

Statement

State-wise details of gas turbine power projects/stations in the country

Name of the State	Number of Power Stations
Jammu & Kashmir	1*
Rajasthan	2
Delhi	1
Uttar Pradesh	2
Gujarat	8
Maharashtra	2
Andhra Pradesh	3
Tamil Nadu	2
West Bengal	3*
Bihar	1*
Assam	7
Tripura	3

* Liquid Fuel

[English]

"TB In Sariska Tiger Reserve"

1238. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "TB like disease threatens big cats" appearing in The 'Hindustan Times' dated September 4, 1998;

(b) if so, the fact of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to check the spread of this disease?

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

(b) The news-item has reported death of seven tigers and five leopards due to different reasons in Sariska Tiger Reserve since 1994, of which most of the dead big cats reportedly had the symptoms of a disease similar to tuberculosis.

(c) and (d) Official informations received from Rajasthan Government confirms death of three tigers

in Sariska caused by tuberculosis/hepatitis during the last three years. The carnivores are considered to the comparatively resistant to tuberculosis, but some cases are reported from various parks of tigers getting infected with bovine tuberculosis. Intensive veterinary care of the domestic livestock and screening out of tuberculosis infected animals from the sanctuary is one of the most important components of action plan to check the spread of the disease. Detection of disease and treatment in the wild lead to large number of mortalities.

Reorganisation of Disaster Management Machinery

1239. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :
SHRI S.S. OWAIISI :

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether an advance weather forecasting warning was issued to the people of affected areas in Andhra Pradesh and other parts of the country about the recent devastating sea storm, rain and cyclone;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to reorganise the disaster management machinery and advance forecasting on natural calamities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There have been two cyclones in the Bay of Bengal recently. The first cyclone formed on 14th November in the Bay, moved in a northwesterly direction and intensified into a very severe cyclonic storm (Hurricane Intensity) and crossed Andhra Pradesh coast close to Visakhapatnam in the evening of 15th November. Adequate and timely cyclone alerts and warnings were issued by India Meteorological Department to the State Government and electronic media. Also adequate precautions were taken to put Government machinery on maximum alert about the devastating impact of cyclone and create public awareness by electronic media. Hourly bulletins were issued by IMD to All India Radio for broadcasting by interrupting their current programmes and to Doordarshan for scrolling.

The other cyclone was formed over Bay of Bengal on 20th November, 1998. It moved in a northerly direction, intensified into a very severe cyclonic storm (Hurricane intensity) on 21st November. It further moved in a north northeasterly direction and crossed

West Bengal coast east of Sagar Islands around the noon of 22nd November. Adequate and timely warnings were issued by India Meteorological Department to the State Government and electronic media.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Under the existing scheme, the State Government are required to undertake rescue and relief operations in the wake of natural calamities. For this purpose, relief codes and disaster management plans are also prepared by respective State Governments. Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments.

The Government had prepared a Contingency Action Plan and circulated to all the State Governments with request to prepare such disaster management plans and update them from time to time based on the experience gained in facing the natural calamities. Government of ANDHRA PRADESH has a disaster management plan for cyclone.

Mangrove Forests in Kerala

1240. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether large areas of mangrove forests are being destroyed in the State of Kerala on account of construction activities both under in Government and private sector;

(b) if so, whether the Department of Forests in Kerala has been a silent spectator to this wanton destruction of these mangrove forests; and

(c) if so, whether the Union Government will take immediate steps to prevent the further denudation of these forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) According to the information received from Kerala Forest Department large scale destruction of mangrove forests has not been noticed under the areas in Government Sector. However, small scale destruction of mangrove forests is noticed in the Private Sector.

(b) Government of Kerala has recently launched a World Bank aided Kerala Forestry Project to carry out studies on the mangroves and wetlands in the State so as to evolve strategies for the protection and conservation of these ecosystems with public participation.

(c) Union Government is extending financial assistance to Government of Kerala for implementation of Management Action Plan for Vembanad mangrove area.

Counter Guarantee to Fast Track Power Project

1241. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether sixth fast track power project of Visakhapatnam has been accorded counter guarantee by the Government;

(b) if so, whether the counter guarantee covers foreign debts of \$ 818 million in the \$ 1.2 billion project; and

(c) if so, the time by which the project is likely to be completed and the production is propose to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The project is scheduled for commissioning 44 months after the date of financial closure by the promoters.

Damage to National Highways due to Flood and Cyclone

1242. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state the total loss incurred as a result of damage of National Highways by heavy rain, flood and cyclone in Assam during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : Total loss (direct and indirect) cannot be quantified in monetary terms. However, total direct loss during the last three years was estimated to be Rs. 5.7 crore.

[Translation]

Imparting of Moral Education

1243. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the scholars are of the view that moral education should be imparted to children since their childhood;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps proposed to be taken by the Govt. in this regard;

(c) whether the Government propose to impart education to children based on Indian Culture;