

(b) if so, the broad features thereof;
and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c). The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21 and the Non legally Binding Principles on the management, conservation and sustainable development of Forests were universally adopted by the UN Conference on Environment and Development of June 1992. The Convention on Biological Diversity and Frame-work Convention on Climate Change were also opened for signature at the Conference.

India has initiated follow up to these significant decisions. Both Conventions have been ratified. Action to internalise the concerns of Agenda 21 into the planning and development process is being taken. At the international level, India is seeking to renew the debate on forest issues and to promote the implementations of Forest Principles.

India's priorities for environmental action, which are reflected in the Rio agreements, have recently been stated in the Environment Action Programmes document. This focusses attention on the areas of sustainable urban management, promotion of clean technologies of production, development of institutional structures, promotion of the use of renewable sources of energy and the conservation of biological diversity.

[*Translation*]

Railway Over-Bridge at Vapi-Daman Road

2861. SHRI DILEEP BHAI SANGHANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of the on-going construction work of railway over-bridge at Vapi-Daman road;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any time-bound programme to complete the construction work;

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) Tenders for bridge proper (Railway Portion) opened in Aug.'93 and contract awarded. Temporary diversion commissioned.

(b) Completion will depend on the State Government completing the work on approaches for which no programme has been given by State Govt.

(c) Does not arise.

Conversion of Gorakhpur-Noatanva Railway Line

2862. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted by the Eastern Railway to convert Gorakhpur-Noatanva railway line into broad gauge line;

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) the time by which work is likely to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) A survey has been conducted by North Eastern Railway.

(b) The project has been shelved owing to its unremunerative nature as

revealed by this survey and constraint of resources.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Poaching in Sanctuaries and National Parks

2863. SHRI K. PRADHANI:
DR. K.D. JESWANI:
DR. SAKSHIJI:

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

(a) whether poaching, netting and trapping are going on illegally and unabated in almost every sanctuary and national park;

(b) if so, the details thereof during 1992-93 and 1993-94, sanctuary-wise, National Park-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to stop such illegal activities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir. However, reports of sporadic poaching in different national parks/sanctuaries are received from State Governments from time to time.

(b) the information is being collected from the States and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to prevent illegal activities of poaching and trapping of wild animals include:—

1. Hunting of Scheduled wild animals has been banned by law.

2. Central assistance is provided to State/UT Governments for strengthening anti-poaching infrastructure.

3. Special schemes for protection and conservation of tigers, elephants and rhinos and their habitat are being implemented.

4. Raids are carried out by the Wildlife Authorities whenever information of illegal trading in wild animals reaches them.

5. Co-operation of Police, BSF, Coast Guard and Army is also taken in apprehending the poachers and illegal traders.

6. International trade in Endangered species of animals and articles made thereof is regulated under the provisions of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna.

7. Regional and sub-regional offices of Wildlife Preservation have been set up mostly at the main export centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wildlife products.

8. There is a scheme for payment of reward to the informers, which, among other things, helps in getting intelligence regarding smuggling of wildlife products.

Halt at De-Gachia Station

2864. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: