

to undertake improvement of corridors linking four Metropolitan cities, which includes portion of NH-4 and NH-8 in Maharashtra.

(b) The cost of maintenance of National Highways in Maharashtra in 1997-98 was Rs. 51.58 crores. This covered 5750 km. of National Highway in Maharashtra.

[English]

#### Irregularities in MBA Entrance Test

1875. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether irregularities have come to light in the entrance test for MBA course in Banaras Hindu University;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the Banaras Hindu University there has been no irregularities in the entrance test for MBA course in the University. However, due to a clerical mistake, some more candidates than the number prescribed under the relevant Ordinance were called for Group Discussion and Interview. This error was detected well in time and the interview letters to the excess candidates were withdrawn by the University. Two of such candidates have moved the High Court against the withdrawal of the interview letters issued to them. The matter is still subjudice.

[Translation]

#### Increase in Wild Animals

1876. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of wild animals is increasing in Jim Corbett National Park at Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the increase registered in the number of wild animals during the last three years, separately;

(c) whether attention is being paid towards their upkeep alongwith the increase in number so as to have a check on them from becoming man-eater; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The biennial population estimations conducted in Corbett National Park indicate that the population of wild animals in the park has increased over the years :

	1995	1997
1. Tiger	90	91
2. Panther	39	40
3. Elephant	394	602
4. Sambhar	3778	3816
5. Chital	26315	26390

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The emphasis is being laid on habitat improvement, speedy and adequate settlement of compensation claims for the loss of life and property caused by wild animals and implementation of Ecodevelopment programme in fringe villages.

[English]

#### Making use of Satellites Data

1877. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether in order to exploit the rich biological wealth of the country, any plans have been drawn up to make use of data sent by the Indian Remote Sensing Satellites, IRS-IC and IRC-ID; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Department of Biotechnology has supported a multi-institutional programme on "Bio-prospecting of Biological Wealth using Biotechnological tools". One of the objectives is characterisation of the biological diversity of the North Eastern Himalayas and Southern Western Ghats using Satellite remote sensing data. This is being done by the Department of Space. Satellite data products of IRS-IB/IC/ID LISS III are being used for preparing Ecological zone maps, Landscape