

commissioned 13 V-SAT terminals for communication system between NRLDC control room and nodal point of Northern Grid System. Delhi Vidyut Board has been included in the Unified Load Despatch Scheme.

Meeting on 29-5-1998 by Secretary (Power) was taken with a view to review steps for ensuring better power supply in Northern region during the summer months. The position of installation of shunt capacitors by various constituents was reviewed and all constituents were advised to expedite shunt capacitors. Instructions were given for undertaking necessary maintenance works. Revival of the generating units was also discussed and a time-bound programme for revival was drawn. All the State Electricity Boards were advised to maintain grid discipline.

#### Infrastructure in courts

1217. RAO INDERJIT SINGH : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is an urgent need for increasing the number of judges and improving the infrastructure in High Courts and subordinate courts;

(b) if so, whether in the absence of adequate infrastructure facilities in High Courts and subordinate courts, the disposal of cases remain stuck; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide adequate infrastructure facilities in courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) to (c) Judge strength of High Courts is reviewed once in three years and the next review is due in 1998.

The disposal of cases depends upon several complex factors. The Malimath Committee, which studied the problem of arrears in courts, observed that the inadequacy of infrastructure is one of the reasons for arrears in courts.

A centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of infrastructural facilities for the Judiciary was introduced during 1993-94 by the Government. It includes construction of court buildings and residential accommodation for Judges/Judicial Officers covering High Courts/Subordinate Courts. Since its introduction in 1993-94, a sum of Rs. 232.43 crores up to 1997-98 has been released to various States/UTs for the development of infrastructures. Out of budget provision of Rs. 52.00 crores, during the current financial year, a sum of

Rs. 20.05 crores has been released to various States/UTs.

#### Threat to Swamp Deer

1218. SHRI C.D. GAMIT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Sanctuary" to mafia may cost wildlife 'deer' appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated October 30, 1998.

(b) whether the mafia so have no fear of the Government machinery possibly because of the backing of some influential politicians and Government officials, including some wildlife and forest officials, allegedly abetting either directly or indirectly, the illegal business for handsome profit;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to save the swamp deer and other animals in the Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No such incidents have been reported to the Govt. of India.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Action taken by the Government to save the swamp deer and other animals in the Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary include :

Preventive steps to stop illegal cutting of Typhus grass from Hastinapur Sanctuary area. In this process 27 cases were detected and 47 offenders were arrested out of whom 33 persons have been punished by the Department and 18 persons are undergoing Court trial. An amount of 36,900/- has been recovered as compensation since April, 1997.

[Translation]

#### Increase in Length of National Highways in Ninth Five Year Plan

1219. DR. RAM VILAS VEDANTI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any provision has been made by the Government to increase the length of National Highways during the Ninth Five Year Plan: