

(b) and (c). Railways try to get as much Budgetary support through discussions with Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance at the time of Finalising the Annual Plans.

Over Stayed Visits by Foreigners

1580. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of foreigners who came to India on valid passports or otherwise over-stayed and thereafter declared as missing

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years till date, country-wise.

(c) whether any of them have been apprehended and deported

(d) if so, the details thereof.

(e) the action taken in the matter and

(f) the measures the Government propose to adopt to eradicate this evil of overstaying and missing of foreigners resulting in the increase of our population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD MAQBOOL DAR) (a) and (b) Powers to detect and deport foreign Nationals overstaying their visas or otherwise staying unauthorisedly have been entrusted to the states Government/Union Territory Administrations. Data regarding detection and deportation is maintained by the State/Union Territories

(c) to (f) Detection, deportation, launching of prosecution against foreign nationals overstaying in the country is a continuous process. Instructions have been issued to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations from time to time to make concerted efforts and to launch special drives to detect and deport foreign nationals staying in the country illegally

Passanger Amenities

1581 DR KRUPASINDHU BHOI Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware of the poor passenger amenities in the New Delhi-Orissa bound trains, and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) Provision of passenger amenities in coaches are made as per the recommendations of passenger amenities committee. These provisions are provided on all coaches on New Delhi-Orissa bound trains

(b) Railways have, however, been advised to ensure that all passenger amenity items are in good working order in all coaches in the New Delhi-Orissa bound trains.

Tiger Population

1582 SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified the factors posing threat to tiger population.

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) the steps taken to make a realistic survey on the tiger population in the country.

(d) the number of tigers as per the latest survey State-wise and

(e) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to protect and preserve this species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT JAI NARYAN PRASAD NISHAD) (a) and (b) The main factors threatening the tiger population in the country are-

- poaching to meet the demand of illegal international trade in tiger bones and other parts of its body, and
- fragmentation and quality degradation of the habitat

(c) The tiger census is undertaken in the country once in every four years and that in the tiger reserve areas, once in every two years

(d) Last state-wise census was carried out in 1993 and a statement of census figure is enclosed

(e) The steps taken by the Government are -

- (i) A "Tiger Crisis Cell" has been set up in the Ministry.
- (ii) The State Governments have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling.
- (iii) Funds are being provided to the State Governments for the eco-development of the areas to reduce the biotic pressure thereon.
- (iv) A protocol has been signed with the Government of the Peoples Republic of China to coordinate bilateral efforts to stop illegal activities of poaching of tigers, and to endeavour jointly to combat smuggling and the illegal trade of tiger bones and other parts of its body.
- (v) Steps have been initiated by the Government to establish the "GLOBAL TIGER FORUM" for strengthening international cooperation to curb poaching of tiger and to coordinate efforts for the conservation of tiger and its habitate throughout the range countries.

STATEMENT

Estimated population of tiger, state-wise, in the Country as per Census carried out in 1993

S.No.	Name of the State	Estimated number of Tigers
1.	Andhra Pradesh	197
2.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Nil
3.	Goa	3
4.	Bihar	137
5.	Mizoram	28
6.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil
7.	Orissa	226
8.	Rajasthan	64
9.	Gujarat	5
10.	Maharashtra	276
11.	Karnataka	305
12.	Haryana	Nil
13.	Meghalaya	53
14.	Uttar Pradesh	465
15.	Arunachal Pradesh	180
16.	Madhya Pradesh	912
17.	Kerala	57
18.	Tamil Nadu	97
19.	West Bengal	335
20.	Assam	325
21.	Tripura	Nil
22.	Nagaland	83
23.	Sikkim	2
24.	Manipur	N.R.
		3750

(N.R.—Not receive)

Pooyamkutty Hydro-Electric Project

1583. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have denied permission for Pooyamkutty Hydro-Electric project in Kerala;

(b) if so, the reasons for the denial;

(c) whether the Government have received requests/representations from the State to review this scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (e). The proposal for diversion of 3001.8 ha. of forest land under the Forest

(Conservation) Act, 1980 for Pooyamkutty Hydro-electric Project in Kerala was rejected on merits in January, 1991 due to its likely adverse ecological impacts. The State Government has subsequently requested for reconsideration of the proposal. The proposal has been carefully re-examined by the Ministry and again rejected on 28.6.1996. Recently a letter has also been received from Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala requesting for clearance of the project. He has been informed that it would not be possible for the Ministry to approve the proposal as the envisaged benefits of the project will not be commensurate with the environmental and ecological losses caused by large scale clearance of pristine forests of Western Ghats due to construction of the Pooyamkutty Hydro-Electric Project.

Ganga Action Plan

1584. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :

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

(a) whether the Ganga Action Plan was launched under the hundred percent Central Grant Scheme;

(b) whether the policy has been reversed and the scheme is now based on equal sharing of the funds between the Centre and State Governments involved;

(c) if so, the reasons for reversing the policy; and

(d) the impact thereof on implementation of the plan?

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

(b) to (d). The Ganga Action Plan Phase-I was taken up under cent-per-cent Central Grant for the pollution abatement of River Ganga. It was also to serve as a model to be replicated by the State Governments for pollution abatement of rivers, with the consent of the concerned State Governments, the Ganga Action Plan Phase-II and the National River Conservation plan were sanctioned as centrally sponsored schemes on the basis of equal sharing of capital cost of works between the Central and the concerned State Governments to give greater feeling of commitment and ownership of the programmes to the States. With this change in the sharing pattern the pace of implementation of the schemes and upkeep of the facilities created thereunder is likely to improve.

Flood Control Measures

1585. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the losses caused by heavy rains and floods in the current rainy season in Jammu & Kashmir in each district;