

Ranthambhore, indravati, Nagarjun-sagar, Periyar and Valmiki Tiger Reserves have shown decline in tiger population, the main reason for which is increase in poaching to meet the illegal demand in trade of tiger bones and other parts of its body.

**World Bank Assistance**

\*90. SHRIMATISHEELA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement was entered into with the World Bank to undertake modernisation of Railway projects and maintenance of the railway tracks in India;

(b) if so, the total amount of aid received and the actual amount out of that spent so far;

(c) the reasons for non-utilisation of the amount of aid received;

(d) the period by which the agreement expires; and

(e) the time by which the projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: (a) A loan has been obtained from the World Bank to finance the project of renewal and maintenance of railway tracks.

(b) The amount of the loan is US\$ 270m out of which US\$ 212m has been spent so far.

(c) and (d): The commitment for US\$ 248.324m has already been entered into by placing various contracts. The agreement is current upto 31.3.94. It is likely to be extended and the balance amount of loan is proposed to be utilised within the extended period.

(e) The projects are likely to be

completed by Dec. 1995. The question of seeking further aid will be considered after review of the actual requirement.

**Development of Horticulture**

91. SHRI HARISH NARAVAN PRABHU ZANTYE: SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of horticulture in the country;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for the development of horticulture in the country;

(c) if so, the details of the schemes identified for various States:

(d) the assistance allocated to State Governments particularly to Goa, Kamataka and Maharashtra for the development of horticulture during the Eighth Plan period;

(e) the extent of foreign assistance likely to be available; and

(f) the details of joint ventures cleared, if any, with reference to above States?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a): The horticulture crops presently cover 13.60 million hac. area which is roughly 7% of gross cropped area and yield about 106 million tonnes to the agricultural produce of the country. This accounts for 18 to 20% of the gross value of the total agricultural output.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (f). A Statement is attached.