[English]

Wildlife Sanctuary in Parambikulam Wayanad and Thekkadi (Kerala)

- 1493. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) the total area of land, in hectares, proposed to be acquired for establishing the Wild Life Sanctuary in Parambikulam, Wayanad and Thekkadi in Kerala under the Project Elephant Scheme; and
- (b) the steps taken by the Government for rehabilitating the persons to be displaced therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOR-ESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b). Parambikulam, Wayanad and Thekkadi are notified Wildlife Sanctuaries in Kerala. No proposals to acquire land under these sanctuaries under the 'Project Elephant' are under consideration of Government.

Frauds in Central Bank of India Branches in Pune, Maharashtra

- 1494. SHRI BABUBHAI MEGHJI SHAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Central Bank of India branches in Pune, Maharashtra have been defrauded by some business houses/industries during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including amount involved, case-wise; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government against the persons involved in these frauds?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c). Information is being collected, and to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

Discrimination in Granting Environmental Clearance to P.S.Us

1495. SHRI VIDYADHAR GOKHALE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Public Sector Industrial Projects are required to obtain environmental clearance from the Union Government mainly at the initial industrial licensing stage;
- (b) whether this condition does not apply in the case of projects undertaken in the private sector;
 - (c) if so, the justification therefore; and
- (d) the corrective steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOR-ESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. All the Central Public Sector Projects costing Rs. 20 crores and above require environmental clearance before investment decision is taken by the Public Investment Board. So far, only those private sector projects are considered which either involve diversion of forest land or against which complaints are received from the public. All the public and private sector projects would get covered as and when the proposal for making environmental clearance statutory requirement is adopted.

Textiles Fair

1496. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state: