

## (II)

## TREATMENT OF A PYTHON

One Python measuring length 2.28 m and weight about 8 kg was rescued from Jamua Mouza of Chadrakona Road Range on 23/01/2000 at about 6.30 p.m. The said Python was captured by some hunters in the forest but the Forest Protection Committee members recovered the same and informed to the local Range Office. Forest staff brought the Python almost in dying condition perhaps due to heavy physical strain. It is reported that the Python was tied with rope in the neck portion and dragged mercilessly. No movement was noticed and even body contraction was very feeble when tested with a needle by dragging it from head to tail of the Python. Local Veterinary Surgeon was immediately called on to attend the wretched Python and following treatment and care was given.

- (i) Four drops of Betnesol (Betamethazone) was given orally at a time by widening its two jaws at an interval of thirty minutes for four hours.
- (ii) Electoral water was given orally (in dilution of 1/2 t.s.f. Electoral powder in a cup of water) two t.s.f. at a time for four hours at an interval of thirty minutes.

- (iii) Sufficient heat was given by lighting fire surrounding the body of the Python.

After four hours of such treatment body contraction was noticed considerably. Again four drops of Betnesol was given at about 11.00 p.m. and the Python was kept in a wooden box matted with gunny bags.

On 24/01/2000 morning the wooden box along with Python was placed under sunlight for two hours. Normal movement was noticed though the speed was too slow. Again at about 9.00 a.m. Betnesol drop and electrol water was given in same dosages and it was shifted to an open 3m x 1.2m room. Day old Chicklets were released in the room as its food. In the evening it gave hissing sound and showed its normal agility though it refused to take food.

On 25/01/2000 morning the Veterinary Surgeon gave the fitness certificate to release the Python. We finally released the Python in the forest at about 1.30 p.m. and tracked its movement for one hour. No irregularities were noticed.

N.B. :- Betnesol is usually used to prevent shock caused by injury (trauma), blood loss or bacterial endotoxin, etc.

Assistant Forest Officer,  
East Midnapore Division (W.B.)

A.K. Samanta