

Population of Elephants

440. **SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any study regarding elephant population in India;

(b) if so, the details of findings;

(c) whether Government propose to take any steps for the protection of elephants on the lines of 'Project Tiger';

(d) the total number of cases of elephant poaching/killing reported during 1990;

(e) whether Union Government have extended any guidance, aid or help to the State Governments of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka to apprehend elephant poachers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI):

(a) and (b). Population counts of elephants are carried out periodically by the State Governments. The estimated population of elephants at present is between 15700 to 17500.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Information is being collected from State Governments and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) and (f). (i) A Committee of the Chief Wildlife Wardens of the four southern states has been set up to coordinate the anti

poaching activities.

(ii) Assistance for strengthening anti poaching infrastructure under the Centrally sponsored scheme, "Control of poaching and illegal trade and wildlife and its products" and provided during VII Five Year Plan as follows:

Karnataka	Rs. 25.50 lakhs
Kerala	Rs. 12.20 lakhs
Tamil Nadu	Rs. 7.24 lakhs
Total	Rs. 44.94 lakhs.

Compensatory Afforestation Regarding Sardar Sarovar Project

441. **SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ:** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state the target fixed for compensatory afforestation with respect to Sardar Sarovar Project and the compensatory afforestation made so far in this regard, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): Compensatory Afforestation target for Sardar Sarovar Project is 40,700 ha. and Compensatory Afforestation has been done over 3016 ha. till November 1990. Year wise break-up is not available.

Creation of Judicial Post of Public Defenders for Women

442. **SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:** Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether creation of judicial posts of public defenders for women at the Centre and the States has been under consideration of the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the time by which the posts are likely to be created?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Air Pollution Monitoring Programme

443. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have completed the programme of monitoring air pollution in different cities and towns in the country;

(b) if so, the names of those cities and towns which have been identified as polluted;

(c) the main factors responsible for the air pollution in those cities and towns; and

(d) the steps taken to control air pollution in those cities and towns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI):

(a) Monitoring of air pollution in different cities and towns in the country is an on-going programme. So far, 220 ambient air quality monitoring stations have been set up by the Central Pollution Control Board.

(b) and (c). The levels of suspended particulate matter tends to be high in summer in cities located inland because of natural dusty conditions. The main factors respon-

sible for air pollution in these cities are industrial emissions, automobile exhaust and natural dust.

(d) The steps taken to reduce air pollution in the country include the following:—

- (i) Ambient air quality standards have been prescribed.
- (ii) Standards for air polluting industries have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- (iii) A network of ambient air quality monitoring stations has been set up.
- (iv) Air Pollution Control areas have been notified.
- (v) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries.
- (vi) Industries are being persuaded to comply with the consent requirements of the State Pollution Control Boards for the discharge of emissions within the stipulated limits.
- (vii) Industries have been directed to install necessary air pollution control equipment on a time-bound basis.
- (viii) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and shifting of polluting industries from congested areas.
- (ix) Legal action is taken against the defaulting units.
- (x) The Air (Prevention and Control