

- (e) Compulsory pre-payment of freight, where consignments are now booked on 'To Pay' basis, w.e.f. 1.10.96.

It is expected that with the introduction of the measures at (d) and (e), the position in this regard will improve.

### Protection to Forests

\*532. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:  
KUMARI SUSHEELA TIRIYA:

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

(a) whether the Nepali Forest Mafia operating in Terai Region of Indo-Nepal Border has killed a number of forest guards during the last several years;

(b) if so, the number of forest guards killed during the last three years;

(c) whether the Uttar Pradesh Government has submitted a ambitious project for the protection of 416 kms. long forest in the region;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the assistance sought for the purpose;

(e) the time by which the funds sought for the project are likely to be sanctioned; and

(f) the measures proposed to be taken to provide protection to the forest areas in this region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As reported by the state governments of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh five forest guards have been killed during last three years in Terai Region of Indo-Nepal border.

(c) to (e) A Project on 'Protection Measures Against Illicit Felling in U.P. Forest Areas Adjoining Nepal' has been submitted by the U.P. Government to Planning Commission, Government of India with a proposed cost of Rs. 12.18 crores, over a three year period, in six forest divisions, covering an area of 2.73 lakh ha. The Project is under consideration of Planning Commission for financial assistance to U.P. Forest Department.

The Proposed Project cost in three successive years is as under:—

S.No.	Major Head	Ist year	IInd year	IIIrd Year	Total
1.	Establishment	125.40	234.96	243.36	603.72
2.	Vehicles and communication	214.20	93.00	43.40	350.60
3.	Civil works	95.05	45.00	30.00	170.05
4.	Support Activities	30.45	31.20	32.45	94.10
	Total	465.10	404.16	349.21	1218.47

(f) Measures proposed to be taken to provide protection to the forest areas are as under:—

- Intensive patrolling in the sensitive areas
- Strengthening of the communication network
- Revamping and strengthening of armed forest protection force
- Provision of arms and ammunition to the forest staff
- Involvement of NGO's for prevention of illicit felling
- Coordination between various law enforcing agencies
- Establishment of forest check post with armed squad with facility of fast communication and movement
- Provision of additional vehicles for field inspections and for beat and highway patrolling
- Establishment of Watch Towers and Transmission Towers at strategic points
- Formation of a Trans-Boundary Conservation Board.

### Decline in DAP Production

\*533. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been sharp decline in the production of diammonium phosphate (DAP) during the last six months or so in the country;

(b) if so, the percentage of decline in the DAP production and the reasons therefor;

(c) the estimated shortage of fertiliser anticipated during the coming months; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to meet the shortage of DAP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) Yes, Sir.