

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to (c) A Wildlife sanctuary has been established at Askot in Pithoragarh district for the protection and propagation of local fauna including the musk deer.

[English]

**"Research Projects on Conservation and Protection of Environment"**

2959. DR. DATTA SAMANT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of research projects on conservation and protection of environment that are being sponsored by his Ministry;

(b) the estimated cost thereof; and

(c) the main features of these research projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) The research projects sponsored are given below:

	Number	Outlay (Rs in crores)	
1	Ongoing projects	345	19 16
2	Completed projects	292	8 80
3.	total number of projects (ongoing + completed)	637	27 96

(c) The research projects relate to studies on multi-disciplinary aspects of environmental protection with a view to develop strategies for sustainable resource management as well as aim to create facilities to conduct environmental research. The subject areas of projects include land use, flora, fauna, health, toxicology, monitoring for prevention and control of air, water and land pollution, ethnobiology, endangered plant and animal species, seed biology and tissue culture and environmental impact assessment. The R&D projects are implemented through Government/semi Government/autonomous institution and universities by augmenting the facilities for research and manpower by appropriate financial assistance. The progress of these projects is monitored through various mechanisms like review meetings/workshops, annual progress reports and review by experts. The findings from R&D projects are communicated to user agencies for implementation.

**Archaeological Excavations in Rajasthan**

2960. SHRI VISHNU MODI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any excavation work is going on in the State of Rajasthan by the Archaeological Department; and

(b) if so, their locations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI-MATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, approval has already been accorded to the State Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Rajasthan to resume excavation at Ganeshwar, district Sikar, Rajasthan during the season (1987-88).