

Extinction of Medicinal Plants

1207. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain medicinal plants are on the verge of extinction;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government to save those medicinal plants from extinction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b).

According to the surveys conducted by the Botanical Survey of India, some of the important medicinal plants such as *Rauveolfia serpentina*, *Podophyllum Hexandrum*, *Saussurea Costus*, *Aconitum Heteropavaliu*m, *Picrosmiza kurroa*, *Colchicum luteum*, *Dipcadi Concanense*, *Decty derrhiza hatagirea*, *Gentiana Kurro*, *Angelica nubigena*, *Coptis teeta*, *Deathus cachemiricus*, *Dioscorea deltoridea*, etc. have become vulnerable to extinction.

(c) The measures taken include the following:-

- (i) Survey and collection of data on threatened and endangered species and efforts for rehabilitation of species.
- (ii) Restrictions on commercial exploitation and export of endangered species through regulations in pursuance of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES).

(iii) Development of Protocols for multiplication of some endangered medicinal plants through tissue culture.

(iv) Establishment of a network of protected areas in regions where medicinal plants are found.

[Translation]

Rail Bridges in North Bihar

1208. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding construction of rail bridges in Chhitauni-Bagaha in North Bihar, Bairgania in district Sitamarhi and Lokaha in Mdhubani district respectively; and

(b) the time by which the bridges are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) A rail-cum-road bridge (14 x 200) with suitable protection works is under construction between Chhitauni and Bagaha at a cost of Rs. 164. 09 crores to be shared by Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Water Resources and Governments of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Construction of bridges at Bairgania and Lokaha is not in hand nor planned presently.

(b) The Chhitauni-Bagaha project is targetted for completion in 1995-96, subject to co-sharers coming forth with their shares in time.