

(b) the target fixed for the year 1993-94, the extent of work done in regard to renewal of railway lines and the details of works proposed to be implemented during the rest of the period, State-wise; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir. Out of a total target of 173 km. fixed for track renewals during 1993-94 in the Adivasi and hilly areas of Bihar, 121 km. are already renewed and the balance will be completed as per target.

The only Gauge conversion works in progress in the hilly area of Bihar are on Muzaffarpur-Raxaul & Sagauli-Narkatiaganj sections. Muzaffarpur-Raxaul section is targeted for completion in 1994-95 and Sagauli-Narkatiaganj section is planned for the IXth Plan.

(b) and (c) A statement is attached.

Targets for track renewal are not maintained State-wise. The Zone-wise targets of track renewal and progress upto January 1994 are given below. The balance work will be completed as per target.

| <i>RAILWAY</i> | <i>TARGET FOR 1993-94</i> | <i>PROGRESS UPTO jan'94</i> |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | <i>(km. in CTR Units)</i> | |
| Central | 388 | 326 |
| Eastern | 299 | 275 |
| Northern | 365 | 301 |
| Northeastern | 80 | 80 |
| Northeast Frontier | 98 | 103 |
| Southern | 147 | 146 |
| South Central | 320 | 340 |
| South Eastern | 465 | 418 |
| Western | 258 | 265 |
| TOTAL | 2420 | 2344 |

Seizure of Wild Life Products

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

888. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:
SHRI BRISHIN PATEL:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH
CHAUFAN:

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

(a) the details of consignments of

products of wildlife animals seized by the Regional offices of Wildlife Preservation during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 regionwise; and

(b) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The number of offences relating to wild animals detected by Regional Offices of Wildlife Preservation during the years 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 including consignment seized is as follows:

| Centre | 1991-92 | 1992-93 | 1993-94 | (upto Sept.93) |
|----------|---------|---------|---------|----------------|
| Calcutta | 10 | 10 | 7 | |
| Delhi | 73 | 58 | 33 | |
| Bombay | 16 | 30 | 46 | (upto Dec.93) |
| Madras | 2 | 1 | 7 | |

The seized consignments include furs and skins of tigers, leopard and other endangered specie finished products like those made out of feathers of the birds, sea shells, mangoose hair, and live animals like golden langur, Barking deer, Gibbon, Snakes etc.

(b) Steps taken by the Government to protect endangered species include:

- i) Hunting of Scheduled wild animals has been banned by law.
- ii) Central assistance is provided to State/UT Govts. for strengthening anti-poaching infrastructure.
- iii) Special schemes for protection and conservations of tigers, elephants and rhinos and their habitat is being implemented.
- iv) 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 Govt.

for development of national parks and sanctuaries on request from the State Govts.

- v) Raids are carried out by the Wildlife Authorities whenever information of illegal trading in wild animals reaches them.
- 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) 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 poashers 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.

[English]

Improvement of Passenger Earnings

889. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to evolve definite strategies to improve passenger-earnings and to plug the leakage of revenue;

(b) if so, the strategies proposed;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the quantum of total loss incurred by the Railways during the first 9 months of the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI
K.C. LENKA): (a) and (b) The following are
some of the strategies adopted by the
Government to improve passenger earnings:

- (1) To introduce more trains and services including short distance shuttle and Diesel Multiple Units,
- (2) To reduce the queuing time by introducing Self Printing Ticket Machines, both electro-mechanical and micro-processor based, and
- (3) To ensure availability of tickets in booking counters.

To plug the leakage of revenue, measures like frequent inspections, intensive ticket checking and preventive vigilance checks are conducted.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) There was a shortfall of Rs. 170.58 crores in the earnings from passenger traffic during the first 9 months of the current financial year as against the Budget Estimates for the said period.

Fast Speed Trains

890. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways is still confident of achieving their target of introducing trains with the speed of 160 Km per hour by the year 2000;

(b) whether any review has been made of the progress in the development of infrastructure to take on such speed; and

(c) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C.
LENKA) (a) to (c): Presently the maximum
speed of passenger trains has been pegged
at 140 kmph. While as a corporate objective,
the Railways have mentioned that the
speed of 160 kmph by the year 2000., it is
premature at this stage to say that such
trains will be run. Financial constraints and
need to conserve line capacity by increasing
the speed of freight services would have to
be accorded greater priority.

[Translation]

Farmer Service Centres

891. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will
the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased
to state:

(a) whether the Government propose