

Multi-Disciplinary National Bio-Diversity Conservation Board

1004. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received suggestions from environmental experts for setting up a Multi-disciplinary National Bio-Diversity Conservation Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Steering Group on Environment, Forests and Wastelands Development set up by the Planning Commission for the formulation of the Eighth Five Year Plan has recommended the setting up of a National Board for Biological Diversity.

(b) Setting up the Board was proposed for the purpose of overall coordination and for initiating timely action to save threatened species and centres of biological diversity from extinction. The main functions of the proposed Board include review of ongoing efforts in the conservation and utilisation of biological diversity, help to fill critical gaps in current efforts and monitor progress in the establishment of Biosphere Reserves, National Parks, Sanctuaries, Zoological and Botanical Gardens, etc.

(c) This forms a part of the several suggestions for implementation during the Eighth Five Year Plan. Creation of such new structures should fit into the overall framework of the National Conservation Strategy. A Gore Committee has been Strategy.

[*Translation*]

Skirmishes on Indo-Pak Border

1005. SHRI JANARDAN TIWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of skirmishes which have taken place at Indo-Pak border during the last one year, particularly in the last three months; and

(b) the details of casualties in these skirmishes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) and (b). There have been no skirmishes along the Indo-Pak border in the last one year. However, there have been instances of unprovoked firing by Pakistani troops across the Line of Control from time to time.

[*English*]

1990-91 Plan of Punjab

1006. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated to Punjab for Annual Plan for 1990-91, sector-wise; and

(b) the percentage increase in the plan outlay as compared to last year?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). An outlay of Rs. 905 crore has been agreed for the Annual Plan 1990-91 of Punjab representing 14.7% step-up over the last year's Plan outlay. The sector-wise break-up of this outlay is yet to be finalised.