

Rate of Interest on G.P. Fund

160. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the rate of interest on General Provident Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government employees will be permitted to withdraw finally the amount contributed by them in excess of the compulsory contribution to GP Fund to enable them to invest the money in Indira Vikas Patra, etc; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b). No such proposal is under consideration.

(c) and (d). Subscribers to the GP Fund are eligible to make final withdrawal subject to the conditions specified in the GP Fund Rules.

Setting up of Steel Plant in Private Sector in Karnataka

161. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHA RAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a steel plant in Karnataka in the private sector; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI ASHOKE KUMAR SEN): (a) and (b). A few proposals, for issue of letters of intent, for manufacture of steel by the private sector in the state of Karnataka have been received by the Government. The proposals are at the initial stages of examination.

[*Translation*]

Extinction of Wild Animals

162. SHRI GULAB CHAND KATARIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether wild animals are on the verge of extinction even where the game sanctuaries have been established for their preservation;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard;

(c) the amount spent on Jaisamand sanctuaries in Udaipur, Rajasthan during the last 10 years; and

(d) the number of wild animals there at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The State Government of Rajasthan has spent Rs. 43.929 lakhs during 1989-81 to 1989-90 on the maintenance and development of the Jaisamand Wildlife Sanctuary. In addition to this, Rs. 2.00 lakhs was sanctioned in 1989-90 for the development of the Sanctuary under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Assistance for Development of Sanctuaries".