

surveys carried out by the Botanical Survey, of India (BSI), more than 400 species of orchids, including 25 endemic, ones, have so far been recorded in Arunachal Pradesh. Details of orchid species which are rare and/or vulnerable to extinction are given in the Statement attached.

(c) and (d). Export of orchids of wild origin is not permitted from any part of the country. According to the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the export of three species of orchids, viz. Blue Vanda (*Vanda coerulea*) Ladies Slipper (*Paphiopedilum* spp) and Red Vanda (*Ranatera imschootiana*) is prohibited. These three species of orchids have also been brought under the purview of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, in order to control their exploitation from the wild. The export of the remaining species covered under the CITES is strictly regulated.

(e) The BSI maintains about 3000 live plants belonging to 400 orchid species in these orchidaria. The Government of Arunachal Pradesh also maintains a large collection of live orchids in its research Station at Tipi in Kameng District.

A large number of National Parks., Sanctuaries and Biosphere Reserves have been set up in various States which preserve both the fauna and the flora including orchids; and some of these protected areas give particular attention to the endangered species of orchids.

STATEMENT

1. *Acanthephippium sylhetense*.
2. *Aectochnoilus crispus*.
3. *Anoectochilus sikkimensis*.
4. *Bulbophyllum lobbi*.

5. *Bulbophyllum viridiflorum*.
6. *Bullevia yunnanensis*.
7. *Calanthe allamaefolia*.
8. *Calanthe alpine*.
9. *Calanthe anousta*.
10. *Cymbidium eburneum*.
11. *Cymbidium hookerianum*.
12. *Dendrobium falconeri*.
13. *Dendrobium nobile*.
14. *Dendrobium sulcatum*.
15. *Dendrobium wardianum*.
16. *Epipogon seseanum*.
17. *Emeralda cathcartii*.
18. *Paphiopedilum fairieanum*.
19. *Paphiopedilum wardianum*.
20. *Pleione hookeriana*.
21. *Thunia marshalliana*.
22. *Vanda coerulea*.

Policy on Wastes

1228. SHRI M.V. CHANDRA
SHEKARA MURTHY;
SHRI V. SREENIVASA
PRASAD:

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

(a) whether the Government have received any suggestion for a national policy

on the management in hazardous and other wastes to reduce the volume of waste;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c). In a number of meetings/workshops organised by Ministry of Environment and Forests as well as by other agencies, various suggestions have been made on the management, and reduction of hazardous and other wastes.

The Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 and the Guidelines for Management and Handling of Hazardous Wastes issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests provide for the national regulation on hazardous wastes. Suggestions received from different sources have also been duly considered and have been taken care of in the 'Policy Statement for Abatement of Pollution' issued by the Ministry in February, 1992.

Track Maintenance

1229. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of divisions/zones where the track maintenance work have been given to the contractors;

(b) the reduction of cost achieved by adopting this method;

(c) whether maintenance of tracks have been improved thereby and improvement of traffic movement has been observed; and

(d) the criteria adopted in awarding such work to contractors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) As a matter of policy, items of regular track maintenance are not being get done through private contractors.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Fund for Afforestation

1230. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:
SHRIMATI BHAVNA
CHIKHLIA:
SHRI RATILAL VARMA:

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

(a) whether a National Fund has been set up for afforestation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount in this fund at present and

(d) the amount provided to the various States from this fund so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b). The National Fund for Afforestation and Wastelands Development was set up on 17th July 1990 to achieve the objective of involving all sections of society and mobilising the resources of individuals, as well as organisations, both corporate and non corporate in the task of waste lands development. The Fund is managed by a committee headed by the Minister (Environment and Forests).

(c) and (d). A total amount of Rs. 11.01.855 is presently available in the Fund, to be spent on projects submitted by