

Statement-III

State	Rhino		Lion		Brow antlered deer	
	1991	1997	1989	1995	1996	1997
	(Estate)					
Assam	1519	1530				
Gujarat			284	304		
Manipur					143	147
U.P.	9(1989)	13				
W.B.	39(1989)	55				
Total	1567	1598	284	304	143	147
% of increase	1.97		7.04		2.79	

The figures reveal that there is increase in the population of Rhino, Lion and Brow antlered deer.

National Highways in Bihar

2355. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Highway linking Patna-Chapra-Siwan is in a very bad condition and not safe for public transport; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) and (b) Only a part of road linking Patna-Chapra-Siwan is National Highway, which is maintained in traffic worthy condition within the available resources.

"Denotified Areas in Reserve Forests"

2356. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of guidelines for denotifying reserve forests; and

(b) the details of denotified areas in the reserved forests of the country during the last three years, State-wise and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) As per the Section 27 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, the State Government may by notification in the Official Gazette, direct that from a date fixed by such notification, any forest or any portion thereof reserved under the Act shall cease to be a reserved forest. However, before the issue of such notification, the concerned State Government is required to obtain the prior approval of the Central

Government under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Research on Plant-Based Drugs/Herbal Drugs

2357. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be please to state :

(a) whether the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research proposes to conduct research on the plant-based drugs and herbal drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER FOR HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) have an ongoing R&D programme involving 20 CSIR laboratories for developing plant based drugs and for standardisation of procedures and processing technologies for plant-based and herbal drugs.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Power Finance Corporation

2358. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the liabilities of Power Finance Corporation; and

(b) the works undertaken by the corporation during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARA-MANGALAM) : (a) The liabilities of the Power Finance Corporation as on 31.3.1998 are as under:-

	Rs. in Crores
Capital	1030.45
Reserves & Surplus	1449.85
Secured loans	2420.02
Unsecured loans	2686.61
Current liabilities and provisions	373.04
Total	7959.97

(b) The Power Finance Corporation is a public financial institution and does not undertake any work/project itself but extends financial assistance to various State Utilities like State Electricity Boards, State Generating Corporations, State Power Departments as also to the private power projects and Central Utilities.