

Copy of letter No.19-7/82-FRY (WL) dated 20-4-1983 from Kishore Rao, Deputy Director (Wild Life) Department of Environment wild Life section, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi Government of India to the Forest Secretary to all States/U.T.s.

Sub:- Requirement of dealership license under section 44 of the Wild Life Protection) Act, 1972 for dealing in Snake Venom.

Instances have come to the notice of this Department where certain organizations and co-operative societies are engaged in the trade of keeping snakes for the extraction of snake venom for the purpose of supply to research institutions and drugging manufacturers for producing antivenin.

2. On examining this matter in consultation with the Union Ministry of Law, it has been observed that snake venom is covered by the definition of "Trophy" read with the definition of "Animal" in section 2 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. The Ministry of Law have, therefore, opened that a license under section 44 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act would be necessary for a person or persons to deal in snake Venom.

3. It is therefore, requested that the position as obtains in your state in regard to persons or organizations dealing in snake venom may please be reviewed immediately and the legal position brought to their notice. Unless this is covered by an appropriate license under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, all such dealing would be against the law. The necessity of permitting the continuation of such dealing in snake venom by granting licenses should be carefully considered by the Chief Wild Life Warden of your State, particularly with reference to the status of the snake species in the wild.

4. Action taken in this regard may kindly be intimated to this Department, as early as possible.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-,  
**(Kishore Rao)**  
Deputy Director (Wild Life)

Copy to:-

1. Chief Wild Life Warden of all States/U.Ts.

Sd/-  
Addl. Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Wild Life)

For Conservator of Forests  
Trichur.