

(d) whether Government also propose to introduce the scheme of rewarding forest officers who help catching culprits in stealing forest produce on the lines of the reward scheme of Customs and income -tax Department; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI):
(a) and (b). No Sir.

(c) to (e). A proposal to comprehensively amend the Indian Forest Act, 1927 to make it more effective is under the consideration of the Government of India.

Population of Elephants

4031. SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN
DAS:
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-
CHANDRAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the population of elephants in the country has been increasing in the last three years;

(b) if so, the approximate number of elephants in the country in 1979 and 1989;

(c) whether any study has been undertaken to know the problem of migration of elephants and their crop raiding;

(d) whether Government propose to undertake a 'National Project' on elephants during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(e) if so, the details and location of the

project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI):
(a) and (b). According to the report of Asian Elephant Specialist Group Published in 1980, the population of elephants in India was estimated to be between 14,665 and 16,445. According to the information furnished by the Chief Wildlife of the States, in 1989, the elephant population is estimated to be between 15,755 and 17,500. Population statistics are not available for the last three years.

(c) No country-wide studies on migration of elephants or crop raiding have been conducted. Bombay Natural History Society has conducted studies on migration of elephants to Andhra Pradesh. Chief Wildlife Warden of Madhya Pradesh has compiled information on migration of elephants from Bihar to East Madhya Pradesh during last two years.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) It has been decided to appoint a Task Force to work out the details including locations in the project.

Disqualification for Eligibility to Government Pension

4032. SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to prescribe disqualification for Government servants from being eligible to pension if they are convicted for crimes against women during their service period; and

(b) if so, the details of steps contemplated in this regard?