

Mining Activities in Bellary

497. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that in Bellary District Mining activities have come to a standstill because of the judgement of the Supreme Court in this regard;

(b) if so, the number of acres of the forest areas where mining activities are going on in the District;

(c) the number of persons employed in these mining activities; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to amend the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and give exemption to mining activities in the forest areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Mining is a non-forestry activity and for carrying out mining operations in forest areas prior approval is required under forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Health cover to Wild Life

498. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have noticed a virus affecting tigers in National Parks;

(b) if so, the details thereof the and the steps

taken or proposed to be taken to deal with the problem effectively and strengthen the health cover for the wild life particularly in the National Parks and Sanctuaries; and

(c) the details of Central schemes presently under implementation and provision of funds made thereunder, scheme-wise with State-wise break-up for the current year and the progress achieved thereunder so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The incidence of virus disease in tigers was reported only from the Van Vihar National Park, Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) during November and December, 1996 which resulted in the death of two tigresses. Scientists of the wildlife Institute of India (WII) and the Jabalpur Veterinary College diagnosed the disease as Feline - Panleukopaenia, a virus disease of wild felids. The Wildlife Institute of India arranged the vaccine against this disease and all the remaining tigers as well as lions and leopards in the national park were vaccinated. All the animals are now in a healthy condition.

The States have been advised to appoint veterinary officers in the tiger reserves for which central financial assistance is provided. Assistance is also provided to the States and Union Territories for development of veterinary facilities in national parks and sanctuaries and immunisation of cattle. In addition, the wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for immunisation of livestock against communicable diseases within five kilometers of a national park or sanctuary to prevent spread of diseases to the wild animals.

(c) Details are given in statement enclosed.

Statement

Details of the fund released under various centrally sponsored schemes during 1996-97 (upto 20th Feb., 1997)

Rs. in lakhs				
State	Assistance for Development of National Parks & Sanctuaries	Project Tiger	Eco-Development around protected Areas	Project Elephant
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	44.332	16.87	21.715	11.20
Arunachal Pradesh	30.027	26.00	4.493	26.497
Assam	-	37.435	-	-
Bihar	-	76.78	-	-
Goa	10.143	-	-	-
Gujarat	51.168	-	-	-
Haryana	11.04	-	5.00	-
Himachal Pradesh	12.10	-	5.05	-