

DEVELOPMENT

Orissa tribals denied access to means of survival

Usha Rai cites a recent study which contends that the grant of monopolistic rights over forest produce to private firms is illegal

KALAHANDI, Kora-put and Bolangir are synonymous with recurring drought and abject poverty. The survival of the large population of tribals inhabiting these as well as other areas of Orissa is dependent on collection and marketing of non-timber forest products (NTFPs).

However, a recent study by N.C. Saxsena, Director, National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie, shows that the poor in Orissa can neither process these items, stock goods or sell them in the market. Though the National Forest Policy of 1988 states clearly that forest dwellers have the first right to forest produce, state power has been

bamboo areas. A 12-year lease was given to work the bamboo in cycles every three years. Ballarpur Industries, Straw Products and Oriental Paper Mills have cornered the bamboo collection rights in Malkangiri, Puri, Dhenkanal, Parlakhemundi, Phulbani, Ballaguda, Raygada, Kalahandi, Bonai, Sundargarh and Bamra forest divisions.

This implies that state monopoly has, in fact, provided room for private monopoly. Does not the arrangement with the paper industry amount to leasing out of forests? As the Centre's approval has not been obtained, the arrangement is illegal, maintains Mr Saxsena.

MP told to probe Jain Sadhavi case

by Usha Rai

NEW DELHI, Sept 19: The National Human Rights Commission has intervened in the Jain Sadhavi rape case of Madhya Pradesh and asked the Chief Secretary, Mr N S Sethi, to take cognizance of the offence and start investigations.

Sakshi, a Delhi-based NGO, had requested the Commission to inquire into the incident some time ago and the Commission had taken up the issue with the

Madhya Pradesh Government. In response to letters from the Commission the Director-General of Police, MP, gave details of the investigations carried out by the State.

He said since the Sadhavis were not willing to report to the police, a criminal case had not been registered. The police chief said, neither the Sadhavis nor anybody else had ever lodged a complaint at police station Morena or with the superintendent of police, Morena.

"The Commission requests you to look into the matter from this point of view and to advise the police to put the law into motion."

Even if the victims of rape are within an organisation and not prepared to come to court, it is the duty of the police, a state agency, interested in regulating human conduct for a crime-free society, to follow the spirit of law and take effective steps to ensure that crimes do not go unpunished, the Commission has stated.

TENDER NOTICE

The Divisional Superintending Engineer No. 1, N. Rly., New Delhi invites Tenders upto 15.00 hours and will be opened on 13.10.95 for the under noted works. The detailed particulars and tender forms can be had from the office of the Divisional Railway Manager, N. Rly., New Delhi at 15.00 hours on any working day and upto 13.00 hours on 13.10.95 on cash payment of Rs. 500/- per tender set and Rs. 525/- if required by post which is not refundable.

- 1. Description of item of work:** Improvement to existing circulating area at Delhi-Shahdara and Ghazabad Stations on Ghazabad-Saharanpur Section (With Contractor's steel). **Approx. Contr. Value :** Rs. 7,10,000/-, **E/M :** Rs. 14,200/-, **Security deposit** to keep the offer open for 90 days & not to resile & modify the terms & conditions : Rs. 3,550/-, **Total Amt. of E/M/SD :** Rs. 17,750/-, **Period of completion :** 6 Months.
- 2. Description of item of work:** Improvement to Booking Office and Circulating area at Karnal and Kurukshetra Station on Delhi-Ambala Section (With Contractor's steel). **Approx. Contr. Value :** Rs. 7,60,000/-, **E/M :** Rs. 15,200/-, **Security deposit** to keep the offer open for 90 days & not to resile & modify the terms & conditions : Rs. 3,800/-, **Total Amt. of E/M/SD :** Rs. 19,000/-, **Period of completion :** 6 Months.
- 3. Description of item of work:** Provision of Drinking water with tube well, Electric Motor Pump Set at Dhola-Majra, Shahbad Markanda, Dhirpur, Amin, Taraori, Bhaini-Khurd, Bazida Jattan, Charanda on DLI-UMB Sec. and Pehwa Road Station on NRW-KKDE (NARWANA-KURUKSHETRA) Section under Asst. Engineer, Karnal. **Approx. Contr. Value :** Rs. 9,90,000/-, **E/M :** Rs. 16,000/-, **Security deposit** to keep the offer open for 90 days & not to resile & modify the terms & conditions : Rs. 4,000/-, **Total Amt. of E/M/SD :** Rs. 20,000/-, **Period of completion :** 6 Months.

Hippo sale triggers fear over safety of zoo animals

by Usha Rai

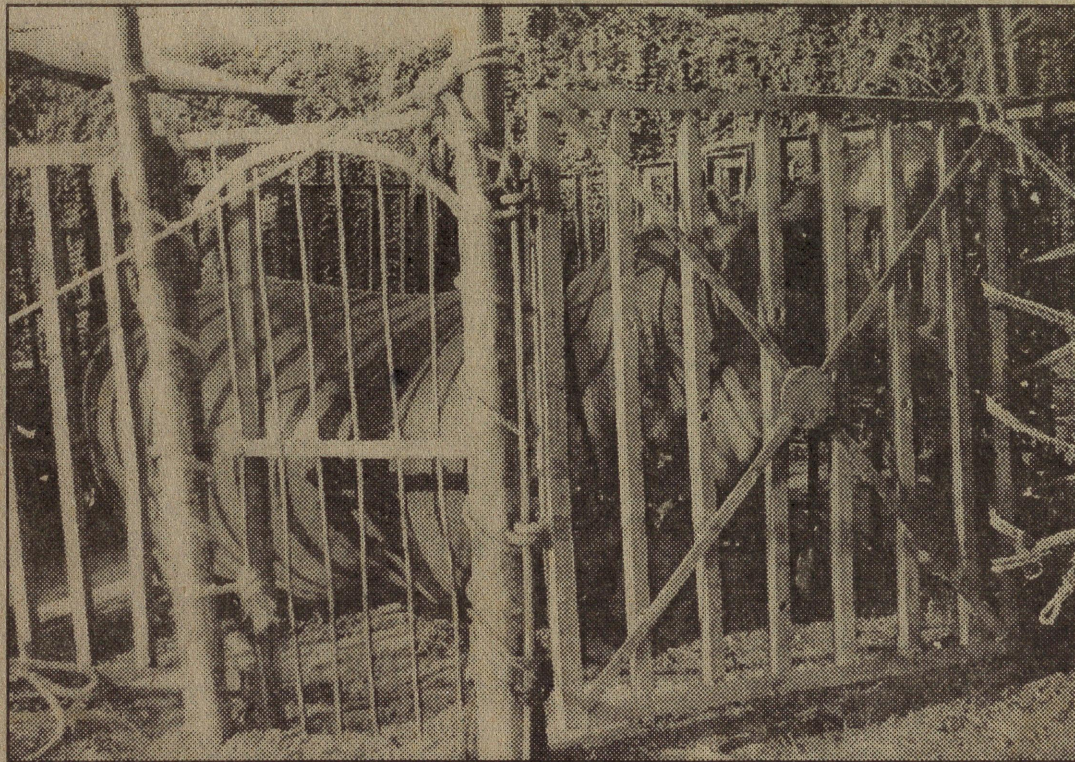
NEW DELHI, Oct 21: The sale of two baby hippos by the Lucknow Zoo to the Gemini Circus without informing the Union Government or seeking its permission has triggered off fears of commercial exploitation of wildlife in the care of "protectors".

However, efforts are underway to buy back the hippos from the circus with the help of courts.

If hippos can be sold by the Lucknow Zoo, there would be little to stop other zoos, from selling off zebras, giraffes or even the exotic birds of Australia and South America.

The hippos were sold for over Rs 4 lakh. Mrs Maneka Gandhi in her tenure as Environment Minister had imposed a ban on use of animals by circuses. She filed a writ against the Lucknow Zoo at the Delhi High Court in May, contending that the conditions in circuses were unfit for keeping such animals and it amounted to cruelty to the hippos.

The Central Zoo Authority has supported the case. Based on a decision of the Indian Board



A hippo of a circus in a small cage with no access to water. Express file photo

for Wildlife, guidelines had been issued by the Environment Ministry in 1987 against sale of wild

animals by zoos to circuses. S.C. Sharma, CZA Secretary, said that large animals like hippos

needed large water bodies and adequate land area to romp around. Circuses that cannot

provide that kind of space keep the animals in tanks of water, restricting freedom of movement.

Mr Sharma said the CZA had sought the Court's permission to issue instructions to the Lucknow Zoo that it buy back the animals. However, since the premier body for care of wild animals in zoos came to know about the case only in July, it filed its application only in late August. But with Gemini Circus on the move, the Registrar of the Court has not yet been able to serve the notice.

Though Mrs Gandhi imposed a ban on use of animals in 1991, the 25-30 circuses in the country got a stay against the ban, arguing that their survival and that of the circus depended on animal shows. The case is still pending in the Court. Mrs Maneka Gandhi, in her private capacity, and the World-Wide Fund (India) have also filed writs supporting the Government's ban on the use of animals by circuses.

The Lucknow zoo, which is working in tandem with the circuses, has pointed out that the guidelines on sale of animals to circuses do not cover "exotics",

as these do not come under the Indian Wildlife Protection Act.

However, Mr Sharma and animal lovers point out that the issue is more ethical than legal. The Lucknow Zoo claims it has too many hippos - five - and it costs too much to feed so many large animals. It also says no other zoo was willing to take them and it needed the money generated by selling the animals to improve the Zoo. The Lucknow Zoo is run by an autonomous trust which has the right to use the money for development.

Mr Sharma, however, contends that (a) the zoo is wholly funded by the State Government (b) zoos should not be commercially exploited and (c) with a writ pending in the Court on use of animals in circuses, the Lucknow Zoo should have consulted the Environment Ministry or the CZA before the sale.

The CZA is also the nodal agency for exchange of animals between zoos and with just 57 hippos (34 of them male) in the 300-odd zoos of the country, it would have been able to find homes for the unwanted Lucknow hippos, maintains Mr Sharma.

Recycling, free trade allowed in 13 categories of wastes

by Usha Rai

NEW DELHI, Oct 26: The Ministry of Environment and Forests has worked out a broad list of 13 categories of wastes — which will be out of the Basel list of hazardous wastes — and are “safe” for recycling and free trade.

At the September conference of parties to the Basel Convention in Geneva, India while supporting the Nordic proposal for a ban on the cross-border movement of hazardous wastes, sought exclusion of scraps and other metallic residues and recyclables. India’s representative had pointed out that the requirement of metals for industrial use in many countries could not be met indigenously through mining operations alone.

Imports of metal scrap, metallic non-disposable wastes, metal bearing, glass, ceramic, plastic, paper, cork, agro-food residue, waste from tanneries (not effluents) is to be permitted but in compliance with the environmental standards for their re-processing and recycling. The standards would be prescribed by the technical working group of the Basel Convention.

The Environment Ministry under Kamal Nath was pushing in small-time businessmen who wanted quick returns from recyclable wastes without realising the environmental implications. A few hundred small-scale waste

recyclers mushroomed in the last two to three years. Many of them lacked appropriate technology for environmentally-sound extraction of waste residues.

Secondary recycling of lead flourished in backyard smelters in Calcutta and Delhi. When the State Pollution Control Boards ordered closure, they shifted location. In fact, there are just 24 big plants with environmental safeguards for lead-recycling and 24 for zinc waste extraction.

At ports, too, wastes are auctioned if no one claims a consignment for 60 days. Several small operators have got into the recycling business without proper licences, say Environment Ministry experts.

Though 69 units have been set up by the Petroleum Ministry for recycling waste oil imports, just one has the sophisticated technology to prevent acidic sludge creation. While the cleaner vacuum distillation technology for re-refining oil costs Rs 12 crore, the acid-based technology costs just Rs 1 crore. Most waste oil importers do not wish to invest Rs 12 crore.

The ball is now quite clearly in Rajesh Pilot’s court. He will have to decide whether to allow a large number of small entrepreneurs or back only organised sector operations.

Ninety-eight per cent of the toxic wastes are produced by the West. Through the 1991 Bamiko Convention, Africa and other re-

gions banned import of hazardous wastes. The West was looking for new dumping grounds and India obliged through its open door policy. According to the *Mineral and Metal Review* published from Bombay, between April 1993 and March 1994, India imported 1,50,269 tonnes of non-ferrous metal wastes (including zinc scrap, aluminium ores, chrome ore, lead concentrates, manganese ore, zirconium ore concentrates and copper ash/dross) and 4,40,818 tonnes of steel scraps and wastes.

Even while the Ministry streamlines its waste import policy and keeps at bay quick money operators, Dr Vandana Shiva, Director, Research Foundation for Science Technology and Natural Resource Policy, has filed a writ in the Supreme Court challenging the Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989. The writ pleads for the ban on all imports of hazardous/toxic wastes.

The petition refers to the import of hazardous wastes to India from Australia, Canada, Germany, United Kingdom and the United States. The petition cites the instance of Bharat Zinc which imports hazardous waste for recycling and then dumps lead injuring human life and the environment. From the 15,000 tonnes of toxic wastes recycled by the company every year, 450 tonnes of lead would be dumped, the petition maintains.

Cong propaganda on DD to grow despite criticism

by Usha Rai

NEW DELHI, Oct 27: Notwithstanding the outcry at the meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry yesterday about the well packaged projection of the Prime Minister on Doordarshan, with elections round the corner the propaganda and the projection of the achievements of the Congress regime is to increase.

Already about 30 minutes of Doordarshan's time on channel 1, its prime channel with the biggest reach, goes in snippets and cleverly produced fillers on Government schemes.

Instead of being focussed around prime time, the propaganda mill is now working round the clock — cleverly interjecting the

messages. Slickly produced propaganda software is piling up: Close to 80 tapes are already with Doordarshan and more are being prepared.

Information and Broadcasting Minister P.A. Sangma is, in fact, trying to rectify the image acquired by Doordarshan over the last two years as an entertainment channel.

He is now trying to restore to it the public service broadcaster image. And he seeks to do so by publicising Government programmes. So Mr Sangma was not fazed by the attack by Mr J.P. Mathur, Mr Ram Vilas Paswan and Ms Geeta Mukherji at the Consultative Committee meeting.

"It is the Government's job to inform the public about Government programmes for them," he

asserted.

The cash crunch faced by Doordarshan does not apply to these propaganda programmes.

Shashi Kapoor's term extended

The Director-General of All India Radio, Mr Shashi Kapoor, who retires at the end of the month is to get extension for a year. The proposal of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry has been approved by the Prime Minister who would not like any major changes in the government media before elections.

Mr R. Basu, D-G, Doordarshan, who is due to become secretary to the Government, is also expected to stay on even if it is as a special secretary till he

In fact after a meeting with secretaries to the development ministries, money is pouring in even if it is to highlight each ministry's

takes over from Mr Bhaskar Ghose, when he retires as Secretary in March.

Mr K. Subramanya Sarma, has moved from the Labour Ministry to Information and Broadcasting as joint secretary — broadcasting. The Andhra cadre officer is not only close to Mr Sangma but to those who matter in the PMO.

Ms Urmila Gupta, who was transferred from Doordarshan to the Reference and Research Department of the Ministry, has rejoined as DDG.

special, vote-pulling schemes for the masses.

The Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment has promised about Rs 9 crores of which Rs 5 crores has already been released. The Ministries of Welfare, Health and Family Welfare, Human Resource Development have also promised almost as much for projection of the national assistance scheme for the, old, Mahila Samridhi, the national literacy mission campaigns and health schemes.

In addition a whole lot of programmes are being prepared by the Prime Minister's Office with funding from other sources.

Jammu and Kashmir Government is to give Rs 10 crores. Early this year a special channel called the Kaushir Channel was started for the Valley. It has

about eight hours of programmes.

Mr Sangma's primary interest is in DD-1 which has the biggest reach. It is this and the lack of resources that has fuelled speculation that DD-3 may be kept on hold. But the channel which was on a kind of trial run so far is to be formally launched by the Minister on November 14 or soon after.

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has also put in a supplementary budget proposal for Rs 110 crores for software for DD-1 and DD-3. Mr Sangma has spoken to the Prime Minister and to the Planning Commission and some money is expected by December. However, the PMO has been asked to bring along their sponsors for these programmes.

Enter the classy, trendy channel from DD

by Usha Rai

NEW DELHI, Nov 10

AFTER two and a half months of preview, Doordarshan's channel 3 will be officially launched on November 14, the birth anniversary of Pandit Nehru. Weathering many a storm - from live telecast of news to the general cash crunch for software - the channel will seek to give a new image to DD.

As DD braced itself for competition from foreign satellites three years ago, quality suffered. To stay alive it embarked on 'entertainment' in a big way.

Now with channel 3 it seeks to correct the image. "Its different in quality content, putting out the best available in India and abroad," says Jai Chandiram who has nurtured and shaped the channel. The best of BBC drama, mini serials of books like *Perfect Spies*, good theatre and an interface with the country's top

theatre personalities, as well as writers, are expected to give this channel a class of its own.

Most programmes on DD 3, except TV 18's live one hour programme on the stock market every afternoon, are commissioned. But once the channel picks up producers will have to bring in sponsors.

It was the proposal for live telecast of news which led to the channel being put in cold storage for close to nine months last December. Now a new package has been worked out and has the approval of the top brasses. *News Hour*, between 8.30 and 9.30 p.m., will be produced by Prannoy Roy's NDTV. However, it will be recorded news that has to be vetted by DD.

If NDTV's newslines do not tally with that of Doordarshan it will be censored. If the programme is delivered late, as has happened with *Tonight*, it will be dropped. Since NDTV has been given a one hour chunk for

news, Doordarshan will not find it easy to get a replacement at such short notice. However, NDTV is a tried and trusted company and not many problems are expected.

So far *News Hour* has been well received. There is plenty of analysis on the programme and people in the limelight, be it Farooq Abdullah or politicians from Gujarat, are on camera with their comments. Though predominantly in English, the last 15 minutes of *News Hour* are in Hindi.

So far *News Hour* has been fully funded by Doordarshan. But after the formal launch, DD will bear only half the cost of production and will instead give commercial time to NDTV.

However, a major bugbear element facing DD 3, a terrestrial channel on an extended C band, is that it is just not visible. Cable operators are now being persuaded to show the channel.

After Insat 2C is launched at the end of the month and stabilises, channel 3 will get a stronger platform and better signalling. Even then, it will not be a mass appeal channel like Metro.

New faces will be launched and fresh talent given an opportunity on DD 3. Seema Bhargava will host the channel along with Lilite Dubey, a theatre personality. Fresh talent on the production and anchoring front includes Mallika Jalan from Calcutta who will be doing theatre programmes, Tarun Tejpal on books and writers, Monica Narula producing *Growing Up* and Pooja Kaul with an evocative series on cities like Lucknow, Hyderabad and Delhi. Their careers as broadcasters will either be made or marred by their performance on DD 3.

Matter of Choice by I. Bajpai of Octave Communication looks at consumer issues. *Beyond Healing* is a bold effort to look at med-

ical issues that have not been touched so far on Indian television, while *Growing Up* handles the difficult theme of personal relationships.

Some of the best documentaries will also get a slot on the new channel. Wildlife films by the Bedi brothers get prime time honours as will *Children of the Earth*, a vibrant programme on the tribes of India. Also slated are book, art and media reviews.

There will be a mix of Hindi and English programmes on this channel which will be initially broadcast from 6 p.m. to 11.15 p.m. Subsequently an upfront current affairs programme is proposed for the morning too with information on people going through the capital and how to live better.

Ms Chandiram who has put together the channel retires next month raising questions about the continuity and quality of the elite channel.