

vedic and unani drugs.

(c) and (d). The Central Government have no proposal to set up any such institute in Chamoli district of Uttar Pradesh.

Utilisation of Wasteland

1136. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH;
SHRI PAWAN KUMAR
BANSAL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop and utilise wastelands on the sides of roads and railway lines in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether landless rural poor are likely to be given lease of such wastelands for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). Tree Planting on the wastelands by the sides of roads and railway lines is an on-going activity under the Social Forestry Programme under implementation all over the country.

(c) Leasing or allotment of land is done at the State level by the concerned State Government.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

[English]

Express Trains from Kanyakumari

1137. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minis-

ter of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of express trains running from Kanyakumari to other parts of the country;

(b) the places connected; and

(c) the steps taken to increase more train services from Kanyakumari?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAL-LIKARJUN): (a) Two pairs of trains.

(b) These trains connect Bombay (Maharashtra) and Jammu Tawi (Jammu & Kashmir) and different stations in various States enroute.

(c) There is no proposal at present.

Expansion of Levy Sugar Zone in Maharashtra

1138. SHRI SHANKARRAO D. KALE: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received representations from Maharashtra Government regarding expansion of levy sugar zones and fixing levy price of sugar;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b). No such representation has been received recently.

(c) This issue regarding creation of fresh sub-zone in Maharashtra for levy price fixation was referred in April, 1989 to the Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices (BICP), which

undertakes investigation into the cost structure of the sugar industry. The BICP in its Report submitted in November, 1990 did not favour creation of more Sub-zones. Accordingly this matter was not pursued further.

Protection of Animals in Kaziranga National Park

1139. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:
SHRIGEORGE FERNANDES:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Poachers kill 17 rhinos in Kaziranga" appearing in The Hindu dated December 11, 1991;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the population of rhinos and deer in Kaziranga National Park during 1990, 1991 and 1992; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to preserve and protect animals in this park?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Poaching of rhinos for horns and the recurrent floods continue to pose a serious problem of conserving and protecting the Kaziranga National Park in Assam. According to the information provided by the Chief Wildlife Warden Assam, during 1991, upto 10.12.1991, 19 rhinos were poached in the area, including 4 killed outside the Park. The Park protection staff succeeded in recovering 8 horns from the above poaching cases.

(c) It has been reported by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam, that during the census carried out in March, 1991, there were 2995 deer and more than 1120 rhinos in the Kaziranga National Park. No such census has been done in 1990 or in 1992. In 1990, however, the population of rhinos in the Park was estimated to be 1250.

(d) Steps taken/proposed to be taken to preserve and protect animals in the Park include:

(i) The anti-poaching measures, including the deployment of additional protection staff equipped with arms, wireless sets, vehicles, boats, etc., have been stepped up.

(ii) Government of India under the Centrally sponsored scheme "Conservation of rhinos in Assam", which was launched in the 7th Plan, have been providing financial assistance to the Government of Assam to strengthen anti-poaching measures and effectively protect and develop the Kaziranga National Park and other areas in Assam containing rhinos. A system of rewards and incentives for obtaining intelligence about poachers has also been introduced under this scheme. Steps to protect the animals of the Kaziranga National Park from floods have also been taken.

(iii) A number of endangered species found in the Park like the rhino, tiger elephant, wild buffalo, swamp deer, hoolook gibbon etc. are included in Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thus bringing them under maximum possible legal protection. The Act has also been amended to provide deterrent punishment against poaching