

Banni Grasslands

3483. DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA :
SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL :

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

(a) whether Banni grasslands in Kutch (Gujarat) is facing threat of extinction;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Gujarat Ecology Commission is implementing Banni restoration activities through Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology and other Research Institutions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Express Highways

3484. SHRI R.S. GAVAI :
SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Express Highways pending with Union Government for clearance, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have refused permission for a Mumbai-Pune express way bypass through a forest area near Lonavala;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) time by which pending cases will be cleared especially of Maharashtra ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No proposals relating to Express Highways are pending with Union Government for clearance.

(b) No permission is required from this Ministry.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Development of National Waterway No.-3

3485. SHRI GEORGE EDEN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the total annual budget provision made for carrying out the proposed developmental works on National Waterway-3 with break-up of each item;

(b) whether there are any provisions for providing permanent bank protection measures in Champakkara and Udyogamandal Canals of NW-3 during the current year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) how many years will take for completing the necessary bank protection works in the above two canals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) The total annual budget provision for National Waterway No. 3 during 1998-99 is Rs. 10.30 crores. The break up of each item is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) Budget provision of Rs. 30.00 lakhs has been made for Bank Protection on National Waterway No. 3 during 1998-99. A scheme at a cost of Rs. 15.00 lakhs has been approved for providing rubble masonry type bank protection in vulnerable reaches of Champakkara and Udyogmandal canals and the same is under implementation.

(d) Bank protection work will be taken up from time to time depending on requirement and as per the recommendations of the consultants.

Statement

| Sl. No. | Activity/Scheme | Budget Porvision in 1998-99 (Rs. Crores) |
|--------------|---|--|
| 1. | construction and Maintenance of Locks | 0.50 |
| 2. | Land acquisition for terminals | 0.80 |
| 3. | Capital dredging including land Acquisition for widening of Canal | 4.00 |
| 4. | Annual maintenance activities | 1.50 |
| 5. | Acquisition of survey Vessels | 0.40 |
| 6. | Procurement of survey equipment | 0.30 |
| 7. | Construction and maintenance of terminals | 2.00 |
| 8. | 24 hrs. navigational aids | 0.30 |
| 9. | Bank protection | 0.30 |
| 10. | Acquisition of Petrol Boats | 0.10 |
| 11. | Pollution control and EMP | 0.10 |
| Total | | Rs. 10.30 crores |