

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c). The information is being obtained from States/UTs and would be laid on the Table of the House

(d) "Public Order" and "Police" being State subjects, it is for the concerned State Governments to devise various methods and take concrete steps in this regard. At the Central level, all out action is being taken to hold coordination meetings with the State Governments concerned as well with the various intelligence and investigating agencies of the Central Government to exchange information, share intelligence, plan strategy and take coordinated action. In certain special circumstances, financial assistance has also been given to some of the affected States over and above the on-going allocations for modernisations of police and supply of weapons. Some specific measures include

- (1) Fencing and flood lighting in the sensitive areas on international border
- (2) Strengthening the BSF on the borders through supply of night vision devices, hand held sets, binoculars, dragon lights etc. so as to enhance their capabilities
- (3) Setting up of additional BOPs with a view to reduce inter BOP distance
- (4) Holding coordination meetings in the Ministry of Home Affairs as well as setting up of a nodal group of officers at operational level
- (5) Setting up of coordination committees at the State, Divisional and District level between State Government officials and the representatives of the agencies of the Central Government
- (6) Additional supply of fire arms to the State Governments

(e) and (f) Suggestions from general public in this regard are received from time to time. "Public Order" and "Police" being State Subjects, these are forwarded to the concerned State Governments for appropriate action

Ban on Diesel Generating Sets

742 SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) whether the installation of Diesel Generating Sets is not permitted in the Taj Trapezium and Doon Valley of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) whether the Diesel Generating Sets on an average work at greater efficiency from the environmental view point, the Diesel Operated vehicles, and

(c) if so, the reasons for the ban on Diesel Generating Sets when there is no ban on the plying of diesel vehicles in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) In diesel vehicles, energy from a chemical reaction is converted to mechanical energy whereas in a diesel generating set the output is electrical energy. Hence these two are not comparable

Further, normal vehicular pollution is not localised and disperses rapidly whereas the diesel generating sets are stationary sources and cause localised build up of pollution

Zonal Office in Bihar

743 SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for setting up Railway Zonal Office in Bihar.

(b) whether 5000 acre railway land is lying vacant in Barauni Garhhara; and

(c) if so, the time by which the department is likely to implement this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (c) The issues relating to reorganisation of zones and divisions in the wake of Project Unigauge and the construction of Konkan Railway, have recently been studied by this Ministry. Further processing for the formulation of proposals and other related matters is being undertaken

(b) No, Sir

Siltation in Rivers

744 SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT OF FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) whether rampant deforestation in the Himalayan ranges is causing siltation in the rivers flowing through Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

(b) whether the Government has decided to formulate a scheme for desiltation of the rivers.

(c) if so, the details thereof and

(d) if not, the measures taken by the Government to control siltation in the rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) No reports on rampant deforestation in the Himalayan ranges causing siltation in the rivers have been received from the States

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) Afforestation under Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Projects is carried out in the catchment areas of the feeding rivers flowing through Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

An area of 61880 hectares with a total cost of Rs.2535.85 lacs has been treated with suitable soil conservation measures for control of soil erosion, land degradation and control of sediment flow in Upper Yamuna Catchment area under Flood Prone Rivers scheme.

Guidelines have been issued to the State Governments to consider banning of all fellings above 1000 metres: to identify critical areas in the hills and mountains, areas prone to landslides, erosion and geologically unstable formations for providing protection from felling of forests and afforesting vigorously.

Clear felling if resorted to due to compelling reasons should be restricted to areas not exceeding 10 ha. in the hills and 25 ha. on the plains.

Joint Forest Management Systems are being developed with the involvement of village communities and voluntary agencies for protection and regeneration of forests through a mechanism of usufruct sharing basis.

Forest Conservation Act, 1980 has been enacted to prevent diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes without prior permission of the Central Government.

Indian Forest Act, 1927 and wildlife protection Act, 1972 are enforced to check forest and wildlife offences.

[Translation]

Train Services From Bikaner

745. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce direct trains from Bikaner to Madras, Dehradun, Jammu Tawi, Ajmer and Howrah (Calcutta);

(b) if so, the time by which these trains are likely to be introduced; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). The feasibility of introduction of trains from Bikaner to other places is presently not feasible due to operational exigencies and resource constraints.

[English]

Construction of Overbridge

746. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal for construction of an overbridge from Sewri Railway Station to Sewri Koliwara in Mumbai (Maharashtra); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). A number of representations have been received, such as from Balak Palak Shikshak Sangh, Koli Samaj Cooperative Housing Society Ltd., Shrimati Nirmala Samant Prabhavalkar, Shrimati Promila Dandavate & Shri Mohan Rawale, M.P., for provision of a foot over bridge for public to cross the tracks at Sewri Executive Engineer, Road Development and Design Division, Bombay proposed a fly over in lieu of level crossing 7-A on Harbour line.

Foot over bridges, which are not in lieu of level crossings can only be provided on 'Deposit' terms. As yet no proposal has been received from Bombay Municipal Corporation (BMC) or State Govt. agreeing to bear the cost of Foot Over Bridge on 'Deposit' terms. The proposal for Road Over Bridge could not be finalised by State Govt. as the proposal was not acceptable to Bombay Port Trust in whose land the approach falls.

Neem Plantation

747. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVIN CHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any study has been conducted to find out the medicinal value of the Neem Tree;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to encourage Neem Plantation and declare the same as national tree?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Various parts of neem plant reportedly have antihelminthic, antisyphilitic, antipyretic, antiseptic, astringent, diuretic and purgative actions and have also been used to treat boils, eye diseases, headaches, hepatitis, leprosy, rheumatism, scrofula and ulcers. In Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine neem has been recommended for use against various ailments. Even British Doctors recommended its use in 19th century.

The antifertility potential of a neem extract is currently being investigated by the Scientists.