

[English]

**Stoppage of Rajdhani Express at Allahabad**

2120 SHRI SHASHI PRAKASH Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any proposal to discontinue the stoppage of Howrah bound Rajdhani Express at Allahabad, and

(b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAL-LIKARJUN) (a) and (b) Stoppage of 2301/2302 Rajdhani Express from Allahabad is being withdrawn w e f 21/22-3-1992 due to poor patronisation

**Elephant Population**

2121 SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) whether the elephant population is decreasing in the country,

(b) if so, the reasons therefor

(c) the number of elephants living in different parts of the country,

(d) the action being taken to protect the elephants, and

(e) the details of projects formulated for the conservation of elephant population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise

(c) The estimated population of elephants in the country, region-wise is given in the enclosed statement

(d) The action taken to protect the elephants include

(i) Elephant is included in Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act and the hunting as well as the trade in elephant and products derived from it including ivory are totally banned

(ii) Indian elephant is included in Appendix I of the "Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora", of which India is a Member, International trade in Indian ivory and articles made therefrom is totally banned under the provisions of the Convention

(iii) An amendment has been made in the Wild Life (Protection) Act to provide that trade in imported ivory is also banned from the date of expiry of 6 months of the commencing of Wild Life(Protection) Amendment Act, 1991, which has been promulgated with effect from 2nd October 1991

(iv) The export of ivory and articles made therefrom is totally banned under the Export Policy

(v) Assistance is provided to State Governments to strengthen the anti-poaching infrastructure

From this year a Centrally Sponsored Scheme entitled 'Project Elephant' has been launched and Rs 83 lakhs has already been released as assistance to State Governments for protection and conservation of elephant and its habitat