

Government of India's contribution and UNDP assistance are of the order of Rs. 21.94 million and US\$ 2.56 million respectively. The salient components incorporated in the project include purchase of equipment and material, organising of training and demonstrations for (farmers, women and tribals, collaboration with State research organisations for dissemination of technological packages; utilisation of national and international consultancy services and undertaking survey and studies related to forestry problems.

[English]

#### Objectives of National Parks and Sanctuaries

\*339. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have assessed the objectives of carving out of 514 National Parks and Sanctuaries as protected areas in order to preserve the varied fauna of the country;

(b) if so, to what extent these objectives have been achieved; and

(c) the reasons for shortcomings, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT):

(a) to (c). National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries are established under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to protect and develop areas which are significant for their ecological, faunal, floral geomorphological or zoological characteristics. The wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun has recommended increasing the protected network to 4.6% of the geographical areas of the country to cover representative areas of all biogeographic zones. At present there are 521 protected areas which constitutes 4.52% of the geographical area of the country. Thus we are not far from our target.

#### Facilities at Minor Harbours

\*340. SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether enough infrastructural facilities have not been created at minor harbours of the Country due to which fishing activities could not be done properly in these minor harbours;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) to (c). Infrastructure facilities have been provided at 27 minor fishing harbours established all over the coast of India. These fishing harbours have some or all of the facilities for landing, berthing, auction,

of fish, repairs, water supply, diesel supply and other activities. In addition, 112 fish landing centres have also been established to cater to the traditional and mechanised fishing fleet. It is estimated that about half of the mechanised fishing boats now have facilities for landing and berthing at the minor fishing harbours and fish landing centres.

#### Biography of Freedom Fighters

3359. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals received from each State for the publication of Biographies of Freedom Fighters, Artists, Musicians, Poets and prominent persons who played part in Freedom struggle and played important role in social works during the last three years and current year;

(b) the action taken on those proposals and the outcome thereof;

(c) the number of such publications published during the above period and the expenses incurred thereon, year-wise; and

(d) the number of such publications proposed to be published in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Pulses

3360. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether West Bengal is a region where pulses cultivation can be promoted in a big way; and

(b) if so, the assistance proposed to be rendered by the Government to the West Bengal Government on this behalf?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AYUB KHAN) : (a) There is a general decline in production of pulses since 1987-88. However, there is some scope for increasing the production of Rabi Arhar, Lentil and summer pulses like Moong Urad etc.

(b) The National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) is being implemented in the district of Malda, Murshidabad, and Nadia in West Bengal during the VIIIth Five Year Plan. Under the Project, assistance is provided to the farmers on production and distribution of seeds, Rhizobial cultures, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements etc. Pheromone Traps, Integrated Pest Management, Demonstration, Dal Processors/Storage