

three years granted so that the experiment to ranch Edible Nest Swiftlets with involvement of communities for supporting the local economy continues uninterrupted till the technology is perfected for adoption. The Chairman also directed the department to submit report on progress made so far for promotion of ex-situ conservation of Edible Nest Swiftlets.

(Action- Forest Dept.)

4. Survey & monitoring of Dugong and other Sea Mammal/ Cetaceans:-

The Chief Wildlife Warden informed the Board that a revised proposal, as per the requirement communicated by the Ministry for recovery and conservation of Dugong in collaboration of Nature Conservation Foundation, Bangalore has been submitted to MoEF for funding. The Board desired that follow up action for early approval of the project should be taken up. The Board also emphasized the need for placing sufficient signages for creating awareness about the important birds/animal/tree in all strategic locations for education of general public/tourists.

(Action- Forest Dept.)

5. Man-animal conflict (Feral Elephant) in North Andaman:-

The Chief Wildlife Warden informed the Board that the trespass of feral elephants into settlements shall be tackled by intensifying watch and ward during the elephant depredation season. The Chairman expressed concern over the lack of any check at present on their population. He desired that whatever technical advice or assistance is required from the Ministry, the same be obtained and if required, a D.O letter may be sent to the Minister (E&F) through him. The Board also directed Forest Dept. to take up the matter with Ministry for early finalization of the study by the experts committee under Dr. Ajay Desai constituted by MoEF.

(Action- Forest Dept.)

7. Categorization of Spotted Deer as vermin:-

The Chief Wildlife Warden apprised the Board about action taken for categorization of Spotted Deer as vermin. After detailed discussion, it was decided that detailed study should be conducted to assess population density and carrying capacity of various forests to decide about impact of Spotted deer on forests and to take action to cull excess population as per the provision in Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The CINCAN, ANC also gave his consent for undertaking sterilization of Alpha males on experimental basis in Ross Island. The Board requested the ANC to extend assistance to the Dept. in this regard. The Chairman desired that the matter of categorization of Spotted deer as 'vermin' should be taken up with the Minister (E&F) for which the department should put up a D.O letter from him.

(Action- Forest Dept.)