

[English]

**Land under National Parks, Sanctuaries etc.**

\*279. SHRI GURUDAS KUMAT :

SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK :

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

(a) whether the area of land under National Parks, Tiger Reserves and Sanctuaries has been declining for the last several years;

(b) if so, the area of land under National Parks, Tiger Reserves and Sanctuaries at present out of the total land area in the country;

(c) the reasons for decline in the area of such protected lands;

(d) whether the Government propose to launch a campaign for the conservation of Water, Energy and Environment under the present circumstances;

(e) if so, the details thereof, and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The total area under national parks and sanctuaries including tiger reserves is 148,849.03 Sq. Kms. This constitutes 4.52% of the total geographical area of the country.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) to (f). A National River Conservation Plan for polluted stretches of 18 rivers in 10 States has been approved, in addition to the on-going action plans for Ganga, Yamuna and Gomti rivers. A National Lake Conservation Plan is also being launched. For conservation of wood energy, fuelwood plantations are being raised and use of fuel-efficient stoves, bio-gas and gohar-gas is being encouraged. There are several projects and schemes in operation to encourage, fuel and fodder plantations and to promote afforestation. Several project including awareness and education programme are also under implementation for conservation of environment.

**Growth of Cash Crops**

\*280. SHRI MANORANJAN SURI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the recent trend, in the Agriculture sector in the country allowing unfettered growth of cash crops promoted by large industrial houses and MNCs at the cost of food crops such as Wheat and Rice; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) and (b). There is no discernible decline in area under Rice and Wheat in 1994-95, as compared to that in 1991-92 and 1992-93. Some diversion of area to cash crops is part of the policy of the Government to diversify agriculture in order to promote the income and employment in the sector. Promotion of diversification in agriculture and cash crops is not at the cost of Rice and Wheat whose area in fact in 1994-95 together was placed at 67.12 million hectares as against 66.37 million hectares in 1992-93 and 65.91 million hectares in 1991-92.

**Railway Crossing over N.H.**

2628. SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Railway Crossings on the National Highway No.24;

(b) whether there is a Railway Crossing near Rampur/Kashipur Tihara Chowk near Muradabad;

(c) whether there is a heavy rush of traffic on this National Highway;

(d) whether the Government propose to construct a flyover on the crossing at Rampur/Kashipur, Tihara Chowk; and

(e) if, so the details thereof and if not, the remedial measures taken to avoid frequent traffic jams at that place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND HOLDING ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) 20.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). State Govt. had proposed replacement of level crossing No. 413-A at Km 1392/9-10 by Road over bridge at KM 1392/6-7. This proposal has not been found acceptable by Ministry of Surface Transport who have suggested the Road over bridge at KM 1390/5 on the alignment of proposed by-pass. The matter was referred to State Govt. in March-92 to check the feasibility of the proposal and complete other necessary formalities. The State Govt. have not responded so far.

#### **World Bank Assistance for Agricultural Human Resource Development Projects**

2629. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the State which have submitted proposals for approval to provide funds from the World Bank to implement the Agricultural Human Resource Development Projects ;

(b) the number of projects out of them pertaining to the Backward/Rural/Tribal areas; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government on the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) Four States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka were identified for implementation of the World Bank Agricultural Human Resource Development Project. However, ultimately the Agricultural Human Resource Development (AHRD) Project was decided to be implemented in only three States of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Tamil Nadu as well as the ICAR. Karnataka was dropped as the State Govt. of Karnataka could not comply with some of the conditions from the World Bank.

(b) No such distinction was there since the project is neither an area specific nor target group specific project.

(c) The Agricultural Human Resource Development Project has become effective for five years from 4.8.1995 with the World Bank Credit of US \$ 59.5 million.

[English]

#### **Environment Fund**

2630. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Environment Fund designed to be utilised in the eventuality of a Bhopal-like tragedy is stagnating in absence of guidelines on its management from the Union Government;

(b) if so, the difficulties lie in the way of the Government to issue the guidelines; and

(c) the steps being taken to issue them and thus enable the Insurance Companies to invest the corpus of the fund?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c). Presently, the General Insurance Corporation and its subsidiaries are maintaining the Environment Relief Fund in short term deposits in accordance with the instructions provided by this Ministry. Detailed guidelines are under finalisation and shall be published in the scheme for establishing and maintaining the Environment Relief Fund. The modalities to reinvest the fund have also been incorporated in the scheme.

#### **Stoppage at Asansol**

2631. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Howrah-New Delhi Rajdhani Express gradually provided stoppages at Gaya, Allahabad and Madhupur;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to provide its stoppage at Asansol Junction; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND HOLDING ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). New Delhi-Howrah-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express is already stopping at Asansol. Therefore, there is no proposal to provide the stoppage of New Delhi-Howrah Rajdhani Express at Asansol.