

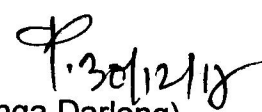
BY E-Mail

GOVERNMENT OF TRIPURA
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE
TRIPURA : : AGARTALA

No 53382 /F.15 (48)-PHQ (CS)/2015 (L) Dated-30th Dec, 2017.

Copy to:-

- ✓ 1. The I/C, E-Governance Cell, PHQ, Tripura. He is requested to post the advisory No.05/2017-18 under caption "Advisory on checking of killing of Mongoose & selling of Mongoose hair brushes" on the website of Tripura Police.


(Lalhminga Darlong)
Asstt. Insp. Genl. of Police (Crime),
For Director General of Police
Tripura



3947 DGP P
27/12/17
Wildlife Crime Control Bureau
वन्यजीव अपराध नियंत्रण ब्यूरो

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
भारत सरकार

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय

No: 10-27/WCCB/2014/Vol.II/Part-II 1390

Dated: 23 November, 2017

ADVISORY NO.- 05 /2017-18

Sub: - Advisory on checking of killing of Mongoose & selling of Mongoose hair brushes-reg.

Artist /Paint brushes made of Mongoose hair are in high demand and there is widespread sale of these brushes in many parts of the country. It is learnt that hair brush made up of Mongoose hair is most sought after, as it is long lasting, does not sag or lose shape, does not go brittle over the years and does not absorb stain. Mongoose are wild animals listed under Schedule II Part II of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and their hunting, possession, transportation and trade is an offence u/s 9, 39, 40, 48-A and 49-B, punishable u/s 51 of the Act.

As per the intelligence developed by RDDs/WCCB on the illegal sale of mongoose hair brushes in various parts of the country, a number of search and seizure operations were conducted recently.

A joint search operation was conducted on 20.07.2017 at M/s Giri Stationery Emporium, No. 188, NSC Bose Road, Flower Bazaar, Chennai. During the search at the shop, along with other brushes, Mongoose hair brushes were also found. On examination of the brushes, it was found that they had typical band pattern and coloration matching with that of Mongoose (*Herpestes species*). Two persons were arrested and a total of 6,308 pieces of Mongoose hair brushes were seized during the operation. During the interrogation of the accused persons, it was found that the brushes were procured from Meerut in Uttar Pradesh and contained the brand name "Jayna".

Similar search operations were conducted in Paint Brush shops at Coimbatore and Madurai in Tamil Nadu. On 12.07.2017 in Coimbatore, 6 shops were found selling such brushes and approximately 15000 brushes were seized by the forest department along with the officials of WCCB. In Madurai two seizures were done. Mongoose hair brushes of the same "Jayna" brand were found in all these shops. Therefore, it seems that this firm may be doing a wide scale supply to many towns.

Similarly information was received that some stationery shops at Old China Bazaar, near Burra Bazaar area of Kolkata, were selling paint brushes made from mongoose hair. On 21.08.2017, a joint operation was conducted in the market place by raiding four shops/makeshift stalls simultaneously and a total of 32,985 paint brushes made of mongoose hair were seized and 04 persons were arrested.

During interrogation it was learnt that the suppliers of these brushes visit this wholesale market in old China Bazaar 03 to 04 times a year with brushes in bulk to supply to these shops. Since it is a wholesale market, generally orders are not placed to these suppliers and the supply of these brushes is on availability basis. The suppliers generally come from Village Banganagar, PS Falta, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal. This village has been searched based on intelligence time and again by officials of WCCB (Eastern Region)

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May be
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the website
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and West Bengal Forest Department for its known indulgence in manufacturing mongoose hair brushes. On 28.08.2015, 04 Kgs mongoose hair and brush handles were seized in a raid conducted by officials of WCCB at Chanditala Bangnagar, PS Falta, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal. On 19.08.2014, 01 Kg mongoose hair, 3200 small brushes, 260 large brushes and 05 Kgs mongoose hair were seized in two separate raids respectively conducted by officials of WCCB at Bangnagar, PS Falta, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal.

Another source of these brushes is from Sherkot, city of Bijnor District of Uttar Pradesh. The specific area may probably be Moholla Sarai. Every year during the month of April – May a group of around 03 to 04 men with long beard from Bijnor District visit this market with 3000 – 4000 brushes each and supply to these shops. They sell these brushes at a cheaper rate but demand instant cash and stay in the market for a maximum of 02 hours. While returning they buy catapults and beaded necklaces for their further sale in Uttar Pradesh. It was also learnt that these suppliers from Uttar Pradesh know about the frequent raids in Bangnagar and have hence increased their supply in the market. They had last visited this market during April – May of 2017 as well. According to them, mongoose is generally hunted during the harvesting seasons of rice and wheat for making these brushes.

In another joint operation on 21.04.2017, a stationery shop at Asansol, West Bengal was searched by the officials of WCCB (ER) and the staff of Asansol Range, Durgapur Forest Division at Upadhyay Market. A total of 952 painting brushes of mongoose hair were seized and one person was arrested.

Some operations conducted during the previous years

- 1) **Seizure of Mongoose Hair brushes from a godown in Edapally Kochi, Kerala** - On 19.03.2015, a godown near Apple Tower, Padivattom, Edapally Kochi was searched on information. The Forest and Police staff searched and seized 15,159 artist/paint brushes from the Godown. From the cartons in which the Mongoose hair brushes were kept, it was learnt that their factory's name was Metro brush Industries, Manufacturers of Painting & Artist brushes, Kala Garh Road, Dhampur, Pin-246761. Also forest department seized one Voucher of Moonstar Brushware, Sherkott, Bijnor dist., Pin -246747. The arrested Supervisor and caretaker of the godown informed that they manufactured synthetic as well as Mongoose hair brushes in their own factory i.e. Metro Brush industries. But the Moonstar Brushware Company was exclusively involved in the manufacturing of Mongoose hair brushes only.
- 2) **Seizure of Mongoose Hair brushes from a shop in Kolkata** – A raid was conducted in a shop at Raja Rammohan Roy Sarani, Kolkata by WCCB officials on 20.08.2015. During this raid, 36 Mongoose hair painting brushes were seized from a person, who was arrested.
- 3) **Seizure of Mongoose Hair brushes from Fancy Bazar, Guwahati, Assam** – In a raid conducted on 20.10.2014, officials of WCCB SRO, Eastern Region, Guwahati seized 217 mongoose painting brushes & mongoose hair from Fancy Bazar, Guwahati, Assam.



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In view of the above, it is requested that the field formations under your control may be suitably advised to exercise increased vigil and take preventive action. The following measures are advised:

- i. Checking and monitoring of Mongoose hair brush markets - There is a need for checking of selling of mongoose hair brushes by the law enforcement agencies to curb potential conservation threat to many mongoose species due to unsustainable level of exploitation. Surprise or regular checking may be done.
- ii. Smart patrolling with GPS devices, increase of frequency of patrolling/ surprise patrolling in the forest areas.
- iii. Strengthening of intelligence network in and around the affected areas.
- iv. A list of Criminals active in the sale and purchase of Mongoose hair/Brush be compiled and monitored.
- v. State Wildlife Departments may launch awareness drives among the local residents to discourage use of mongoose hair brushes for painting and other purposes and also to educate people in their respective jurisdiction to avoid capturing, killing and selling mongoose hair brushes.
- vi. State Forest / Wildlife department officials may identify such tribes/communities/people engaged in trapping, killing and selling of Mongoose hair brushes and supplying them to the traders in various cities. These tribes/communities/people involved in the entire chain from trapping to selling Mongoose hair brushes may be imparted with alternate sustainable livelihoods so that they may be able to earn their livelihoods through other respectable means.

WCCB may also be kept informed of any significant development in this regard for further action.


(Tilotama Varma)
Additional Director / IGP

Distribution:

1. The Director General of Police of all States / UTs
2. The Chief Wildlife Warden of all States / UTs

Copy to:

1. The Regional Deputy Directors, NR, ER, WR, SR and CR -to coordinate action with State authorities.
2. PS to the ADG (WL), Govt. of India, MOEF&CC- for information.