

Population of Elephants

440. **SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any study regarding elephant population in India;

(b) if so, the details of findings;

(c) whether Government propose to take any steps for the protection of elephants on the lines of 'Project Tiger';

(d) the total number of cases of elephant poaching/killing reported during 1990;

(e) whether Union Government have extended any guidance, aid or help to the State Governments of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka to apprehend elephant poachers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATIMANEKA GANDHI):

(a) and (b). Population counts of elephants are carried out periodically by the State Governments. The estimated population of elephants at present is between 15700 to 17500.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Information is being collected from State Governments and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) and (f). (i) A Committee of the Chief Wildlife Wardens of the four southern states has been set up to coordinate the anti

poaching activities.

(ii) Assistance for strengthening anti poaching infrastructure under the Centrally sponsored scheme, "Control of poaching and illegal trade and wildlife and its products" and provided during VII Five Year Plan as follows:

Karnataka	Rs. 25.50 lakhs
Kerala	Rs. 12.20 lakhs
Tamil Nadu	Rs. 7.24 lakhs
Total	Rs. 44.94 lakhs.

Compensatory Afforestation Regarding Sardar Sarovar Project

441. **SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ:** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state the target fixed for compensatory afforestation with respect to Sardar Sarovar Project and the compensatory afforestation made so far in this regard, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATIMANEKA GANDHI): Compensatory Afforestation target for Sardar Sarovar Project is 40,700 ha. and Compensatory Afforestation has been done over 3016 ha. till November 1990. Year wise break-up is not available.

Creation of Judicial Post of Public Defenders for Women

442. **SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:** Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state: