

(b) if so, the broad observations and suggestions made therein, particularly those relating to Indian wildlife; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to implement these suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations of the meeting pertain to the establishment of the Global Tiger Forum for the conservation of the Tiger and its habitat all over its range of which India is an integral part. The broad objectives of the Global Tiger Forum are as under:—

- To promote a worldwide campaign to save the tiger, its prey and its habitat.
- To urge the international community to abandon use of tiger products and eliminate illegal trade in parts, products and derivatives of tiger.
- To increase the protected area network of habitats of tigers and the interlinking corridors in the range countries.
- To promote a comprehensive legal framework and provide necessary financial and infrastructural capabilities for effective conservation of tiger.
- To implement programmes of eco-development with full participation of local communities living in and around protected areas.

— To promote appropriate programmes for training, scientific research, and awareness building and set up suitable mechanisms for the implementation of field programmes necessary to achieve effective conservation of the tiger.

— To elicit support and help of the Governments, inter-government and non-governmental organisations and individuals for the protection of tiger, its prey and habitat, directed at a healthy build up of tiger populations throughout the range countries.

— To promote bilateral cooperation among range states for the conservation of tiger and its habitat.

(c) The Government of India has initiated steps to set up the interim Secretariat of the Global Tiger Forum.

Cess on Sugar Mills

4899. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether cess is collected on sugar produced in the Sugar Mills in the country;

(b) if so, whether this cess is added in cost price of sugar;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the amount so collected is given as a loan and grant for modernisation of Sugar Mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH

RAI): (a) Yes, Sir. Under the Sugar Cess Act, 1982, a cess of Rs. 14/- per quintal is being collected on all sugar produced by any sugar factory in India.

(b) and (c). Among other items, an element of Rs. 14/- per quintal i.e. Rs. 0.14 per kg has been taken into account while fixing the retail issue price of levy sugar. The retail issue price of levy sugar is Rs. 9.05 per kg with effect from 1.2.1994.

(d) An amount equivalent to the proceeds of the cess levied and collected under the Sugar Cess Act, 1982, reduced by the cost of collection as determined by the Central Government, together with any moneys received by the Central Government for the purpose of this Act is, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law, credited to the Sugar Development Fund. Amongst other purposes, the Fund is also applied for making loans for facilitating the rehabilitation and modernisation of any sugar factory.

Railway Colonies

4900. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds provided for drinking water of Khurda Road and Sambalpur Division railway colonies during the last three years;

(b) whether the problem of drinking water is still persisting in the railway colonies in Orissa; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to tackle the problem?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) For improvements to the drinking water arrangements in the Khurda Road Division colony Rs. 48.50 lakh were provided for during the last three years.

As Sambalpur, the water supply arrangements form a part of "Setting up of a new Division" and are funded through the budgetary provisions for the same. Therefor, no separate record of expenditure for the water supply works is maintained.

(b) and (c). The position of drinking water supply has improved considerably. However, as a measure of further improvement, works pertaining to the provision of additional tubewell, overhead tanks, etc. have been sanctioned.

Extension of Prayag Raj upto Chunar

4901. SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend the Prayag Raj Express running between New Delhi and Allahabad upto Chunar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Neither operationally feasible nor commercially justified.