

(b) The news item refers to a claim by the Delhi Wildlife Society of spotting a flock of mountain quail while trekking in the Naini Hills of Uttar Pradesh. The matter was referred to the State Government and the Wildlife authorities of Uttar Pradesh have reported that they had tried to verify the claims of the sighting of mountain quail from the person concerned, but they have not received any response. The local wildlife officials in the Uttar Pradesh hills have also been directed to verify the information in the field. The mountain quail is suspected to have become extinct as it has not been sighted to the wild since the end of the last Century.

(c) The Mountain Quail is included under schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 which prohibits its hunting and commercial exploitation. The State Wildlife authorities have been advised to extend full protection to its habitat, if located, by declaring it as a protected area and deployment of staff to guard against its illegal trapping or destruction to its habitat.

Shifting of Assam Rifles

3220. SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a new site at Maha Koireng has been selected for shifting of 30 Assam Rifles from Kangla in Manipur;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to complete the construction of buildings at Maha Koireng;

(c) the estimated cost to be incurred thereon; and

(d) the scheduled time of completion of the buildings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. A site at 'Maha Koireng' (Kaithalmanbi) has been selected for this purpose.

(b) to (d). The land has been acquired and preliminary estimates have been prepared for early execution, which indicate as estimated cost of Rs. 47 crores (approximately) at the current cost index.

Police Force in North Eastern States

3221. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA :
SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the police force in the North Eastern States particularly in Assam is facing the problem of insurgency;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a proposal for modernisation of police force of these State;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether special assistance has been provided by the Union Government to undertake the modernisation programme;

(f) if so, the amount released so far; and

(g) if not, the time by which the assistance is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b). Some States in the North-East, including Assam, are with problem of insurgency.

(c) and (d). Since law and order is a State subject, it is primarily for the State Governments to equip/modernise their police forces. However, the Central Government has been implementing a scheme for modernisation of State police force since 1969-70 to supplement the efforts of the State Governments. The funds released to the North Eastern States under this scheme during the last five years are indicated below:

| S.No. State | 1991-1992 | 1992-1993 | 1993-1994 | 1994-1995 | 1995-1996 |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Assam | 47.71 | 47.71 | 190.86 | 95.43 | 47.71 |
| 2. Arunachal Pradesh | 46.27 | 92.54 | 92.54 | 95.54 | 23.13 |
| 3. Meghalaya | 36.27 | 12.92 | 51.88 | 25.94 | 12.17 |
| 4. Mizoram | 61.36 | 87.78 | 87.78 | 87.78 | 21.94 |
| 5. Nagaland | 38.43 | 34.63 | 76.86 | 76.86 | - |
| 6. Tripura | 46.53 | 46.53 | 93.00 | 46.53 | 23.26 |

(e) to (g). In addition to the funds released under the scheme for modernisation of State police forces, special assistance of Rs. 48.75 crores approximately has been released since 1991-92 to some of the North-Eastern States for the purchase of vehicles, arms and ammunition, Bullet proof jackets, etc.

Dhangdhara-Kuda Rail Link

3222. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for not including Dhangdhara-Kuda

rail link in the Western Railway on the Gauge Conversion programme; and

(b) the time by which the said work is proposed to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). The Government of Gujarat and Salt Department/Govt. of India have both agreed in principle to bear part cost of conversion but their formal consent has not yet been received.

Further decision in the matter will be taken after getting the formal consent.

Guwahati Zoo

3223. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the animals in good numbers died of different ailments in Guwahati Zoo, Assam during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise;

(c) whether any inquiry had been instituted for finding the reasons of these deaths;

(d) if so, the findings thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to check recurrence of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). The number of animals that are reported to have died in Guwahati zoo during the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 are 140, 145 and 89 respectively.

(c) and (d). The cases of death of animals in Guwahati Zoo was enquired into by a committee constituted by the Dean College of Veterinary Science, Guwahati during the year 1992, and their recommendations are being followed. The causes of death reported to be are fighting injuries, senility, gastroenteritis, tuberculosis, liver infection and mycotic diseases.

(e) Following measures are being taken to curb the situation :

- (i) Chemotherapy against tuberculosis and other diseases,
- (ii) Improvement of hygiene and sanitation measures,
- (iii) Segregation of diseased and disease free animals,
- (iv) Periodic health checking of zoo attendents etc.,
- (v) Quality Control of food and water supply.

Length of Rail Line in Kerala

3224. SHRI O. BHARATHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total length of rail line in Kerala at the time of formation of the State;

(b) the total length of rail line in the State at present; and

(c) whether the proportion of growth is less than that of the other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The total rail route kilometres in Kerala at the time of the formation of the State was 793 kms.

(b) The total route kilometres in the State as on 31.3.1995 is 1053 kms.

(c) No, Sir.

Andhra Pradesh Express

3225. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Express has only one A.C. III-T Coach;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to introduce one or two additional A.C. - III-T coaches on A.P. Express so as to adequately accommodate current rush of the passengers; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the time by which action is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAY (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal at present.

(c) Does not arise.

Development of New Railway Stations

3226. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are taking steps for the development of new railway stations in the country particularly in Gujarat under the Western Railway till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details regarding making arrangements of benches and water facilities and also to improve the reservation system at the railway stations located in the tribal districts of the country especially in Gujarat; and

(d) the estimated expenditure to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Five new railway stations, namely, Devaliya, Sadla, Sukhpur, Indira Nagar and Vondh, have been sanctioned on Western Railway in the State of Gujarat during 1995-96 and 1996-97 at a total estimated cost of Rs. 6.97 crore.