

Construction of Bypass on National Highway-31

2300. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.1361 on July 22, 1996 and state :

(a) the percentage of work completed as on October 31, 1998 in respect of construction of Falakata to Pundibari bypass road on National Highway-31 and bridge on river Torsha;

(b) the time by which remaining work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) The progress of Falakata-Pundibari Bypass on National Highway-31 and bridge on river Torsha as on October 31, 1998 was as follows:

| | | |
|---------------|---|-----|
| Bypass Road | - | 82% |
| Torsha Bridge | - | 50% |

(b) The revised target date of completion of the project is June 2001.

[Translation]

Expenditure on Express Highway in M.P.

2301. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the total expenditure to be incurred on the construction of Express Highway to connect Devas and Indore cities in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether this scheme has been taken up;

(c) if so, the total expenditure incurred thereon;

(d) the time by which the Express Highway is likely to be completed; and

(e) the number of lanes to be included in the Express Highway?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal for the construction of Express Highway to connect Devas and Indore cities in Madhya Pradesh. However, 4-laning of Indore-Devas section in Km 573.00 to Km 590.60 of NH 3 and construction of Indore bypass with an estimated cost of Rs.219.28 crores is in progress, which perhaps Honourable Member is referring to.

(c) Total expenditure of Rs.53.88 crores has been incurred up to October 1998 on the project of 4-laning and construction of bypass.

(d) The project is targetted to be completed by February, 2001.

(e) The project provides for 4-lane carriageway.

Afforestation and Beautification of Patora Lake

2302. SHRI SOM MARANDI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme for afforestation and beautification of Patora Lake and Udhyan (Rajmahal, Bihar) is under consideration of the Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Extinction of Deers

2303. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some deers are on the verge of extinction;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken a policy decision to protect the rare species including deers from extinction; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to save the deers particularly black bucks and swamp deer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) Although no deer species is on the verge of extinction, some deer species like Hangul, Sangai, Musk deer, Swamp deer and Mouse deer are included under the list of endangered animals.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Steps taken to save black buck, swamp deer and other endangered species of deer include:

i) Hunting of wild animals included in Schedules I to IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, has been banned by law.

ii) Raids are carried out by the wildlife authorities, whenever information of illegal trade in wild animals reaches them.

iii) International trade in endangered Species of animals and articles made thereof is regulated under the provisions of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

iv) Regional and Sub-regional offices of Wildlife Preservation have been set-up mostly at the main export centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wildlife products.

v) Interdepartmental coordination has been enhanced with other enforcement organisations like Police, BSF, Customs, ITBP, Coast Guards etc. Training