

requirements including funds for projects for construction of new railway lines.

**Advisory Committee for Development of Hill Areas**

4806. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has set up an Advisory Committee of Experts for the development of Hill Areas;

(b) if so, the composition of the Committee and whether the Committee has framed any guidelines/special strategy for the development of Hill areas so as to draw up the Seventh Five Year Plan with these guidelines/strategy in view; and

(c) if so, a brief outline thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Composition of the Advisory Committee has already been laid on the Table of the House in reply to Part (d) of the Question No. 648 answered on 23.2.1983. The functions of the Committee are mainly to advise on matters relating to Planning for socio-

economic development of the Himalayan region keeping in view (a) the special regional endowment, diverse agro-ecological features as well as socio-cultural ethos and (b) the threat to eco-system and the urgency to restore and conserve it. The Committee has so far focussed its attention on programmes relating to bridle paths, foot-bridges, drinking-water, fuel and fodder, education, energy efficiency and micro hydel units.

The views of the Committee will be taken into consideration while framing the strategy/guidelines for development of hill areas during the Seventh Five Year Plan.

**Commutation of Death Sentences into Life Imprisonment**

4807. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the particulars of persons whose death sentences have been converted to life imprisonment or given total pardon on compassionate grounds by the President during the last three years, including the current financial years; with reasons ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : The President, Commuted the death sentences of the following 12 condemned prisoners during the period commencing from 1st April, 1980 and ending with 31st July, 1983 :—

Name of Prisoner	Date of Commutation of sentence
S/Shri	
1. Ramanathan	16.2.1981
2. Gopal Singh	16.2.1981
3. Nanuka	21.2.1981
4. Kandhara Singh	4.3.1981
5. Gurmeet Singh	4.3.1981
6. Choor Singh	4.3.1981

1	2
7. Resham Singh	4.3.1981
8. Kasturi Lal	26.4.1983
9. Kandasamy	11.5.1983
10. Marimuthu Thevar	26.5.1983
11. Chinnaraj	26.5.1983
12. Bachey Lal	15.7.1983

The President did not grant total pardon during this period to any prisoner.

The President commuted the death sentences in exercise of the powers conferred on him by Art. 7.2 of the Constitution.

#### Census of Elephants

4808. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:  
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the States where census of elephants has been completed;

(b) the number of elephants living in those States ?

(c) whether his Ministry has directed other States also to conduct the census of elephants;

(d) if so, the names of the States where census is under way and when it expected to be completed;

(e) the number of elephants in all over the country as surveyed earlier; and

(f) the steps taken by Government to save them from destruction and to study their habitants in those States ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH) : (a) to (e) A status survey of the population of wild elephants in India is in progress. According to a preliminary estimate, the population is about 15,950 and the State-wise break-up is as follows :—

State	No. of Elephant
Arunachal Pradesh	2,000
Assam	1,900
Meghalaya	2,500
Manipur	150
Tripura	150
Nagaland	250
Mizoram	250