

1.	2.	3.
17. Survey of Wetlands of Etawah and Mainpuri Districts of Uttar Pradesh.	Project was mainly taken upto evolve methodologies for making a National Survey and classification of wetlands. 16 types of wetlands were observed in Etawah and Mainpuri districts.	

Depredations in Sandal Forests

371. SHRI SHRAVAN KUAMR PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the extent of depredations caused by the chandrappan gang and others in the Sandal forests in the South during the current year so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union and State Governments concerned to prevent the depredations to the forests and the wildlife?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) There is no information available with the Central Government regarding the forests and wildlife:

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) The following steps have been taken by the Union and State Government concerned to prevent the depredation of the forests and wildlife:

- Indian Forest Act, 1927 and Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 are enforced to check forest and wildlife offences.
- Special courts have been set up in the states like Tamilnadu and Kerala to enable disposal of forest offence cases involving sandalwood and scheduled timber.
- The flying squads have been formed and equipped with modern communication sets, arms and vehicles to carry out effective patrolling in the vulnerable areas.
- Interior forest areas are connected with wireless network to improve communication.
- Forest check posts (fixed as well as mobile) have been created at strategic points.

[Translation]

Railway Station

372. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to beautify the Salempur Railway Station in Uttar Pradesh and its surroundings;

(b) if so, the schemes formulated and the financial allocations made for the said purpose; and

(c) the time by which beautification work is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (c) Salempur Railway Station building and its surroundings are being maintained in a satisfactory condition. However, as a measure of further development, a proposal has been formulated for improving the circulating area, developing apart, etc. at a cost of Rs. 1 lakh. Work in this regard will commence after completion of necessary formalities including removal of the shops in the area, and the work is targeted for completion during the current financial year.

[English]

Subsidy to Tobacco Farmers.

373. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Tobacco Research Insitute has extended any subsidy to tobacco farmers in Andhra Pradesh to adopt new tobacco seedlings for their cultivation during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details of such extension schemes backed by financial incentives; and

(c) the incentives proposed by CTRI to encourage farmers to be receptive to their new seeds and new techniques of cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Central Tobacco Research Institute, Rajhmundry is not providing any subsidy directly to the tobacco farmers. However, Institute is supplying seedlings of new tobacco varieties free of cost to the tobacco growing farmers as incentive for conducting on-farm extension trails in their own fields to encourage the farming community to raise exportable types of tobacco in Andhra Pradesh. During the last two years, seven on-farm extension trails were conducted.

(c) High quality tobacco seeds is being supplied by the Institute to the farmers at reasonable cost through Tobacco Board every year.

Subsidised Food Schemes

374. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether after having rejected Andhra Pradesh's request to fund its Rs. 2/- per kg rice Scheme, the Centre itself is considering the idea of providing foodgrains at substantially low prices to those living below poverty line:

(b) if so, the salient features of the Scheme:

(c) whether the Centre plans to further extend the Revamped Public Distribution System areas and also to further subsidise the foodgrains supplies through the system;

(d) if so, whether any final decision in regard to subsidise food scheme has been finally agreed; and

(e) if so, by what time the scheme is likely to be introduced throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Proposals to extends the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) to all the Blocks covered under the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and to reduce the Central Issue Prices of rice and wheat for RPDS areas are under consideration of the Central Government.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Various implications of these proposals are still under examination and, therefore, no specific time limit can be set for implementation of these proposals.

Brindavan Express

375. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend Brindavan Express upto Mysore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to operational and resource constraints.

Free Rail Passes

376. SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether of Ex-Servicemen particularly the gallantry award winner like the winners of Ashoka Chakra, Paramaveera Chakra etc. are given only second class free passes;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to issue second A.C.. and first class free passes to them and also permit their spouses to travel with them using the free passes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) Such Ex-Servicemen are not given free passes

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Environmental and Forestry projects in Rajasthan

377. SHRI KUNJEE LAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects introduced with the assistance of the Union Government and foreign agencies for the protection of environment and forests in Rajasthan during each of the last three years;

(b) the achievements made till date in each case;

(c) the financial assistance provided for each project and

(d) the details of proposed projects to be launched during 1995-1996

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) :

(a) to (c) The details of projects introduced with the assistance of Union Government and foreign agencies of the protection of environment and forests in Rajasthan during the last three years alongwith achievement both Financial and Physical are given in the statement.

(d) The projects are continuing in nature.