

as possible to Lok Adalats for conciliatory settlement and to also examine the feasibility of establishing separate Lok Adalats. Efforts are also afoot to establish permanent and continuous Lok Adalats in the Government Departments, Statutory Bodies and Public Sector Undertaking.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Illegal Trade of Wildlife Products

1263. SHRI VITHAL TUPE :

SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps at the national level to prevent illegal trade of wildlife and their products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have set up any Committee in this regard;

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to implement its recommendations?

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

(b) The steps taken at the national level to prevent illegal trade of wildlife and their products is given in the attached statement.

(c) A special Inter-departmental Coordination and Enforcement Committee for strengthening measures for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife has been set up in the Ministry under the Chairmanship of Secretary (E & F) and representatives from Ministry of Home Affairs, CBI & CBE&C as members.

(d) The Committee held its first meeting in October, 1998 and has given following recommendations :

(i) Inter-ministerial co-ordination to control the poaching and illegal trade in wildlife products.

(ii) Setting up of state level coordination Committee comprising Police, Forest Department and other enforcement agencies and a district Coordination Committee.

(iii) Taking necessary assistance from Police, CBI & Para military forces to curb illegal wildlife trade and apprehending; the kingpins and master-minds involved in illegal trafficking of wildlife products;

(iv) Frequent interaction with all enforcement agencies.

(v) Training to wildlife officials on the latest investigation techniques; and crime investigations.

(e) The State Governments have been instructed to set up the co-ordination Committees and other concerning agencies have also been advised to take action as per recommendations of the Committee.

Statement

(i) Hunting of wild animals included in schedules I to IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, has been banned by law.

(ii) Special measures for protection and conservation of tiger, elephants and rhinos and their habitat are being implemented.

(iii) Raids are carried out by the wildlife authorities, whenever information of illegal trade in wild animals reaches them.

(iv) International trade in endangered Species of animals and articles made thereof is regulated under the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

(v) Regional and Sub-regional offices of Wildlife Preservation have been set-up mostly at the main export centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wildlife products.

(vi) Interdepartmental coordination has been enhanced with other enforcement organisations like Police, BSF, Customs, ITBP, Coast Guards etc. Training programme on wildlife enforcement and implementation were also conducted for all these organisations at New Delhi and Dehradun during, 1995 & 1996.

(vii) Staff in National Parks and Sanctuaries are being provided modern arms, wireless equipments and communication facilities to check poaching in the National Parks and Sanctuaries.

(viii) Analogous to the Centre, the states have also been asked to set up co-ordination

committee of all enforcement agencies so that there is effective co-operation to check poaching and control of illegal trade.

[English]

World Bank Assistance for Major Ports

1264. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has sanctioned \$7,33,000 assistance to the Tariff Authority for major ports for undertaking the studies to guide the fixing of port tariffs in the country;

(b) if so, whether the authority was planning to commission a number of studies to guide the International exports to achieve a more rational ports tariff policy;

(c) whether the Government have set up any Committee to suggest amendments to the port laws; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project will include, among other things, commissioning of one expert study on port pricing to boost exports.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

A Committee was constituted with the following terms of reference :

- (i) To identify the provisions in the statute which are no longer required due to changes in the maritime/port activities over the years;
- (ii) To identify the provisions which are in tune with the present needs of the ports to operate in a commercial climate and in harmony with the liberalisation of the economy; and
- (iii) To examine whether the existing statutes can be unified/simplified into a single statute.

The Committee has submitted its report to the Ministry on 20.11.1998.

[Translation]

Female Literacy in Bihar

1265. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the percentage of female literacy in Bihar is lowest;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted to ascertain the reasons for it; and

(c) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Additional Allocation for Elementary Education

1266. SHRI R.S. GAVAI :

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL :

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

(a) whether the Government have received requests from various State Governments seeking additional financial assistance for spread of elementary education;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the quantum of additional assistance proposed to be provided by the Union Government, State-wise;

(d) the decision taken/proposed to be taken towards meeting this demand; and

(e) the time by which this demand is likely to be met by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) No such proposals have been received in the Ministry from State Governments in this regard.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Development and Maintenance of National Highways in J & K

1267. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of vehicles in country, particularly in J&K and total increase during last three years;

(b) the total increase in the National Highways during this period in the country and particularly in J&K; and