

Proposal for remote Sensing Station in Punjab

3203. SHRIKAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish a Remote Sensing Station in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the station is likely to be established and the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON):
(a) Government of Punjab has already established a State level Punjab Remote Sensing Centre in 1987.

(b) The Punjab State Remote Sensing Centre has been established at Punjab Agricultural University Campus, Ludhiana to act as a nodal Organisation in respect of formulation and execution of projects on natural resources mapping and monitoring, using remote sensing technology. The Centre has trained technical manpower as well as laboratory facilities. The Centre has been carrying out a number of projects relating to mapping and monitoring of different natural resources using remote sensing techniques which include mapping and monitoring of salt affected soils, soil salinity associated with water logging, surface water bodies, floods, wheat acreage estimation etc. The Centre is also participating in carrying out national projects on land use mapping, drinking water technology mission, etc.

(c) Does not arise.

Population of Lions

3204. CH. JAGDEEP DHANKHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the population of lions in the country at present;

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to prevent poaching; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to save the and increase the population of lions in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI):
(a) As per census carried out in 1985, there are 239 Asiatic lions in Gir Forests, which is its only natural habitat.

(b) and (c). Steps taken/proposed to be taken to prevent poaching and to protect and propagate the species include:—

(i) Stringent enforcement of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(ii) Strict patrolling of the Gir Sanctuary by forest staff equipped with vehicles, arms and wireless communication facilities.

(iii) Rehabilitation of Maldharis outside the sanctuary.

(iv) Provision of rubble wall fencing around sanctuary to exclude cattle.

(v) Captive breeding of lions in zoos.