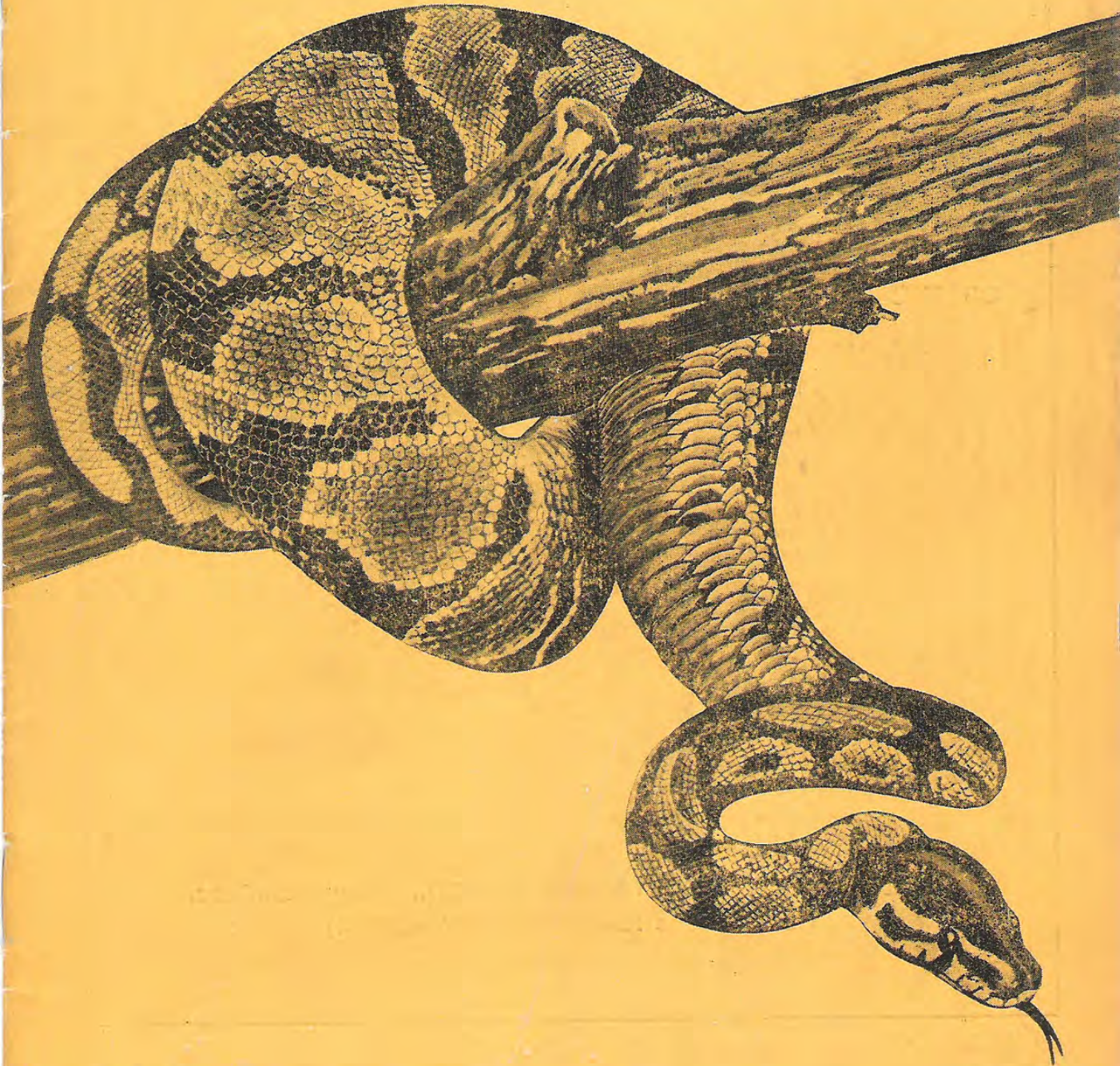




# COMPASSIONATE FRIEND

JOURNAL OF BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY INDIA



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AN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL CHARITABLE TRUST

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**Cover**

PYTHON

*Illustration : Vijay Bendre*

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## EDITORIAL

It is a natural propensity among all the nations to increase their trade and commerce in order to promote national wealth. But the rub comes when it is done regardless of the consideration for the right of animals to live. Many acts of cruelty on animals are dictated by financial interests. Pangs of conscience do not weigh with those who want to accumulate riches from trade and business, however heinous its impact may be on the innocent. The luxury trades of furs and leather are not free from animal exploitation. And yet this trade is pursued, because it provides a soild foundation for the wealth of some nations. The fur prepared from the skin of lamb kids of the Karakul or Bukhara breed tells its own tale; the treatment underlying it is at once provocative and shocking, so much so that any animal lover would turn irascible seeing and hearing of the ghastly acts.

Our country is also interested in the production and export of pelts (animal's skin with fur on it). There is a substantial demand in the international market for Karakul pelts, which are imported mainly from the Soviet Union and Afghanistan and are very high priced. The quality pelt production necessitates the slaughtering of lambs within 48 hours of their birth. The methods and practices employed in the rearing and killing of Karakul lambs are by no means a sleek operation. Sheeny lambs are picked and pelted before they are a day old, because the tightly curled coat of the newly born is much prized. That there is a market for these luxury goods can be visualised from the fact that in an economically good year, London buyers alone purchase over five million pelts.

There are many unsavoury versions about killing. The producers are anxious to get the skin even of an unborn lamb. This can only be obtained by killing the ewe; even abortions are induced for this purpose. In another technique, the creature is killed by inserting a wire up the nose to the brain or clubbing the lamb on the head, then carefully cutting the animal down the middle to obtain precise and neat pelts.

As a result of research made under the joint auspices of BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY and the WORLD FEDERATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS in the matter of actual killing technique, it was found that lambs took upto ten minutes to become unconscious. In another research it was found that lambs thrashed around and bleated a lot before they died. Both these organizations condemn the killing of any animal - even if it is humanely slaughtered - when the chief objective is to procure its skin.

If we keep our ears to the ground, we cannot fail to notice that there is a class of people taking a myopic view that the fur industry must prosper at any cost to the innocent creatures. Surely this is a dehumanising attitude. The rightful place of the pelt or fur is on the animal's own back, and nothing can justify it being worn by callous and insensitive humans. And more specially today, when simulated furs are so well made that it is difficult to tell which is real and which the imitation.

**S. M. Masani**

(This issue has been kindly sponsored by THE BHOR INDUSTRIES LTD.,  
the manufacturers of "Feather Touch".)

## FROM MY DESK ...

The World Congress for Animal Protection was held in Berlin from 26th to 29th September '78. This was the eighth Congress organised by the World Federation for the Protection of Animals. The Congress reviewed the animal protection movement throughout the world under the motto "Animal Protection - Ethical Imperative and Economic Reality". Animal welfare societies realise that their work is an uphill struggle, however by the end of this century the gap between the ethical imperative and economic reality should hopefully close. This, amongst other things, means no animals exploited or killed for mere profit or vanity - the BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY objective.

October particularly is considered a month for observing animal welfare in many countries. October 4th has been always celebrated as St. Francis' Day or The World Day for Animals. This year the International League for Animal Rights has declared October 15th as the World Animal Rights Day when the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Animals will be proclaimed prior to being submitted to U.N.E.S.C.O. And, in India, October 2nd, Gandhi Jayanti, is also a day to remember the spirit of Ahinsa.

During the past year we have been very pleased that our country has banned the export of monkeys, painted finches and frogs' legs, but it has been a rude shock to hear of the export of karakul lamb pelts. Jesus Christ is often portrayed with a lamb. And Lord Budaha is known to have prevented the sacrificial slaughter of this innocent creature. Is not this sufficient guidance that it is unethical to slaughter day-old lambs in order to export their curly fleese?

The work that can be undertaken by an animal welfare society is tremendous, especially in the case of BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY where much publicity is still required. So many people are still unaware of the abnoxious cruelties involved in the fur, skin and cosmetic trades. If they knew the facts, they would certainly switch over to the use of humane alternatives. With this in mind, BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY (India Branch) is holding a fund raising programme on 5th November '78 at Bombay. The Indian National Theatre will stage the Gujarati drama "Santu Rangili" at the Birla Matushri Sabhagar. We look forward to support from our Bombay Members in making this show a success.

**Diana Ratnagar**  
*Chairman*

## “RECREATION - OF THE THOUGHTLESS”

While below former big-game archer Clare Conley describes his own personal experience, this incident is repeated many times over by bowhunters everywhere each and every bowhunting season.

*“The arrow went through the doe’s neck. We all saw it strike, and we all saw it sticking out on both sides as she bounded away. We came to several pools of blood with prints of her knees beside them where she had gone down to hang her head and bleed in the bright sun. We saw spots where she had stumbled. But still her life blood ran, and still she went on. At last we found her. She was dying. She was on her knees and hocks. Her ears, no longer the wonderful, alert warning system, were sagging. Her head was down. Her nose was in her blood. Somehow the doe lurched up. Stumbling, bounding, crashing blindly into the brush, she managed to reach the rim of the plateau we were on and disappear. We fanned out and combed the hillside. We failed.”*

Not only deer, but millions of small animals get the shaft, too. Raccoons, opossum, rabbits, fox and woodchuck are among the unwilling recipients. Conley again offers the following horror story :

*“The arrow went through the chest. Yet the rabbit screamed in agony, running, falling and stumbling, struggling when the arrow caught in the weeds, leaping blindly and always screaming until I ran after it and ended its agony by crushing out its life with my heel.”*

Conley also tells us :

*“The doe stayed with me. Her heartbroken, dulling eyes haunted me. At odd moments I’d see her wild and free, then dying in the sun, her breath choking in a pool of blood. I resolved never again to shoot at any living creature with a bow.”*

Bowhunting serves one purpose and one purpose only - to provide recreation for a minority of people. It is interesting to note that Webster’s defines recreation as “to create anew, restore, refresh.” It hardly seems possible in this day and age that one can refresh oneself - re-create oneself - by knowingly committing another living being to lingering agony and blood-filled death.

**Courtesy : The Fund for Animals**

# VANISHING WILDLIFE

By Dr. P. T. Thomas

Mr. H. M. Patel said the other day that Madhya Pradesh has some of the finest wildlife reserves in the country. In particular, the Kanha National Park in this state deserves all the fame it has earned. Unfortunately, the state of wildlife in a protected area is no yardstick by which to judge the state of wildlife in the State as a whole much less in the country. The Madhya Pradesh forests outside the reserves are indeed in a sad state. In the past three months I had occasion to visit some of the forest areas of western M. P. across the districts of Indore, Dhar and West Nimar. These used to abound in deer, sambhar, wild boar and panther, with a none too scanty sprinkling of tiger and sloth bear even as recently as ten years ago. But on this occasion, all that we saw after extensive forest scanning by day and by night were two rabbits, a couple of night jays, one great-horned owl, and a stray spotted deer. In other words, it is useless to look for wildlife in today's M. P. forests outside the reserves. The forests have fallen a prey to the depredations of the adventure-bent poacher, the jeep, the searchlight, the gun and black money.

This in a sense is true of the country as a whole. Madhya Pradesh is a glaring example particularly because it has a larger forest area to the square mile than any other State. Wildlife in sanctuaries and national parks is, at best, wildlife preserved for viewing - really only enlarged zoos fulfilling a limited ecological function.

*Courtesy : The Times of India*  
(September 1978)



"To a man whose mind is free, there is something even more intolerable in the suffering of animals than in the suffering of men. For with the latter it is at least admitted that suffering is evil and the man who causes it is a criminal. But thousands of animals are uselessly butchered every day without a shadow of remorse. If any man were to refer to it, he would be thought ridiculous. And that is the unpardonable crime. That alone is justification of all that men may suffer. It cries vengeance upon the whole human race."

- Romain Rolland

# BULLFIGHTING IN MEXICO

## A FORMER BULLFIGHTER SPEAKS

The following is an extract from a letter written by Colonel Ignacio Fuentes, President of the Mexican Society for Art and Civic Sciences.

After recalling his youth when he was a bullfighter himself, confronting wild bulls, the Colonel continues :

" Nowadays at the 'brave festival' there are many frauds ; among the best known are -

1. Grinding the horns, so blunting them that they do not easily pierce a bull-fighter. This affects the animal since his behaviour suggests the deprivation inhibits his customary aggression when provoked.
2. The injection of drugs. Sedatives are used to dull spirited bulls, and stimulants are injected when the bull is unresponsive.
3. The application of liniment to the legs and feet of bulls making it difficult for them to bend their limbs so as to throw a man.
4. The application of vaseline to the eyes making it difficult for the bulls to attack a man properly.
5. Delayed action fire darts which frighten a weakening bull.

Due to such deceptions it is my opinion that bullfighting should be stopped... from a cultural point of view bullfights, I believe are entirely and absolutely anti-cultural. It is not a national festival that sacrifices a noble and valiant animal for the benefit of those who make a living from doing so... reporters, tailors, and others, the hangers on. They should turn to work that, at the least, is honest.

(Sgd.) **Ignacio Fuentes,**  
*Colonel*

*Courtesy : The I.S.P.A. News*

# A COW'S LAMENT

by C. Raghunathan

They starved my calf to death,  
Denying it the milk that was its breath.  
Yet they call me Goddess Lakshmi  
And profess to worship me !

Life to me isn't sunny;  
Being skinny and bony isn't funny.  
To a walking carcass they have reduced my life;  
Yet they hoarsely cry : "Save the cow from the butcher's knife !"

I give them milk and curd and ghee;  
But with a stuffed calf they cheat me.  
My heart is broken and bleeding ;  
But with empty slogans everyone they are feeding.

I lick my lifeless child in sorrow  
And await my death on the morrow.  
Yet they call me Goddess Lakshmi  
And profess to worship me !

*Courtesy : Sunday Standard*



# MORE POISONOUS THAN VENOM

by Richard E. Lane-Smith.

It is a difficult enough proposition counting people in India; how does one set about counting the rats? Anyway, our rat-counters have in recent weeks ventured some very professional statistics, and the newspapers have carried many items concerning the phenomenal growth of the rodent population.

Our agricultural experts are aware of the rats. They are also painfully aware of the loss to the nation in terms of foodgrains. Foodgrains is lost not only by being directly eaten by rodents; it is ruined in much larger proportion (up to forty times as much) by rat-droppings, rat-urine, and rat-hair.

Besides rodents play havoc with standing crops, by gnawing at the bases of the stalks, and dropping the grain even before it is fully matured. Some areas of the country have suffered as much as a 60% loss in paddy harvest due to rodents. Sugar-cane and tree-saplings are also attacked.

Of course the Government is concerned. How can the Government NOT be concerned? But unfortunately Government is simply not aware of one of the reasons - perhaps the major reason - for this recent growth in the rat-population. And this reason? The growth in the snake-skin business.

The most casual observer will notice this growth in recent years. On every side-walk in the city snake-pelts are available for four or five rupees. Tourists take them away by the dozens and by the hundreds. In June 1976 an Iranian gentleman was stopped at the airport with 1700 cobraskins in his personal baggage. Hundreds of people go un-checked and undetected.

Ladies' handbags and money-wallets are manufactured by the thousand. Foreign nations pay fancy prices for snake-skin products where leather is expensive anyway, and snakes are a rarity. And as usual, greedy individuals do not care a whit about up-setting the balance of nature, so long as their coffers are quickly filled. I have been informed by those in the trade that most of the skins come from the South, and that the snakes are poisoned EN MASS in the countryside and come out into the open to die.

The fact is, this is an ecological problem and nature's balance has been badly upset. The snakes most killed for the industry are the cobra, the dhaman, and the python, three species which have the most voracious appetites for rodents. The dhaman, or Indian rat-snake, is, or should be, the dearest friend to the farmer.

Apart from occasionally, and accidentally, scaring the life out of you when you come upon him unawares, he is a completely innocuous fellow who will harm neither man nor beast. The cobra is a most timid creature who wants nothing more than to be left alone. He never attacks unprovoked, though occasionally his hunting takes him indoors, and he finds himself trapped by man, and then has to defend himself.

All through the centuries India's villages and farms have been surrounded by a proportionate number of snakes. Snakes have to eat, and if the rat-population goes down, the snakes will leave to hunt elsewhere. But they have always kept the rats under control, and men have learned to live with them. The recent all-out massacre of snakes for their skins in which villagers and tribals have literally set out drag-nets to supply greedy exporters, has upset this balance irreparably now.

India's herpetologists are practically non-existent, and amongst the Indian masses ignorance, confusion, and superstition abound. I have spent thirty years trying to enlighten villagers regarding the utility of non-poisonous snakes, but it is a losing battle, thanks partly to the number of "Nagin" movies which continue to hit the screens, and thanks to the charlatan pedlars of "snake-oil" medicines, who sell superstition and misinformation together with their quack remedies. There is no doubt that the Films Division and other Government organisations have failed in their duties of disseminating genuine knowledge regarding India's snakes. But educating the masses in this regard is a slow and very painful task. What can we do quickly?

Quickly, and IMMEDIATELY, the Government has to resort to legislation forbidding completely all trade in snake-skins, not just foreign, but even and especially local. It must be deemed an offence to be found in possession of snake-skins and snake-skin products, whether one is a dealer or just a purchaser. Belts, wallets, hand-bags and the like should be confiscated and their owners punished. There are agents in Bombay who can supply a thousand skins at an hour's notice, and the wanton massacres of the most useful rodent - destroying snakes will not stop unless we destroy the market for their skins. I cannot sufficiently stress the urgency of this matter.

Nature's imbalances take ages to set right, and this one will certainly take decades. But the harm has been done already, and it is a matter of life and death for the nation's food-production. The most drastic measures have to be applied immediately, and have to be maintained unabatedly before we see any signs of a natural control of the rodents once again. These measures have to be taken, and it is to be hoped that Government will not be found wanting.

*Courtesy : Sunday Standard*

# NATURAL BEAUTY WITH HERBS

## Making Your Own Cosmetics

Assuming you have the time and the wish to make your own cosmetics it can not only prove to be money saving but also great fun and very rewarding.

It may be simple enough to go to a shop to buy whatever you need, but first think how much more satisfying it would be to actually use your own exclusive brand - possibly containing herbs you've grown yourself too - and to know exactly what each item contains. You will feel happy knowing that you at least are not increasing the demand for goods which might in some way have caused pain to a helpless animal, in your pursuit of beauty.

Once you have learned to make cosmetics why not encourage your friends to do the same - give them samples of yours to persuade them. Try to spread the knowledge of beauty and its enhancement without the need for cruelty.

The recipes given are basically for 'hygienic' cosmetics rather than 'aesthetic' ones - which means that they are also suitable for men - after all they too wash their hair take baths and have need of dusting powders, deodorants, skin lotions and creams.

I am not giving you strict instructions to be followed to the letter, just an idea of what you could do. All the recipes are flexible and quantities and ingredients can be varied as you get familiar with the processes and their results - but don't expect your finished products to look exactly like shop-bought ones because they won't : you haven't the facilities nor the super-fine equipment.

The quantities of ingredients in recipes are purposely small as there is no point in making a vast quantity of one thing only to find that you don't really like it.

When you've settled for a particular item don't make absolutely masses, hoping to save time and money, because these goodies do not contain preservatives. Make a sensible amount and store it in the 'fridge, but only for a month or so, and do be sure that all tops and lids fit snugly.

A word of warning : never use aluminium or non-stick pans or utensils when making cosmetics - it could be dangerous.

For those who do not like the idea of cleaning their faces with soap and water, oatmeal can be a very effective cleanser both for face and body in general.

### **Oatmeal cleanser**

- 2 oz. oatmeal
- 3-4 tablespoons milk

Grind the oatmeal to a fine powder, warm the milk and add it to the oatmeal to form a paste. Use this as a facial scrub using a complexion brush (a particularly good way of removing dead cells and deep cleansing the pores) and wash off with warm water.

## **CLEANSING MILKS AND LOTIONS**

### **Yogurt and lemon cleansing milk**

- 1 tablespoon natural yogurt
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice

Mix the yogurt and the lemon juice and apply to the face with cotton wool. Clean off with tissues.

### **Mild cleansing milk**

- Quarter pint of milk
- Quarter cucumber

Squeeze the juice from the cucumber and mix it with the milk. Apply to your face with cotton wool and wipe excess off with tissues.

### **Apple cleansing lotion**

- 1 big apple
- 1 tablespoon milk
- 1 tablespoon fuller's earth powder

Squeeze the juice from the apple and combine it with the milk and the powder.

*Courtesy* : " **Natural Beauty with Herbs** " by Alyson Huxley

# DO YOU KNOW ?

by Brain Gunn

Do You Know ?

A significant proportion of the experiments on animals are clearly not of a medical nature and cannot be said to be essential for the saving or prolonging of life or the alleviation of suffering.

Do You Know ?

Animals are used for the testing of oven-cleaners, lipsticks, weed killers, crayons, candles, shampoos, floor polish, weapons, paint; the list is endless.

Do You Know ?

Shampoos are instilled into the eyes of rabbits, leading to severe swelling, discharge, and often the total destruction of the cornea.

Do You Know ?

Some people steal cats and dogs for sale to vivisection laboratories. Never let your pet out alone - it may be stolen for research.

Do You Know ?

Some manufacturers of cosmetics do NOT test their products on living animals and these cosmetics have been in use for many years; which proves that safe cosmetics can be manufactured for the general public without experiments on living animals.

*Courtesy : N.A.V.S.*



"The time will come when men will look on the murder of animals as they now look on the murder of men."

- Leonardo Da Vinci

# NEWSPICK

*Indian Express, 19th June 1978*

## **Shot in arm for pelt production**

The import of Karakul sheep from the Soviet Union has opened up avenues of pelt production in this country.

The Karakuls have been crossed with indigenous extremely coarse and hairy carpet wool breeds, and the first crosses seem able to produce beautiful pelts, which are prized in the international market.

A big programme of development of sheep for pelt production is being taken up by the Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute (CSWRI) at Jaipur with the co-operation of the State Department of Sheep and Wool.

The Director of the Institute, Dr. R. M. Acharya, told UNI that the Institute would supply Karakul farms for cross-breeding in a concentrated area. The Institute would also impart training in slaughter and initial pelt processing to the co-operating sheep farmers who would like to slaughter the lambs themselves.

Also the day-old lambs would be purchased by the Institute through the co-operation of the sheep and wool extension staff. These lambs would be slaughtered at the Institute and the pelts processed. The Institute would pay Rs. 60 to Rs. 70 for each lamb for lamb-pelt.

This, Dr. Acharya said, would help in testing the feasibility of pelt production from the indigenous sheep under field conditions and would also provide a large number of pelts for evaluation and putting them in the international market.

The pelt is produced from the slaughter of day-old lambs. A good pelt, depending on its lustre and curls, fetches between 15 to 50 dollars in the international market.

Pelts are used for fancy items like ladies coats, coat-collars, cuffs and caps. Western Europe and North America have the largest consumption of pelts. The major pelt producers at present are the Soviet Union, Western and Southern Africa, Iran, and Afghanistan.

India some years ago imported 250 Karakuls from the Soviet Union. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research tested their performance in hot-arid as well as cold-arid conditions for three years.

Dr. Acharya said the Karakuls being a very hardy breed have adapted themselves well to extreme climatic conditions.