

districts, a leopard has reportedly been killed in each of these two districts.

(c) A statement is given below.

Statement

The leopards are sometimes killed before the wildlife staff equipped with tranquilisation guns or equipment for capture can reach the spot. Tranquilisation guns and the expertise to handle them is also not always available close at hand. Sometimes the leopards cannot be tranquilised or trapped and have to be destroyed if they pose a threat to human life.

The measures proposed are :

- (i) better communication facilities so that the wildlife staff can be summoned quicker;
- (ii) acquisition of tranquilisation equipment; and
- (iii) imparting of training in tranquilisation and capture techniques.

[English]

Modernisation Scheme of Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Limited

*227. SHRI R.P. DAS : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal has been received for modernisation and increasing the rated capacity of Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scheme envisages an investment of Rs. 42.8 crores with a foreign exchange component of Rs. 15.8 crores, for modernisation and expansion of the ship building and ship repair facilities at the Nazirganj Unit of the Company.

Bibinagar-Nadikudi Railway Line

*228. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :
SHRI MANIK REDDY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the original plan for the completion of Bibinagar-Nadikudi railway line including the estimated cost thereof;

(b) whether the construction work of this line is far behind the schedule;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof;

(d) the estimated expenditure incurred so far on this line; and

(e) whether Government propose to take any steps for the completion of this line within the scheduled programme and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (c) and (e) Construction of this new line was approved in 1974-75 at an estimated cost of Rs. 14.97 crores and progressed in phase according to availability of resources. The 1st phase from Bibinagar to Nalgonda was commissioned for traffic in March, 1981 and the whole line has been completed in February, 1988.

(d) Rs. 46 crore.

International Conference on Environment

*233. SHRI P.M. SYEED : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the decision has been taken to hold an international conference on environmental impact assessment this year by the Pollution Control Research Institute, Hardwar;

(b) if so, the names of other international organisations to be invited for participation;

(c) the various aspects to be covered in the conference; and

(d) the precise dates and duration of the proposed conference ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) to (d). The Pollution Control Research Institute, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), Hardwar has proposed to hold a conference on environmental impact assessment during November-December, 1988 at New Delhi. It is for BHEL to work out further details of the conference.

Financial Irregularities in Asiatic Society

*235. SHRI SATYA GOPAL MISRA :
SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased state :

(a) whether there have been financial irregularities in the Asiatic Society; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the delinquent persons ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Inspection Report, 1985-86 and the Audit Report, 1986-87 received last year from the Director of Audit, Central Calcutta have brought out a number of cases of financial irregularities such as : non-realisation of arrears of membership-subscription; purchase of instruments, equipment like lamination machine etc., without inviting open tenders; renovation of old building without inviting tenders; installation of air-conditioning plant on the basis of limited tenders; award of contract for production of documentary film without proper approval; non-recovery of unutilised advances; non-realisation of arrears of rent from tenants; irregular appointment of foreign teachers; unauthorised expenditure on the Institute of Higher Sanskrit Studies and Research; printing of journals without tenders and imported films lying unutilised.

Instructions have been issued from time to time to the Society to take corrective remedial measures, avoid repetition of such irregularities and take action against those responsible for the defaults.

[Translation]

National Highway Finance Corporation

*236. SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA :
SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal to set up National Highway Finance Corporation to meet the growing needs to finance the construction and development of National Highway network has since been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The various aspects of the proposal are under examination.

[English]

Coach Manufacturing Factory at Kapurthala

*238. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) when the foundation of the railway coach manufacturing factory at Kapurthala was laid;

(b) when the foundation work was scheduled to be completed and the manufacturing of the coaches expected to begin;

(c) the present position with regard to its completion and the reasons for the delay; and