

(Figures in Kms., Completed Track Renewals)

<i>Vllth Plan</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>Actual</i>
1990-91	3550	3669
1991-92	3325	3360

(c) Overdue Track Renewals at the beginning of VIIIth Five Year Plan (1.4.92) was 9600 Ks. (Complete track renewals).

(d) With the present level of funding the backlog of arrears will be carried well into IXth Plan. However, efforts will be made to liquidate arrears of track renewals on important routes during the VIIIth Plan.

Circular Railway Lines

2339. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far to complete and extend the circular railway lines under construction in different cities of the country, details for each project; and

(b) the steps being taken to complete these projects as per schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) and (b). Calcutta circular railway from Dum Dum to Princepghat (13.5K) as per the sanctioned scheme has already been commissioned for commuter traffic. Feasibility of extension of the circular railway from Princepghat to Majherhat (5.5 Km) was examined in consultation with the Calcutta Port Trust (CPT) authorities as the alignment passes through the Calcutta Port Trust land. CPT authorities have not agreed to part with the requisite land.

[*Translation*]

Hunting of Animals by Tribals

2340. SHRI ANAND AHIRWAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONEMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether hunting on the occasion of festivals is a cultural right of the tribals inhabiting in forests;

(b) whether the Government take action against them for this act; and

(c) if so, steps taken by the Government to protect their cultural rights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 recognises only the hunting rights conferred on the scheduled tribes of Nicobar Islands in the Union territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands as specified in Section 65 of the Act. No other right for hunting is recognised under the Act.

(c) Protection and improvement of the natural environment which 'inter alia' includes forests and wild life is one of the fundamental duties of every citizen of this country. Traditions and beliefs inconsistent with changing environment have necessarily to be given up by the society. This has to be achieved through education, improved social awareness and campaigns for social reform.