

*[English]***Whales**

2830. SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Will the Minister of Environment and Forests be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a growing threat to the whales from the pollution of the seas;

(b) whether the Government receive World Wide Fund for Nature Research Project to start whale-watching ventures around the coast for protecting the endangered species;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to preserve and protect this species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMALNATH): (a) No report has been received in this Ministry regarding a growing threat to the whales from pollution of the seas.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The measures taken to protect and preserve this species include:

- (i) whales are placed in Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, hence received the highest degree of protection.
- (ii) regional and sub-regional offices of Wildlife Preservation have been set up at the main export centres of the country to prevent smuggling of the species and its parts and products.
- (iii) International trade in endangered species of animals and articles made thereof is regulated under the provisions of CITES. Various species of whales are included under Appendix I and II of this convention.
- (iv) Interdepartmental coordination has been developed with other enforcement organisations like Police, Customs, and Coast guards; and
- (v) India is a member of International Whaling Commission and has been influencing a pro-conservation policy for the whales under the said commission.

*[Translation]***Federation for Sports Persons**

2831. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Federation for the welfare of national and international sports persons; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIR AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, there is a General Committee to oversee the administration of Fund to provide financial assistance to sportspersons of merit for needy purposes. The details are given in the enclosed statement.

**STATEMENT***Part II-General Committee**Composition*

4. For the management and administration of the Fund, a General Committee shall be constituted consisting of the following members, namely:-

- (i) Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports, Chairperson
- (ii) Secretary to the Government of India, Deptt. of Youth Affairs and Sports, Member
- (iii) Financial Adviser, Deptt. of Youth Affairs and Sports, Member
- (iv) President, Indian Olympic Association, Member
- (v) Director General, Sports Authority of India, Member
- (vi) President, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Member
- (vii) Three veteran sportspersons (to be nominated by Central Government), Member
- (viii) Five representatives of State Sports Councils/State Governments (to be nominated by Central Government), Member

(ix) Five representatives of National Sports Federations (to be nominated by the Central Government) Member

(x) Executive Director (Academic) SAI, Member

(xi) Joint Secretary (Sports), Department of Youth Affairs & Sports, Member-Secretary-cum-Treasurer

#### *Quorum*

5. (i) Not less than eight members of the Committee shall form quorum for any meeting.

(ii) Every matter shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members present and voting on a question and in a case of equality of votes, the Chairperson shall have a casting vote.

#### *Conduct of Business*

6 (i) The Committee may function notwithstanding any vacancy in its membership.

(ii) Subject to the provisions hereinafter contained, the Committee may as it thinks fit, frame, and vary, from time to time, rules for the conduct of its business.

(iii) The money standing in the credit of the Fund shall be vested in the Treasurer of Charitable Endowments of India.

(iv) The Committee may make rules for the regulation, management and for any other purpose connected with execution of the Fund.

(v) The Committee shall invest the proceeds of the sale or other disposal of the property as well as any monies or property not immediately required to be used for the objects of the Fund in any one or more of the modes of investment for the time being authorised by law for the investment of the trust monies, as the Committee may think proper.

(vi) The Committee may delegate to one or more of its members such of its powers as may, in the opinion of the Committee, be merely ministerial acts and involve no discretion or are necessary and convenient to common usage.

#### *Duration of Membership*

7. (i) A nominated member of the Committee, shall hold office for a period of 3 years from the date of his nomination unless renominated at the expiry of that period.

(ii) A member of the Committee shall cease to be a member on his death, resignation or on becoming insolvent or of unsound mind or conviction or criminal offence involving moral turpitude.

(iii) The resignation of membership shall be tendered to the Chairperson of the Committee and shall become effective from the date of its acceptance or on the expiry of 30 days after the date of resignation, which ever is earlier.

#### *Vacancies in the Committee*

8. Vacancies in the Committee shall be filled in the same manner in which the Committee was originally constituted.

#### *Meetings of the Committee*

9. The Committee shall meet as often as it is necessary to do so for transaction of the business of the Fund but it shall meet, in any cast, at least once a year.

#### **PART III - QUANTUM OF ASSISTANCE**

10. (i) *Lump-sum-assistance*: A Lumpsum financial assistance to a sports person or his family may be granted under the scheme:-

(a) in case of sustaining a fatal injury during training for, or participation in, an international competition, subject to a maximum of Rs. 1.00 lakh;

(b) in case of the sports person sustaining injury other than a fatal injury, subject to a maximum of Rs. 25,000/- provided that the assistance shall in no case be less than Rs. 2,000/-.

10. (ii) *Pension* : A monthly pension may be provided to an outstanding sports person in indigent circumstances-

(a) in the case of an outstanding sports person who is permanently or indefinitely incapacitated for service or otherwise of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1500/- ; and

(b) in other cases, of a sum not exceeding Rs.1000/-:

Provided that in either case the period for which the pension would be available including life pension shall be determined by the Committee.

10. (iii) *Assistance to Families of Outstanding Sports persons:* A lump sum financial assistance, not exceeding Rs. 25,000/- in each case, may also be provided to the families of outstanding sportspersons in indigent circumstances.

10 (iv) *Assistance for Medical Treatment :* A financial assistance, not exceeding Rs. 25,000/- may also be provided for medical treatment of an Outstanding Sportsperson in indigent circumstances.

Provided that an 'Outstanding Sportsperson' getting benefits under any other scheme, like insurance scheme, etc. may be provided assistance not exceeding Rs. 5000/- as an immediate relief for medical help.

10. (v) *Assistance to Sports Promoters:* Lump sum financial assistance, not exceeding Rs. 10,000/- may be provided to television or radio sports commentators, referees, coaches, umpires and other categories of sports promoters, who were eminent, but were not well off and are in indigent circumstances.

10. (vi) *Discretionary Powers to the Chairperson:* The Chairperson may sanction the assistance in deserving cases even to those who, technically, are non-eligible, depending upon the facts and circumstances of each case. The Chairperson will have the discretion to decide the quantum of assistance.

#### PART IV - PROCEDURE FOR GRANT OF ASSISTANCE

##### *Application to Committee*

11. An application for financial assistance from the Fund shall be addressed to the Member-Secretary/Treasurer of the Committee in the Prescribed proforma enclosed.

##### *Consideration of Application*

12. (1) All Applications for financial assistance from the Fund shall be considered and disposed of by the Committee and where the Committee is not meeting in near future for any reasons, the applications so received may be considered and disposed of even by circulation, by a Committee consisting of the Chairperson and two other members of the Committee to be nominated by the Chairperson of the Committee.

(2) In cases of urgency, the Chairperson of the Committee may consider and dispose of such an application.

##### *Power to Stop Grant*

13. The Chairperson of the Committee may, if he thinks it necessary to do so and for reasons to be recorded in writing, withhold or reduce any undisbursed grant whether of a recurring or a non-recurring nature, made under this Scheme.

#### PART V - MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND

##### *Member-Secretary/Treasurer - Powers and Functions*

14. (a) All contracts and other assurances shall be in the name of the Committee and shall be signed on its behalf by at least one of the Members and Member-Secretary/Treasurer.

(b) The Member-Secretary/Treasurer shall,

(i) Keep regular accounts of the monies in the Fund,

(ii) be the custodian of all records of the Committee,

(iii) conduct the official correspondence on behalf of the Committee,

(iv) issue all notices for convening the meeting of the Committee,

(v) keep minutes of all meetings of the Committee,

(vi) manage the properties and funds of the Fund, and

(vii) exercise all other powers and execute such other functions as may be assigned to him by the Committee from time to time.

##### *Assets of the Fund*

15. The assets of the Fund shall include all such grants and contributions, recurring and non-recurring, from the Central Government and State Governments, local bodies or any other statutory or non-statutory bodies set up by the Central Government or State Governments as well as the voluntary donations and endowments from any other sources, whenever received.

*Allocation of the Fund*

16. The Committee may determine the proportion of the total monies at its disposal which shall be applied for the purpose of this scheme in a particular year.

*Deposit of Fund*

17. (1) All monies in the Fund shall be credited initially to the accounts of the Committee to be opened in the State Bank of India or any of its subsidiaries or any other scheduled Bank approved in this behalf by the Government of India.

(2) The monies out of the Fund that are not required to be used immediately for the objects of the Fund, may be invested in any one or more of the modes of investment for the time being authorised by law for the investment of the trust monies as may be determined by the Member-Secretary/Treasurer of the Committee.

*Withdrawal of Funds*

18. Any withdrawal of funds from the accounts of the Committee shall be regulated in a manner to be determined by the Committee. Such withdrawal shall be made by cheques requisitions (as the case may be) signed by the Member-Secretary/ Treasurer in the case of an amount not exceeding Rs. 1,000.- and another member of the Committee in all other cases.

*Gauge Conversion*

2832. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA :

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA :

Will be Ministers of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of Railway Line in kilometer targeted to be converted from Meter Gauge to Broad Gauge in the Current Year in Gujarat and the total amount provided for this purposes ;

(b) the names of NG/MG lines of Gujarat proposed to be converted into Broad Gauge lines during Eighth Five Year Plan ; and

(c) the time by which the remaining MG/NG lines are likely to be converted into BG by the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND HOLDING ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) The lines targeted for conversion in 95-96 are

Sections	Length	Amount provided for the projects
1. Mahesana -Palanpur (Part of Ahmedabad-Marwar-Phulera gauge conversion project)	65Kms.	Rs. 226 Crs. for the entire project
2. Viramagam-Mahesana	65Kms.	Rs.40 Crs.
130 Kms.		

(b) During the Eighth Plan besides the portion of Delhi-Ahmedabad lines in Gujarat and Viramgam-Mahesana it is proposed to convert Wankaner-Mali-Miana and progress work on the Gauge Conversion of Gandhidham-Bhuj and Rajkot-Veraval sections in the State of Gujarat.

(c) Survey has been taken up for conversion of Surendranagar- Bhavnagar MG line into BG and extension of converted line from Bhavnagar to Pipavav via Alang. Decision regarding conversion of this line will depend on the result of survey and as regards the remaining lines, these would be considered alongwith similar other NG/MG lines over the country under the next phase of the Action Plan.

[English]

*Rail Link*

2833. DR. V. RAJESHWARAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have proposal to link Rameshwaram and Kanyakumari via Tuticorin by Board-Gauge line in the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any survey has been conducted to link the above cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND HOLDING ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.