

(c) and (d), the cases of illegal killing of wild animals are investigated by the respective State wildlife authorities and appropriate action taken under the law.

(e) The various measures taken for protection of wild animals include.

- (i) Hunting of wild animals included in Schedules I to IV of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 has been banned by law.
- (ii) Special measures for protection and conservation of tiger, elephants and rhinos and their habitat are being implemented.
- (iii) A network of 441 wildlife sanctuaries and 80 National parks covering 1,48,000 sq. km. has been set up for conservation of wild flora and fauna. Financial assistance is provided by the Central Government for development of national parks and sanctuaries on request from the state Governments.
- (iv) Raids are carried out by the wildlife authorities, whenever information of illegal trading in wildlife animals reaches them.
- (v) International Trade in Endangered Species of animals and articles made thereof is regulated under the provisions of the convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- (vi) Regional and sub-regional offices of Wildlife Preservation have been set-up mostly at the main export centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wildlife products.
- (vii) Inter departmental coordination has been enhanced with other enforcement organisations like Police, BSF, Customs, ITBP, Coast Guards etc. Training programmes on wildlife enforcement and implementation were also conducted for all these organisations at New Delhi and Dehradun during, 1995.

[Translation]

Railway line between Devas and Harda

1577. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether no Railway line passes through the area between the Devas and Harda in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to lay a railway line there.

(c) whether any survey has been conducted for laying a railway line between the said places.

(d) if so, the details thereof.

(e) whether public and Railway administration have worked together in some places for laying new railway lines in the country; and

(f) if so, the type of co-operation likely to be expected from the public under this system?

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

(b) At present there is no proposal to lay a railway line between Devas and Harda.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Shramdan for earthwork and permission to move and take materials to the site of work are the items which can be expected from the public in this system.

[English]

Temporary Workers in Railways

1578. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) total number of temporary workers in the Railways at present, zone-wise.

(b) the time by which it is proposed to make them permanent; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). It is presumed that the Question relates to confirmation of temporary Railway employees. As per the extant instructions, temporary Railway employees are confirmed in service on successful completion of the probation period. The confirmation of temporary employees is thus a continuing process. The number of temporary Railway employees at present zone-wise is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Budgetary Support to Railways

1579. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to restore the budgetary support atleast by sixty per cent to fulfil the needs of the Railways.

(b) whether in view of the said proposal any concrete programme of action for Railways has been prepared by the Ministry; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The decision to allocate the available budgetary resources to different sectors, including Railways, is taken by Planning Commission in consultation with Ministry of Finance.

(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.