

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN) : (a) and (b). Stray cases of poaching of wild elephant's for ivory occur from time to time. The steps taken to protect the wild elephant are given in the attached statement.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the house.

#### Statement

(1) Full legal protection is provided by including elephant in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(2) Elephant is also included in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES) under which international trade in the species or its products is strictly regulated.

(3) The habitats of elephant are being protected in the form of several national parks and sanctuaries throughout the species range of distribution in the country.

(4) Status and ecological studies are being conducted which would form the basis for a long-term conservation strategy for the species.

(5) The setting up of corridors for the free movement of elephants between disjointed and fragmented habitats has been suggested to the States concerned.

(6) The concerned States and Union Territories are being advised from time to time to take effective steps to control poaching by strengthening their protection and enforcement efforts. Central financial assistance is also being provided for this purpose.

#### Payment of fare for 400 KM for Availing Home Town Concession by Central Government Employees

4168. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government employees have to pay the train fare for the first 400 Kms while availing of the home town concession;

(b) if so, the rationale behind it;

(c) whether Government propose to waive this condition; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) and (b). The scheme of LTC was originally drawn up in 1956 to provide travel facilities to Central Government employees whose home towns were far away from their places of posting. Consequently it was considered necessary to limit the concession only to those who came from places more than 250 miles (now 400 Kms) (160 Kms in the case of Group 'D' employees) away from their places of posting. Further, in order to ensure that there was no discrimination against those whose Home Towns were within 250 miles (400 Kms.) and, therefore, did not get any travel concession, it was provided that those whose homes were beyond 400 Kms (160 Kms in the case of Group 'D' employees) from their headquarters should themselves bear the fares for the first 400 Kms. (160 Kms. in the case of Group 'D' employees).

(c) and (d). A suggestion has been received in this regard but no decision has yet been taken.

#### Visit of British Prime Minister to India

4169. SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that during recent visit of the British Prime Minister to India the activities of extremists were discussed; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the talks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India's concern at the increasing anti-Indian activities of extremist elements in Britain was conveyed to the British Prime Minister Mrs. Margaret Thatcher. She appreciated India's concern and said that Britain would not allow its hospitality to be abused by extremist elements. She also