

(b) The news item refers to a claim by the Delhi Wildlife Society of spotting a flock of mountain quail while trekking in the Naini Hills of Uttar Pradesh. The matter was referred to the State Government and the Wildlife authorities of Uttar Pradesh have reported that they had tried to verify the claims of the sighting of mountain quail from the person concerned, but they have not received any response. The local wildlife officials in the Uttar Pradesh hills have also been directed to verify the information in the field. The mountain quail is suspected to have become extinct as it has not been sighted to the wild since the end of the last Century.

(c) The Mountain Quail is included under schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 which prohibits its hunting and commercial exploitation. The State Wildlife authorities have been advised to extend full protection to its habitat, if located, by declaring it as a protected area and deployment of staff to guard against its illegal trapping or destruction to its habitat.

Shifting of Assam Rifles

3220. SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a new site at Maha Koireng has been selected for shifting of 30 Assam Rifles from Kangla in Manipur;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to complete the construction of buildings at Maha Koireng;

(c) the estimated cost to be incurred thereon; and

(d) the scheduled time of completion of the buildings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. A site at 'Maha Koireng' (Kaithalmanbi) has been selected for this purpose.

(b) to (d). The land has been acquired and preliminary estimates have been prepared for early execution, which indicate as estimated cost of Rs. 47 crores (approximately) at the current cost index.

Police Force in North Eastern States

3221. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA :
SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the police force in the North Eastern States particularly in Assam is facing the problem of insurgency;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a proposal for modernisation of police force of these State;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether special assistance has been provided by the Union Government to undertake the modernisation programme;

(f) if so, the amount released so far; and

(g) if not, the time by which the assistance is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b). Some States in the North-East, including Assam, are with problem of insurgency.

(c) and (d). Since law and order is a State subject, it is primarily for the State Governments to equip/modernise their police forces. However, the Central Government has been implementing a scheme for modernisation of State police force since 1969-70 to supplement the efforts of the State Governments. The funds released to the North Eastern States under this scheme during the last five years are indicated below:

S.No. State	1991-1992	1992-1993	1993-1994	1994-1995	1995-1996
1. Assam	47.71	47.71	190.86	95.43	47.71
2. Arunachal Pradesh	46.27	92.54	92.54	95.54	23.13
3. Meghalaya	36.27	12.92	51.88	25.94	12.17
4. Mizoram	61.36	87.78	87.78	87.78	21.94
5. Nagaland	38.43	34.63	76.86	76.86	-
6. Tripura	46.53	46.53	93.00	46.53	23.26

(e) to (g). In addition to the funds released under the scheme for modernisation of State police forces, special assistance of Rs. 48.75 crores approximately has been released since 1991-92 to some of the North-Eastern States for the purchase of vehicles, arms and ammunition, Bullet proof jackets, etc.

Dhangdhara-Kuda Rail Link

3222. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for not including Dhangdhara-Kuda