

[English]

Promotion of Wildlife and Ecology

*70. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and the United States have agreed to expand their cooperation for promotion of wildlife and ecology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether other countries also agreed to expand their cooperation in this regard; and

(d) if so, the names of such countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). In the meeting of the Working group on Environment and Ecology of the Indo-US Sub-Commission on Science and Technology, which was held in New Delhi on 22-23 October, 1991, the areas identified for future cooperation between the two countries are conservation, environmental education, environmental information exchange, pollution prevention and clean technologies.

(c) and (d). While cooperation exists with a large number of countries, collaborative projects in the field of environment are with the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, United Kingdom, Japan, Germany, Denmark, Canada and Australia.

Deforestation, Shifting Cultivation and Poaching in Western Ghats

*71. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government are aware of the deforestation, shifting cultivation and poaching in the Western Ghats threatening the existence of flora and fauna besides causing severe depletion of the forests;

(b) if so, the precise details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government for the preservation of wildlife and for maintaining the ecological balance in the Western Ghats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). The Western Ghats run through the states of Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamilnadu.

No case of any large scale deforestation has been reported, however, cases of smuggling of sandalwood have come to the notice of the Central Government.

Sporadic cases of poaching of wild animals particularly elephants have been reported. Instances of sporadic cases of shifting cultivation in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala have been reported.

(c) Central Government have been assisting the State Governments through a number of centrally sponsored scheme for protection of forests and wildlife. The wild Life (protection) Act has been made more stringent.

The Central Government have also initiated an Integrated Action Oriented Research Development and extension scheme related to ecology of the area.

Bifurcation of South Eastern Railway
72. SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KONATHALA: Will the MINISTER OF RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to bifurcate the South Eastern Railway zone with Vishakhapatnam as its Headquarters; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Cancellation of Samastipur-Patna Train

*73. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the only direct train between Samastipur and Patna has been cancelled;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be restored?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to fall in rail traffic consequent upon opening of Mahatma Gandhi Setu between Hajipur and Patna from 2.3.1982.

(c) There is no proposal to restore this train.

Promotion of Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic Systems of Medicine

*74. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic systems of medicine to attain the goal of "Health for all by 2000 A.D."; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIM. L. FOTEDAR):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) National Health Policy assigns an important role to the Indigenous Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy to supplement the role of modern medicine in the delivery of primary health care in the context of our national target of health for all by the year 2000 A. D.

Government is giving critical inputs for improvement of medical education, quality control of drugs and research.

[Translation]

University in the Name of Baba Saheb Ambedkar

*75. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government had decided two years back to set up a University in the name of Baba Saheb Ambedkar in Lucknow; and

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) An Act to set up Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar University at Lucknow was passed by the U.P. State Legislature in October, 1989. According to the information furnished by the State Government, 244 acres of land has been acquired by the State for establishing the University, and the work on construction has also started. The State Government has so far released an amount