDA ITEM No. 22.—*Present status of the Kashmir Stag.*

It was explained by the Jammu and Kashmir representative that recent difficulties in the protection of the Kashmir stag were largely due to the military personnel encamped there. The attention of States would be drawn to the general circular issued earlier by the Heads of Services on the request of the Board so that State may approach local military authorities suitably and secure their co-operation in wild life protection in areas frequented by military personnel.

AGENDA ITEM No. 23.—*Status of the four horned antelope.*

The Board recommended especially to the Southern States for total protection to be accorded to this species.

AGENDA ITEM No. 24.—*Disposal of Wild Dogs.*

The subject was discussed and it was agreed that the *status quo* might continue.

AGENDA ITEM No. 25.—*Status for the bear and the panther.*

The subject was discussed in some detail. It was agreed that this would be a matter for local action in the State concerned.

AGENDA ITEM No. 26.—*Future of the Delhi Ridge.*

It was agreed that the suggestion may be communicated to the State Government with the advice that the scenic attractions of the ridge might be developed.

AGENDA ITEM No. 27.—*Wild Life Pictorial Map of India.*

The pictorial map proposed by the Wild Life Club of Dehra Dun was appreciated. In view of the facts that copies of similar map were still available and that the Zoological Survey of India has also under preparation a zoological atlas, it was felt that the reproduction of this might be deferred. The President of the Club withdraw the map for making other arrangements.

AGENDA ITEM No. 28.—*Travel facilities for Honorary Regional Secretaries.*

The Board recommended that the States could usefully make the Regional Secretaries as members of the State Boards. The Board also recommended that periodical visits to the States by Regional Secretaries would be useful and that for any journeys of regional secretaries at the invitation of States the travel expenses might be borne by the latter.

AGENDA ITEM No. 29.—*Acknowledgement of Shri Y. Rama Rao's Services to the Board.*

The Board agreed to record its appreciation.

AGENDA ITEM No. 30.—*Administration of the Indian Board for Wild Life.*

The item was discussed and the Inspector-General of Forests indicated that efforts would be made at an opportune time to secure for the Board a whole-time officer in the Secretariat of the Board.

AGENDA ITEM No. 31.—*Information tables for National Parks, Reserves etc.*

The Board agreed to recommend the suggestion to the States for implementation.

AGENDA ITEM No. 32.—*Wild Life Surveys and Census.*

It was agreed that the publication in hand should be entitled "Field Guide to Big Game Census".

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RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE BIRD WING  
OF THE INDIAN BOARD FOR WILD LIFE HELD ON 15-2-58.

AGENDA ITEM No. 33.—*Action taken on the recommendations of the second meeting of the Bird Wing of the Indian Board for Wild Life held at Bombay in March, 1956—Secretary's report.*

The Secretary's report was formally confirmed.

AGENDA ITEM No. 34.—*Declaring the closed season for shooting of birds from 1st April to 15th October.*

The Board considered this question and recommended that the Wild Life Week may continue to be celebrated in the 1st week of October every year as done hitherto.

AGENDA ITEM No. 35.—*Destruction of crows in the vicinity of Bird Sanctuaries.*

The Board drew attention to the large amount of damage done by crows in protected heronries and other protected sanctuaries with a view to take suitable measure to reduce the number of crows in such areas. A practicable method recommended was the payment of a small bounty to the local people during the bird's nesting season for their eggs.

AGENDA ITEM No. 36.—*Bird Life Protection and restriction on the issue of gun licenses for crop protection.*

The Board endorsed the strictest restriction on crop protection guns.

AGENDA ITEM No. 37.—*Suggestion for setting up an Organisation for studying the stomach contents of different birds during different periods of the year for destroying the categories of birds harmful to the agricultural crops and publicity thereto.*

The Board recommended that the study of the food and feeding habits and life histories of different birds in all parts of the country was essential in the interest of agriculture and forestry and in order to make a success of the Govt.'s Grow More Food Campaign some competent organisation like the I.C.A.R. should undertake the work on a comprehensive plan to be drawn up in consultation with the Bird Wing.

AGENDA ITEM No. 38.—*The advisability of establishing a sanctuary for breeding pelicans in the Aredu-Sarepalle area near the Koolair Lake in Andhra.*

The Bird Wing recommended that suitable arrangements should be made to protect the pelicanry situated 13 miles from Thadapallegudem station on M. & S.M. Railway from Madras to Calcutta at a village called Ganapavaram 7 miles from Kollair Lake and if possible, the place be declared a sanctuary. The Government of Andhra may be requested to get a proper report made on it. It was suggested that in the enquiry, co-operation may be sought from Shri K. K. Neelakantan (Victoria Colleges, Palghat) who is well acquainted with the place.

AGENDA ITEM No. 39.—*Increase in the number of Parakeets in Delhi.*

No specific recommendations were made.

AGENDA ITEM No. 40.—*Improvement and popularising Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary in Chinglepat, District Madras.*

No specific recommendations were made.

AGENDA ITEM No. 41.—*Need for protection of the Great Indian Bustard from extinction.*

The Board fully endorsed the urgent need for the complete protection of the Great Indian Bustard in all parts of the country and recommended that all States should give the highest priority to its effective protection and conservation. It recommended that more information be obtained regarding the proposed sanctuaries and that this report be submitted to the Bird Wing before finalising the proposal of the sanctuaries.

AGENDA ITEM No. 42.—*Functions and responsibilities of the Bird Wing of the Indian Board for Wild Life.*

No specific recommendations were made.

AGENDA ITEM No. 43.—*Substitution of Kalij Pheasant by Horned Pheasant in item No. 44 of the Proceedings of the 5th meeting of the Ex-Committee of the Indian Board for Wild Life held at Periyar.*

No specific recommendations were made.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ZOO WING MADE IN ITS MEETING ON 15-2-58.

AGENDA ITEM No. 44.—*Action taken on the recommendations of the first meeting of the Zoo Wing held at Mysore in May 1956. Secretary's reports.*

The minutes of the previous meeting together with the action taken thereon were considered.

Item No. 1.—*Action taken on the last Zoo Superintendent's Conference—Secretary's Report—Review of.*

In view of the non-availability of adequate information in regard to facilities of transport by rail and air, the self-contained note could not be prepared. The Board, however, recommended that the Railway authorities and the Airlines Corporation may be approached for according priority and provide facilities of transport of consignments meant for recognised Zoos by fastest service. The restriction on the weight imposed for each consignment may also be relaxed under special circumstances.

Item No. 2.—*Setting up and development of Zoos—Financial Assistance by the Government of India.*

It was noted with regret that only a few Superintendents participated in this meeting. The Board recommended that the importance and necessity of adequate representation may be emphasised on the various Zoo administrations in the interest of general improvement of Zoos.

Item No. 3.—*Zoos—Administrative Control.*

The Board recommended that Zoos which have not yet constituted an Advisory Committee, so far, may do so and include eminent naturalists, professional Zoologists and others actively interested in the welfare of the Zoo.

Item No. 4.—*Zoo Superintendent's delegation to foreign countries—Training of Zoo Personnel.*

As it has not been possible to depute Zoo Superintendents abroad for training, it was recommended that steps may be taken immediately to afford facilities to the various Zoo Officers to visit other Zoos within India to obtain first hand information as regards management and maintenance of animals. It was also recommended that efforts may be made to obtain the deputation of some Zoo Superintendents through Ford and Rockefeller Foundation etc.

Item No. 9.—*Detailed record of animals and birds in zoos.*

In view of the non-availability of scientific information it was recommended that Shri R. K. Lahiri, Superintendent, Calcutta Zoo and Technical Secretary Zoo Wing, be requested to prepare a suitable proforma for recording detailed information regarding animals and birds and send it to Secretary, Indian Board for Wild Life, for circulation to various Zoos. It was felt that for dissemination of such information amongst the various Zoos and others interested, the publication of the Zoo Bulletin which had been agreed in earlier meeting may be taken up as early as possible. The Secretary, Indian Board for Wild Life was requested to go into the details of printing and issue of the bulletin.

Item No. 11.—*Feeding of animals and birds.*

The matter was further discussed and it was recommended that Shri Ramanjulu may pursue this item and obtain the necessary information and make it available for publication in the contemplated bulletin.

Item No. 13.—*Virus diseases among tiger and panther cubs.*

It was recommended that the matter may be pursued to obtain correct information, if available.

Item No. 19.—*Exhibits of wild life in the Zoological gardens—Improved methods.*

It was recommended that the matter may be pursued.

Item No. 20.—*Preparation of Zoo Manual.*

The necessity of the publication of a Zoo Manual was ungently felt, The draft contents of the proposed Manual were examined and it was suggested that it could be abridged further. As the work involves expenditure in stationery and correspondence it was recommended that expenses involved may be provided to Shri Ramanjulu, Technical Secretary, as soon as possible, to enable him to proceed with the work.

Item No. 23.—*Export of wild animals—Standardisation of.*

Though no action was called for in the previous proceedings the item was reconsidered in view of the difficulty being experienced in fixing prices of Zoo animals for exchange and sale. This was also considered desirable in order to safeguard the Government as well as institutional interest. It was, therefore, recommended that Shri R. K. Lahiri, Technical Secretary, may be requested to prepare a list of popular and important animals and their prices based on the ruling market rate and those obtained from various Zoos in this respect.

Item No. 25.—*Breeding and rearing of rare species in the Zoos.*

Mr. Gee's following note on breeding of Cheetah in Captivity was read with interest.

"Prior to 1956 it was true to say that no cheethas had ever been known to breed in captivity in any part of the world. But on March 24, 1956, the Philadelphia Zoo's female Cheetah (received from Africa six months previously) gave birth to three cubs, of which one was killed by the mother and the other two, after being rescued and bottled-fed, died three days later.

Again on April 25, 1957, the same female cheetah gave birth to two cubs, and cared for them at first but when they were two weeks old she became very restless and so the cubs were removed and hand-reared. The period of gestation was believed to have been 90—92 days. I saw these two cheetah cubs and played with them when I visited the Philadelphia Zoo on June 29, when they were just over two months old. Unfortunately they died early in August of feline distemper, although they had received the vaccine against this disease.

Mr. Frederick J. Ulmer Jr. who was responsible for the breeding of these cheetahs and whom I met at the Zoo, considers that physiological factors, not psychological ones, were reason for these cheetahs' breeding. He thinks that nutrition is probably the important factor. A special diet had been given, and he thinks that the increased palatableness and the multi-vitamins of this diet contributed to their breeding. (It could be noted here that a change in the diet given to the male Indian rhino at Whippsnade is believed to have led to the mating which produced the calf born there on October 29, 1957).

These two cases are the only known records of cheetahs, wither African or Indian, breeding in captivity".

The Board recorded its thanks to Mr. Gee for this piece of valuable information.

It was recommended that copies of the note may be circulated to all Zoos.

Item No. 26 & 27.—*Sterile isolation of animals in Zoos—Prevention of inbreeding in Zoos.*

The matter may be pursued further.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 45.—*Starting of a Zoo in Assam—Proper place for breeding the Great Indian Rhinoceros and distributing them to various Zoos—By Shri Ramanjulu.*

As the Indian one-horned Rhino has successfully bred in Calcutta Zoo (1925), Basle (1956) and Whipsnade (1957) it is felt that it may not be difficult to breed Rhinos in its home country under captive conditions. It was recommended that the proposed Zoo in Assam will do well to concentrate on the breeding and rearing of the Rhino.

Some of the Indian Zoos have only either males or females. It was felt that it will be advisable to provide mates for them. The Board recommended that the Government of Assam may, therefore, be requested to assist by providing animals of opposite sex to those zoos where specimen are exhibited in sterile isolation.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 46.—*Creation of Zoological Societies—Shri Dharmakumarsinhji.*

It was recommended that the State Governments may be requested to take up this matter and encourage universities and other learned bodies to assist in forming such societies. There are Zoological societies already existing in a number of States and where there are none, formation of such societies should be encouraged. In view of the great diversity in the set up of administration of various zoos it was considered that it will be difficult for the Zoos to start such societies by themselves, when the co-operation of zoos was sought for by such societies it may be gladly extended.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 47.—*Suggestion to work out the genetics of the black panther—C.C.F., Mysore.*

In view of the rarity and value of these animals, it was recommended that the information may be collected first and published in the proposed bulletin. If possible, the genetical studies may be taken up at the most advanced zoos which were in possession of a number of black panthers. Mr. Gee informed as follows in this respect.

"I think it is an established fact that black leopards always breed true. This has been borne out in the Calcutta Zoo in 1926 and in the Kolhapur Gardens, where successive litters born to black parents were 100 per cent black."

AGENDA ITEM No. 48.—*Utilisation of the Zoos for disseminating knowledge of animals life and stimulating popular interest in the fauna of the country—Proposed by the Superintendent, Zoological Gardens, Calcutta.*

The matter was discussed in detail, in view of the educative value and great popularity of zoos, it was recommended that a detailed draft scheme may be prepared at a very early date by Shri R. K. Lahiri, Technical Secretary, for consideration and adoption after circulation to various zoos.

AGENDA ITEM No. 49.—*Tame or Domestic animals in Zoos.*

The Board deferred the consideration of this item to some later meeting.

AGENDA ITEM No. 50.—*Guides in Zoological Parks and Gardens.*

The suggestions are recommended.

AGENDA ITEM No. 51.—*Progress of Zoological Garden in India—Proposed by Shri Dharmakumarsinhji.*

The Board recommended that periodical progress reports may be published in the proposed Zoo Bulletin already recommended. Those Zoo Administrations that were not publishing an Annual report embodying desired informations may start doing so. It was also recommended that annual reports may be exchanged among the Zoos as well as made available to interested members.

AGENDA ITEM No. 52.—*Children's zoo animal lending library—By Ramanjulu.*

It was considered that setting up of Children's corner as a unit in the Zoo may be encouraged, but it was too early to think of Animal lending library as proposed.

AGENDA ITEM No. 53.—*Teaching teachers how to conduct visiting school classes by Shri B. V. Ramanjulu.*

This may be considered later.

AGENDA ITEM No. 54.—*Introduction of booklets on animals of Zoos, Gardens—Proposed by the Head of Zoology Department, Calcutta University.*

It was recommended that production of booklets on Zoo Animals may be encouraged. The Secretary, I.B.W.L. may investigate from the various zoos regarding the animals on which they would be prepared to write booklets.

AGENDA ITEM No. 55.—*Purchases of Exhibits from zoos abroad.*

The Board recommended that every effort should be made to obtain exotic species on barter system. Where it is not possible and when procurement of such animals is considered essential, these may be purchased directly on cash payment for which foreign currency facilities may be extended. It was further recommended that in the absence of relevant documents including the import licence, the Customs Authorities may be

requested to release the animals on the production of the indemnity bonds from the zoo concerned. It was, however, emphasised that indigenous animals should continue to occupy an important position in the Zoos.

AGENDA ITEM No. 56.—*Transportation of live snakes (poisonous and non-poisonous)—facilities for the zoos, proposed by the Superintendent, Zoological Gardens, Calcutta.*

It was recommended that similar facilities may be extended to the recognised zoos in India for transportation of live snakes.

AGENDA ITEM No. 57.—*Exchange of animals and birds between the Zoos. Proposed by the Superintendent, Government Gardens, Hyderabad through the Government of Andhra Pradesh.*

It was highly recommended that the practice of exchange of animals between the zoos on reciprocal basis should develop.

AGENDA ITEM No. 58.—*Wild animals in captivity—Study of—Proposed by the Superintendent, Government Gardens, Hyderabad through Government of Andhra Pradesh.*

This item was already covered up by Item No. 54. However, it was recommended that publishing of leaflets on the management of important species in captivity may be taken up in right earnest. The leaflets will be based on the experience gained and information made available by various zoos.

AGENDA ITEM No. 59.—*Scientific study—Starting a Research Division in Zoos—Proposed by the Superintendent, Zoological Gardens, Calcutta.*

As scientific development of the various zoos in India is desired it is essential that they should be equipped with a small research laboratory to work out their own problems connected with specific management and upkeep of animals. The Board recommended that zoo administrations may be requested to set up such units, wherever possible.

AGENDA ITEM No. 60.—*Vandalism in zoos—Shri Dharmakumarsinhji.*

It was strongly recommended that zoo staff should be given distinctive uniforms and badges. Vandalism could be checked by providing adequate Rules and Regulations and giving suitable powers to the Zoo authorities to handle the offenders. Further, the importance of observing Rules and Regulations by the Public should be emphasized by placing suitable notice boards at prominent places.

AGENDA ITEM No. 61.—*Building enclosures—Large places unnecessary for carnivorous animals—Proposed by Shri B. V. Ramanjulu.*

The item was discussed at length. It was recommended that while remodelling or constructing new zoos, the idea of providing sufficient open space on scientific lines may be considered specially for carnivorous. These enclosures may be constructed without bars and cages.

AGENDA ITEM No. 62.—*Zoological Gardens entry fee—Proposed by Shri Dharmakumarsinhji.*

In view of the scanty financial resources and to stop vandalism it was necessary that some sort of entry fee may be levied.

AGENDA ITEM No. 63.—*State aid to Zoos managed by Municipalities and Corporations in the form of gifts of indigenous animals—By Shri Ramanjulu.*

It was recommended that the attention of the State Governments may be redrawn to this item.

AGENDA ITEM No. 64.—*The Zoo Wing may render necessary advice for furnishing schemes and for selecting for establishing new zoos in various States reporting to the zoo wing about such advice rendered to Bhopal Municipality in Madhya Pradesh and T.T. Devasthanams, in Thirupathi Andhra—By Shri Ramanjulu.*

It was recommended that information contained in Item No. 64 may be circulated to all State Governments to avail of this.

AGENDA ITEM No. 65.—*Export of a few numbers of protected animals—Relaxation of rule—By Shri Ramanjulu.*

It was recommended that restrictions on the export of the animals in the protected list should be relaxed where the recognised zoos are able to get the exotic animals on exchange basis.

(ii) It was recommended that the Ministry of External Affairs may be requested to afford necessary assistance in replenishing the stock of exotic species whenever approached.

(iii) This has already been dealt with under Item No. 2.

(iv) It was recommended that the various zoos should not be made to depend on private licencees for effecting the exchange of animals. The restriction should be waived in case of zoos.

(v) In view of the restrictions on the foreign currency and the exchange negotiations being of protracted nature, it was recommended that under special circumstances, the foreign animal dealers may be paid in Indian money when animals were obtained by recognised zoos through them or cash payment in India. For this the Reserve Bank of India may be requested to issue "no objection certificate".

AGENDA ITEM No. 66.—*Zoo Superintendent Training abroad—Proposed by Shri B. V. Ramanjulu.*

It was understood that it had not been possible under the Colombo Plan to send the Zoo Superintendent, for training abroad. Other channels, in this direction may be explored to them to acquaint themselves with the most methods of zoo techniques.

#### *Supplementary Items*

(1) It was agreed that the term "Game" should be replaced by the term "Wild Life" in all cases where conservation of Nature was concerned. The term game should, however, continue to be used where sports or shooting legislation was concerned.

(2) It was agreed that where the problem of protection for the tiger arose, *e.g.*, West Bengal, the Board would advise that the problem should be suitably dealt with locally.

(3) At the suggestion of Shri Stracey it was agreed to call for information from the States on the upto-date position regarding the following:—

1. Formation of State Wild Life Boards and particulars of meetings held since formation.
2. Existence or introduction of acts to protect wild birds and animals.
3. Particulars of existence or introduction of special staff for wild life protection.
4. Particulars of existence or introduction of special Acts for State National Parks.
5. Particulars of any revision proposed or accomplished of existing wild life legislation.

The following resolution was moved by H.H. the Governor of Mysore from the Chair and adopted by the Board.

The Committee resolved that it would be of particular advantage to plan (in the Second Five Year Plan) for the co-ordinated development of game sanctuaries and National Parks in the country and recommended the constitution of an Advisory Committee which would consider the needs of each Sanctuary and advise the State authorities suitably. The Committee be constituted as follows:—

1. Minister in the State in charge of Forests.
2. The Inspector-General of Forests, Government of India.
3. The Regional Secretaries of the I.B.W.L.
4. The Chief Conservator of Forests of the State concerned.

## APPENDIX IV

An Appendix to the report of the Honorary Regional Secretary, IBWL, Eastern Region, on the Wild Life situation in his region. (pages 35—37)

*State Wild Life Boards—Eastern Region.*

State	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58
Assam ..	Constituted June 8th, 1953, 1st Meeting Sept. 9-10th, 1953, 2nd meeting March 31st, 1954	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil (up to 5-3-1958)
Bengal ..			Constituted October 17th, 1955. 1st meeting February 5th, 6th, 1956.	Nil	2nd meeting April 19th, 21st, 1957.
Bihar ..	Constituted Sept./Oct. 1952.	1st Meeting April 6th, 7th, 1954.	Nil	Nil	Nil (up to 5-3-1958)
Orissa ..		Constituted December 24th, 1954	Nil	1st Meeting October 7th, 1956.	Nil (up to 5-3-1958)
Manipur ..	Constituted 1953 1st meeting October 21st, 1953.	2nd meeting October 1954	Nil	3rd Meeting July 17th, 1957	Nil (up to 5-3-1958)
Tripura ..	Constituted February 1954.	1st Meeting February 26th, 1955.	Nil	2nd meeting Sept. 17th, 1956.	Board re-constituted (Sept.)
N.E.F.A. ..			Constituted June 1955 Meeting June 1955	Nil	Nil (up to 5-3-1958)

## APPENDIX V

A meeting of the Bird Wing of the Indian Board for Wild Life was held in the Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi at 11 a.m. on Saturday the 15th February, 1958, when the following were present:—

- (1) Shri Salim Ali (Chairman).
- (2) Shri Horace Alexander.
- (3) Raja Bajrang Bahadur (Governor of Himachal Pradesh).
- (4) Col. S. K. Chatterji, (Delhi Bird Watching Society).
- (5) Shri K. S. Dharmakumarsinhji (for item No. 11 only).
- (6) Shri Kailas Singh.
- (7) Shri D. C. Kaith.
- (8) Dr. S. C. Law.
- (9) Shri Humayun Abdulali (Bombay Natural History Society).

At the outset Shri Salim Ali explained that he had heard from Dr. Biswas, Secretary of the Bird Wing, that he was not able to attend this meeting and requested Shri Humayun Abdulali to act in his place and to retain records of the meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Bird Wing held in Bombay on the 14th and 15th March, 1956, which had been circulated to members, were taken as read and approved. In the absence, however, of the Minute Book it was not possible for the Chairman to formally confirm them.

Mr. Horace Alexander then proposed that the Bird Wing record its congratulation to Mr. Salim Ali for the distinction of Padma Bhushan which had been conferred upon him by the Government of India and this was carried with acclamation.

In connection with the Secretary's report on the action taken on the minutes of the 1956 meeting the following comments were recorded:—

(i) *Great Indian Bustard*: It was the general opinion that some more definite action should be taken to ensure the protection of this bird and, that without access to Shri Dharmakumarsinhji's note on the ecology of the Bird, proposed to be published, it was not possible to express any opinion thereon.

(ii) There also appeared to be no information available as to the work done or action taken in obtaining relevant data required to formulate or recommend any policy for the protection of the white-winged wood-duck, and for the imposition of a bag limit on game birds in general, and duck in particular.

1. (Item 34 IBWL's Agenda): The Forest Department of the Government of Bombay had proposed that the Close Season for birds be from 1st April to 15th October (instead of 1st April to 30th September) mainly in order to accommodate the official Wild Life Week which it had been decided to observe in the first week of October

throughout the country. While the State Governments had the option of choosing a different week, they suggested, for the sake of countrywide uniformity, that the shooting season be commenced from 16th October thus removing the present anomaly of killing while advocating preservation.

After some discussion it was decided that the Close Season from 1st April to 30th September which had been accepted by most States should remain unchanged and an attempt might be made by all States to hold Wild Life Week at some time during the Close Season for birds, *i.e.*, between 1st April and 30th September. If this could not be done, the Bird Wing felt that legitimate shooting carried out during Wild Life Week should not be affected, as that would cause avoidable irritation to sportsmen.

2. (Item 35) : Shri Salim Ali stated that great devastation was caused by crows, chiefly the House Crow (*Carvus splendens*) to the eggs and hatchlings of water birds that nested in close-packed colonies such as at Vedanthangal and Bharatpur. The damage was particularly heavy when the nests were visited by photographers or ornithologists wishing to study the breeding behaviour of various species at closer range. This prompted the parents to leave the eggs or fledgings uncovered when the crows descended upon them and did great destruction. It was recommended that the local authorities take suitable measures to reduce the number of crows in the areas. One possible method suggested was the destruction of eggs in crows' nests by the payment of a small bounty to the local people.

3. (Item 36) : The Chief Conservator of Forests, Mysore had written in drawing attention to the usefulness of birds and suggesting the following means of affording them protection :—

- (i) Complete protection of all birds within the limits of the large cities and towns.
- (ii) Inclusion of fruit-bearing trees during the tree-planting week within Municipal limits.
- (iii) Installation of nest boxes, etc.
- (iv) Restriction on arms licences for the alleged purpose of crop protection.

The Bird Wing endorsed the strictest restrictions on crop protection guns.

4. (Item 37) : The Forest Department, Government of Bombay had suggested the setting up of an organisation for the study of the stomach contents of different birds at all times of the year to ascertain the species useful, detrimental or harmless to agricultural crops. The Bird Wing recommended that the study of the food and the feeding habits and life histories of different birds in all parts of the country was essential in the interest of agriculture and forestry, and that in order to make a success of Government's "Grow More Food" campaign, some competent organisations like the I.C.A.R. should undertake work on comprehensive plans to be drawn up in consultation with the Bird Wing.

5. (Item 38) : Shri Salim Ali proposed that a sanctuary be established for the spotted-billed Pelican (*Pelecanus philippinus*) breeding in the Aredu-Sarepalle area near the Kollair Lake in Andhra.

There were very few known breeding places of pelicans in India and the Bird Wing recommended that suitable arrangements should be made to protect this pelicanry situated at a village called Ganapavaram 7 miles from Kollair Lake, 13 miles from Thadapallegudem Station on M. S. S. M. Rly. on the Madras-Calcutta line, and if possible the place should be declared a sanctuary. The Government of Andhra should be requested to seek co-operation from Shri K. K. Neelakanthan (Victoria College Palghat) who was well acquainted with the place.

6. (Item 39) : A letter from the Secretary of the Delhi Bird Watching Society drawing attention to the increase in the number of parakeets around Delhi and the damage which they did to fruits and crops was read and recorded.

7. (Item 40) : A letter from Shri B. V. Ramanjulu indicating that the Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary was becoming more and more popular and suggesting some improvements like the building of a pavilion, the erection of sign boards, the sale of relevant literature, pamphlets, guide books, etc., the issue of cameras, films and binoculars to visitors, and the arrangement of State Transport buses over weekends, was considered. The Bird Wing while fully endorsing the desirability of improving facilities for visitors, did not, however, feel that it would be possible for it to make any definite proposals in this respect under existing conditions.

8. (Item 41) : A note from H. H. the Maharaja of Baroda drawing attention to the increasing rarity of the Great Indian Bustard and the need for the establishment of several sanctuaries with proper guards, particularly in certain areas in Rajasthan and the Dhrangadhra district of Saurashtra where they were known to breed, was considered. The Bird Wing fully endorsed the urgent need for the complete protection of the Great Indian Bustard all over the country and recommended that all States concerned should give the highest priority to its protection and conservation. It also recommended that more information be obtained of the proposed sanctuaries and that this report be submitted to the Bird Wing for examination to enable them to make any specific recommendations to Government in this regard.

9. (Item 42) : Shri Salim Ali had written in drawing attention to the fact that in 1950, at the instance of the International Committee for Bird Preservation, the Government of India had appointed a Committee called "The National Committee for India for Bird Preservation" nominating him (Salim Ali) as Chairman. With the subsequent formation of the Central (now Indian) Board for Wild Life in 1952 it was decided that in order to avoid duplication of work in this connection, the older Committee should function as an Expert Wing of the Indian Board for Wild Life to deal exclusively with matters connected with birds and bird protection within the country. For matters of international concern, the Bird Wing was to function as the Indian Section of the International Committee for Bird Preservation and to negotiate with the international body directly through the appropriate Ministry of the Government of India. Shri Salim Ali referred to various official notifications having

been issued or drafted on matters connected with birds not only without any formal reference to or consultation with the Bird Wing, but also without his knowledge as Chairman. It was possible that the Secretary of the Bird Wing was sometimes consulted by the authorities but certainly not in all cases. He felt that unless Government conceded the fact that the Bird Wing's advice was more competent than that of other non-specialists, there was no particular purpose in maintaining a separate Wing as a so-called Expert Body. He had suggested that the Wing after discussion amongst its members should raise this matter for discussion at the full Board meeting for further clarification.

This also raised the question of the unfortunate manner in which the present meeting had been arranged, *i.e.* simultaneously with a meeting of the Board. Since several members of the Bird Wing also happened to be members of the Board, they were obliged to choose between attending one meeting or the other with the result that attendance at the Bird Wing meeting was not fully representative. It was generally felt that meetings of the Bird Wing should be held separately from the Board's so that important matters like the above could be properly discussed when more members were present.

10. (Item 43) : The Government of Himachal Pradesh suggested that in Item 44 of the proceedings of the 5th meeting of the Executive Committee of the I.B.W.L. held at Periyar in January, 1957, the Horned Pheasant (*Tragopan*) *Tragopan melanocephalus* be substituted for the Kalij *Cennaesus lathami* as a protected species in Himachal Pradesh and that the Government of India may prohibit its taking out of India by sea or land whether dead or alive or any part thereof. The Wing while doubting the need for such drastic action in the case of the tragopan endorsed the alteration of name since the former species was obviously what the notification was intended to refer to.

11. Shri Humayun Abdulali referred to the great confusion which was prevailing in regard to the export of the neck feathers of the Grey Jungle Fowl (*Gallus sonnerati*) and also of egret feathers and peacock quills.

By Ministry of Finance and Commerce Notification No. 5028-SR, dated 19th September, 1902 the export of all feathers and skins of wild birds (except as Natural History Specimens) had been prohibited. Despite this and despite the subsequent Notifications, 173, 174 and 175 issued obviously in response to the recommendations of the I.B.W.L.—the Secretary General had issued permits for the export of the neck feather of the Grey Junglefowl. There was also some confusion regarding the export of peacock quills. The Bird Wing agreed that the peacock was found in a semi-domesticated condition over large areas in Gujrat and Rajasthan where it was considered sacred and enjoyed complete protection. Large numbers of dropped or moulted peacock quills were picked up and could be bought at a price of Rs. 6 to Rs. 8 per thousand. At this low price it would be quite uneconomical for peacocks to be specially killed for the sake of the quills in areas where they were protected by sentiment, therefore it seemed unlikely that the trade in peacock quills was a danger to the species.

After some discussion the Bird Wing recommended that Ministry of Finance and Commerce Notification No. 5028-SR, dated 19th September,

1902 together with Customs Rule No. 1 of 1928 (assuming that "quills" mentioned therein referred to peacock quills) was sufficient to regulate the export of all feathers and skins of wild birds and would render the details in Notifications 173, 174 and 175 redundant. The Bird Wing particularly emphasised that the export of the feathers of the Grey Junglefowl (*Gallus sonnerati*) and of egrets should not be allowed. As regards live wild birds, it was of the view that the trade in them should be primarily controlled at the source in the States where the different species are captured.

If possible details of quantities and species exported should be obtained before decision regarding the prohibition or control of their export were taken.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

