

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA) Extent of loss suffered by the Railways as a result of bomb blasts occurred in trains during the financial year 1992-93 and 1993-94 (till date) is as under:-

<u>1992-93</u>	<u>1993-94 (till date)</u>
Rs.17,60,731/-	Rs.3,88,887/-

### **Leopard Preservation**

51. DR. SAKSHIJI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any special scheme for protection and preservation of Leopards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not the steps taken by the Government to protect this rare species ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). No, Sir. There is no separate or special scheme for protection of Leopards. Leopards, by and large, share the same habitat as the tiger, and so the leopards enjoy a high degree of protection as a result of Project Tiger and other general conservation measures.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to protect this endangered species include :

- i. Hunting of Scheduled wild animals, which includes leopard, has been banned by law.
- ii. Central assistance is provided to

State/UT Governments for strengthening anti-poaching infrastructure.

- iii. Special schemes for protection and conservation of tigers, elephants and rhinos and their habitat is being implemented. Since leopard is a part of the habitat of these species, it automatically gets the benefit of these conservation efforts.
- iv. Raids are carried out by the Wildlife Authorities whenever information of illegal trading in wild animals reaches them.
- v. A network of Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks has been set up for conservation of wild flora and fauna. Financial assistance is provided by the Central Government for development of national parks and sanctuaries on request from the State Governments.
- vi. 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 Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- vii. Regional and sub-regional offices of wildlife Preservation are set up mostly at the main export centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wildlife products.
- viii. Cooperation of police, BSF, Coast Guard and Army is also taken in apprehending the poachers and illegal traders.
- ix. There is a scheme for payment of reward to the informers, which, among other things, helps in getting intelligence regarding smuggling of wildlife products.