

(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?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). As per extant rules, dismissal or removal from service of a Government servant entails forfeiture of his claim for pension. Accordingly, a Government servant who is dismissed or removed from service consequent on his conviction by a court of law in a criminal case is not eligible for any pension. The rules also provide for withholding or withdrawing a pension or a part thereof either permanently or for a specified period if the Government servant is convicted of a serious crime by a court of law subsequent to his retirement. These provisions are broad enough to cover crime against women

Polluted Air in Metropolitan Cities

4033 SHRI L K ADVANI
SHRI SHANKERSINH
VAGHELA

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study in Bombay has shown that breathing the polluted air there is as much harmful as smoking ten cigarettes a day;

(b) if so the details thereof, and

(c) the situation prevailing in other metropolitan cities and 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, the Government is not aware of any such study in this regard

(b) The ambient air quality is within the prescribed limits except for particulate matter. The levels of particulate matter are on the higher side largely due to natural dusty

conditions. From cigarette smoking, the exposure is mainly to carbon monoxide. This level of exposure is several orders of magnitude to the levels in the ambient air of metropolitan cities.

Buildings for Navodaya Vidyalayas

4034. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the Navodaya Vidyalayas have the requisite buildings and infrastructure,

(b) if not, the details of shortages reported; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to provide suitable buildings to these Vidyalayas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M G.K MENON) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Most of the shortages pertain to inadequacy of dormitories, staff quarters and class-rooms due to the fact that all the Navodayas Vidyalayas have initially been started in temporary/semi-permanent structures given by State /UT Governments.

(c) On account of financial constraints, buildings are being constructed in a phased manner. To begin with, in phase I, constructions have been undertaken to meet the requirements of students in classes VI to IX. In 130 Navodaya Vidyalayas, phase I works are under various stages of progress. In 90 Navodaya Vidyalayas, construction of part of phase I buildings is under various stages of progress. In 41 Navodaya Vidyalayas,