

Vulture killing stirs a hornet's nest

Source: **The Sangai Express**

Imphal, February 17 2012: Following the reported killing and presentation of a vulture by an individual to an independent candidate who contested the 10th Manipur Legislative Assembly election in Chingai AC, the State Government has come under fire from the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) . A reliable source informed that one Pamrei Pheirey, a resident of Phungcham, Ukhrul killed the vulture and presented it to independent candidate Khasim Vashum in the first week of February and the same matter was published in some sections of the media. Taking serious note of the killing of a vulture weighing 13 Kgs and measuring four feet in height, MoEF has quizzed the State Government asking if any action has been initiated for killing the wild bird which is included under Schedule IV . The Chief Secretary has already received a written intimation from the Ministry of Environment and Forest in this regard. Meanwhile, Forest Department has initiated due procedures to nab and penalise the individual who killed the vulture. Moreover, the department is mulling to file a complaint at Court. Commenting on the matter, environmentalist and Indian Bird Conservation Network, Manipur Chapter co-ordinator Dr RK Ranjan lamented that the vulture was killed at a time when strong measures have been already initiated all over the country to increase the number of vultures. At the advice of the Bombay Natural History Society, Diclofenac which was used to treat sick animals has been banned in view of its ill-effects on vultures. It has been more than 30 years since vultures have not been sighted in Manipur, he added.

