

state schemes being implemented currently to improve the navigation potential of Buckingham canal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Hydrographic survey and Techno-Economic feasibility study in South Buckingham Canal including integration from Kakinada to Mercanam alongwith river Godavari and Krishna has been conducted recently. The report is under examination.

(c) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for improvement of the central reach of the Buckingham Canal at a cost of Rs. 2.00 lakhs has been implemented by the State Government covering earth work, excavation and desiltation of the canal.

#### Poaching of Elephants

3703. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of elephants in the Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu forests were killed by the poachers in recent years;

(b) if so, the number of elephants killed by the poachers in these forests during the last three years;

(c) the steps taken by the respective State Government for the protection and safety of elephants.

(d) whether the Union Government is extending any financial assistance to the States for the protection of elephants; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI):

(a) and (b) As reported by the State Governments of Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu the number of elephants killed by poachers in the last three years are given below:

Sl. No.	State	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1.	Kerala	10	8	2 (upto December, 97)
2.	Karnataka	11	16	15
3.	Tamil Nadu	7	10	6

(c) The State Governments have informed that all efforts are being taken to control poaching of elephants. The Chief Wildlife Wardens of these States are in regular contact for effective co-ordination of anti-poaching efforts. Periodic raids are being conducted at various places to trace out smuggled ivory. Strict vigil is being maintained at the State borders, airports and other possible smuggling routes.

(d) and (e) This Ministry is providing financial assistance to the States for the protection of elephants and their habitat. The amount released to these States in the last three years is given below:

State	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
			(Rs. in 'lakhs)
Kerala	42.25	71.96	76.87
Karnataka	68.09	119.82	51.79
Tamil Nadu	-	15.00	30.60

#### UGC Grant to Universities

[Translation]

3704. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI:

SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the universities to whom the UGC sanctioned the grant and the Heads under which the grant was sanctioned during the Eighth Five Year Plan till-date;

(b) the universities who have utilised the sanctioned grant;

(c) whether any complaints have been received regarding misutilisation of grant or using the grant for some other purposes by the universities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

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

#### Strengthening of Press Council Act

[English]

3705. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV:

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Press Council of India has sent a package of suggestions of the Government for strengthening the Press Council Act;

(b) if so, whether the Government have considered those suggestions;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether the two-day international conference of World Associations of Press Councils was held recently; and

(d) if so, the proposal discussed in the conference and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) A proposal for amendment of the Press Council Act and related rules/regulations has been received recently. As the proposal includes legislative amendments, consultations at various levels including inter-ministerial consultations are essential before taking a view in the matter.

A two-day International Conference of the World Association of Press Councils was held on April 4-5, 1998 in New Delhi.

- (d) Information is given in the Statement attached.

#### Statement

*The International Conference of the World Association of Press Councils discussed on the following topics:*

- (i) The World Press and the Indian Press during the last 50 years—a critical review,
- (ii) The Right to Privacy, and
- (iii) The Transnational Complaints Machinery.

*Conclusions and recommendations of the Conference:*

- (i) That the creation, development and enhancement of Press Councils should be encouraged worldwide;
- (ii) That a responsible media should respect the privacy of all people;
- (iii) That, the media may only intrude on the privacy of a person including a public figure where it is clearly in the public interest;
- (iv) That the principles of a free and a responsible media apply equally to new technological methods for the delivery of news and information, education and entertainment, including the internet and satellite transmission;
- (v) That these principles also apply to news and information transmitted, published or sold across national boundaries;
- (vi) That there is a need for transnational application of the highest media standards.

#### Outlay on Higher Education

3706. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether investment on Higher education during the past five years has given positive results;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the investment on Higher Education during the said period, state-wise and year-wise; and
- (d) the number of graduates passed out from Universities during these years?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Investments in Higher Education are important for economic growth. Higher Education contributed to the growth of the country. Institutions of higher education have the responsibility of equipping individuals with the advanced knowledge and skills required for positions of responsibility in various fields. The investments in higher education during the past five years had enabled the enrolment of students to go up from 52.65 lakhs to 67.55 lakhs; and the number of universities and colleges from 177 and 7346 to 214 and 9703 respectively.

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

#### Climate Change in COP III

3707. PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating to change their stand on climate change taken in COP III at Kyoto;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) If not, the measures taken to bring in the question of Equity as an essential element in Emissions Trading globally?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The consistent Indian position has been that a fundamental step in developing emissions trading globally is the determination and creation of equitable emission entitlements of the parties.

#### Transmission Capacity of AIR, Sami Distt., Maharashtra

[Translations]

3708. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the transmission capacity of All India Radio Station located at Sami district in Maharashtra;
- (b) the amount allocated during the last three years for the development of this station, year-wise;
- (c) the reasons for restricting it as relay centre only;
- (d) whether necessary infrastructure and equipments are available at this radio station for transmitting Vividh Bharti and other programmes; and
- (e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be made a regular AIR station?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) There is no district by name Sami in Maharashtra.