

in the pay scale of Rs. 1400-2600.

(b) In the Central Secretariat Stenographers' Service (CSSS) and Central Secretarial Clerical Service (CSCS), none of the Group 'C' employees is carrying a pay scale higher than that of Assistants. There are, however, posts in various subordinate officer like those of Inspector of Central Excise, Sub-Inspector of Police and Staff Nurses which carry a pay scale of Rs. 1640/2900 and classified as Group 'C' posts. The duties and responsibilities of these posts are different from those of Assistants.

(c) They pay scales are based on the recommendations of the Fourth Central Pay Commission taking into account the qualifications, the duties and responsibilities attached to these posts and other relevant factors.

[Translation]

Preservation of Black Deer

7686. SHRI SHEO SHARAN VERMA:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether species of black deer in the country are facing threat of extinction;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted in this regard and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated number of black deer in the country in 1980 and the number thereof in January, 1990;

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to preserve and increase their number; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUFRAY): (a) to (c) The estimated population of blackbuck has increased from about 23,000 in 1982 to 43,500 now. Thus the species is no more facing threat of extinction in our country.

(d) Steps being taken to preserve and propagate blackbuck include :—

(i) Blackbuck has been included in Scheduled-I to the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, thus giving it maximum protection under law.

(ii) National Parks and wildlife sanctuaries and closed areas have been established under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to afford protection to the blackbuck and its habitat.

(iii) Trade and commerce of blackbuck and products derived therefrom, are prohibited.

(iv) Centrally sponsored schemes have been launched for the protection and development of national parks and sanctuaries including those containing blackbuck, and for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(v) A Centrally sponsored scheme for engendering public awareness and involvement in nature conservation, including the preservation of species like the blackbuck has been initiated.

(e) Question does not arise.