

Kaziranga National Park

2082. SHRI PROBIN DEKA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a master plan on development of the Kaziranga National Park from the Government of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Assam has sought financial assistance therefor from the Union Government; and

(d) if so, the action contemplated by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d). No Masterplan for development of Kaziranga National Park has been received. However, developmental projects on year to year basis were received for financial assistance under Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Conservation of Rhinos in Assam" which included assistance to Kaziranga National Park also. During VIIIth Plan an amount of Rs. 92.38 lakhs have been released under the scheme for Kaziranga National Park. While during 1990-91 and 1991-92 an amount of Rs. 43.90 and 70.25 lakhs respectively were released. From the year 1992-93, the Scheme has been transferred to Assam Government, for which a total allocation of Rs. 75 lakhs is provided.

Computer Reservation at Ernakulam

2083. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the target for starting computer reservation at Ernakulam; and

(b) the modernisation schemes for Ernakulam Junction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) 30th September, 1992.

(b) Modernisation of Ernakulam Junction has already been taken up at a cost of Rs. 62.5 lakhs. The scheme includes provision of a IInd class waiting hall with toilet facilities, advance reservation facility and concourse.

Setting up of Zoos

2084 SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state the existing policy for setting up of Zoos in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): Government of India favours setting up only such zoos which can make a positive contribution in the ex-situ conservation of rare and endangered species of fauna and promote amongst visitors and understanding and empathy for wildlife conservation.

[*Translation*]

Expansion of Primary Education

2085. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the expansion of the primary Education in rural areas with the help of literate persons and voluntary organisations in view of its limited means and scarcity of funds; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b). The revised scheme of Non-formal Education which aims at meeting the educational needs of children in the age group relevant to elementary education in the comparatively deprived geographical areas and socio economic sections of the society, is being implemented through the State Governments and voluntary agencies since 1987-88. Emphasis has been laid under the scheme on selection of literate persons from the local community, to serve as part time instructors in return for a small honorarium. It is proposed to expand the scheme in the 8th Plan subject to availability of funds.

In addition, a new scheme of Voluntary Schools has been proposed by the Department for achieving the objective of UPE/UEE in a cost effective manner, in places and situations where the traditional full time school is inappropriate or has become dysfunctional. The proposed scheme is presently under discussion with the State Governments.

World Bank Suggestion on Population Control

2086. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has suggested any plan to India for population control;

(b) if so, the details of the said plan;

(c) whether the Government propose to implement the plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (e). This Ministry is not aware of any such plan suggested by World Bank for Population Control.

[English]

Assistance to Medical Personnel engaged in AIDS Treatment

2087. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes to assist AIDS hit medical workers and doctors in the hospitals and dispensaries;

(b) whether assistance to them is provided only till the date of retirement;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken for liberalised assistance to medical workers and doctors in this regard; and

(d) whether Government propose to introduce liberal and generous insurance cover scheme for all medical personnel involved in treatment and research of AIDS patients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (d). The Govt. of India has approved a scheme protecting the Medical and Para-Medical personnel in Govt. services against HIV infection. The benefits covered by the scheme are as follows:-

1. Personnel who contract HIV infection but do not succumb to the disease: