

Bangladesh. The project also envisages export of surplus power from Eastern Bangladesh to the North-Eastern Region of India. Initially, this would be of benefit to States belonging to the Eastern and the North-Eastern regions of India and once all the links of the National Grid are complete, the benefit could extend to the country as a whole.

2. **Nepal.** The power exchange between India and Nepal commenced in October, 1971 following Secretary level discussions between the two countries. The quantum of exchange of power initially was upto 5 MW which at present has been raised to 50 MW. the exchange of power takes place at 17 places along the Indo-Nepal border through the existing transmission network. The Mahakali Treaty between Government of India and Nepal provides that Nepal shall have the right to receive 70 million units of energy on a continuous basis, free of cost, from the date of coming into force of the Treaty. For this purpose India is required to construct a 132 KV transmission line upto Mahendra Nagra, Nepal on the Indo-Nepal Border from the Tanakpur Power Station. The transmission line will be constructed by Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. An Umbrella agreement between India and Nepal has also been initiated in February, 1996 opening the entry of private sector in the exchange of power between the two countries.
3. **Pakistan.** The Pakistan High Commission, in May, 1997 conveyed to the Government of India that the Government of Pakistan is considering a proposal to export electricity to India and sought technical details on the grid system in India. In response, Government of India conveyed its interest in the proposal in June, 1997 and suggested that technical, commercial and administrative issues should first be examined by a team of experts from India and Pakistan. The Government of India had offered to send a team of experts to Pakistan. Alternatively, it was suggested that the Government of Pakistan may depute an expert team to India. There has been no further progress in the matter.

[Translation]

Final Exams of Chartered Accountancy

764. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Chartered Accountancy final

examination slated to be held on May 6, 1998 has been deferred to May 14, 1998;

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the corrective measures taken by the Government to avoid recurrence of such incidence in future?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) Yes, Sir. One of the papers of Group I of the Final Examination scheduled to be held on 6th May, 1998 was postponed and was held on 14th May, 1998.

(b) Non-adherence of the instructions issued for conduct of the Examinations by the Centre Superintendent of one of the Examination Centres resulted in postponement of the examination.

(c) The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India has discontinued that particular centre for conducting the Chartered Accountants Examinations, in future.

Lions in Kanha National Park

765. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of lions at the Kanha National Park in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether there has been decline in the number of lions;

- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of cases of poaching of animals which came to light during the last three years and the number of such cases lying pending in courts and the time of their pendency; and

(e) whether any person has been awarded punishment so far for poaching the animals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) Lions do not exist in Kanha National Park.

However, according to the last three estimations, population of tigers in the Park has been as under :

1989	-	97
1993	-	100
1995	-	97

The report of 1997 estimation received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh is being analysed prior to arriving at the final figure.

(b) and (c) The population figures of the last three estimations do not indicate any appreciable decline but only a minor variation which may be attributed to the

permissible limit of human error involved in estimation methodology.

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

[English]

Primary Education

766. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the percentage of Indian children who have completed primary education at present alongwith break-up of boys and girls students?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Reservation to SCs/STs in Judiciary

767. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide reservation to the SCs/STs in the judiciary; and

(b) if so, the time by which the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) and (b) There is no

proposal under consideration to provide reservation to SCs/STs in the matter of appointment of Judges of High Courts and Supreme Court. As per Articles 233, 234 and 235 of the Constitution of India, the matters relating to appointment, promotion and posting of persons in District and Subordinate Judiciary are within the purview of the respective State Governments and High Courts.

Dumping of Toxic Wastes

768. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Toxic Wastes piling up in India" appearing in the *Statesman* dated April 28, 1998;

(b) if so, whether containers full of toxic substances and exported to India by other countries are lying unclaimed at several ports; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof and the remedial steps Government propose the take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per the information supplied by various ports and inland container depots, the status of hazardous wastes lying at some of the ports and container depots is given in the attached statement Existing facilities at various industrial units for disposal of these wastes in an environmentally sound manner have been surveyed by the Ministry of Environment & Forests. Samples of hazardous wastes lying at various ports and container depots have been collected and their analysis is in progress.