

(b) whether it is also a fact that its technical approval in 1989 was given with the restriction of environmental clearance; and

(c) if so, the reasons for non-approval to the letter in this regard, which was sent to the Ministry on 6th September, 1997 and by when this approval would be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) This Ministry is not aware of construction of Jamrani dam, barrage and canals. However, no forest/environment clearance has been accorded.

(b) Yes| Sir.

(c) The project was referred to this Ministry for environmental clearance in 1989 and was rejected in 1992 due to non-submission of requisite environmental management plans (EMP). The information sent vide letter dated 6.9.97 was incomplete and the project authorities were informed accordingly. Partial information was received in February, 1999. On examination of the proposal, it was found that information regarding catchment area treatment (CAT), disaster management plan (DMP) and rehabilitation plan was incomplete, and accordingly, clarifications have been sought from the project authorities on 14.9.99. Decision regarding granting of environment clearance will be taken within three months from the date of receipt of complete information. The proposal in regard to forest clearance has not been received.

Rhinos in Kaziranga National Park

1719. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the annual amount spent on conservation and protection of Rhinos in the Kaziranga National Park other than salary of staff;

(b) whether the amount is adequate for maintenance of the Park damaged every year by floods; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed for better infrastructure, patrolling better weaponry, effective means for communication and skilled wild- life staff for conserving and protecting the park's fauna?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) According to the reports received from the state government, the total expenditure incurred on protection and conservation of Rhinos and other species of wildlife in Kaziranga National Park during 1998-99 was Rs. 136.25 lakhs. The amount has been stated to be in adequate for the physical targets to be achieved.

(c) Rhino is placed in schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, thus getting the highest level of protection against hunting and commercial exploitation. Preventive measures are taken against poaching by arranging regular and intensive patrolling by forest staff. High lands are constructed to provide shelter to marooned animals during floods.

Tribals demand on Madhya Pradesh forestry project

1720. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether tribals are demanding withdrawal of Madhya Pradesh Forestry Project funded by the World Bank;
- (b) if so, the cause of their agitation; and
- (c) the action envisaged for ensuring survival of both forests and forests dependent communities of tribals in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI):(a) to (c) Mass Tribal Organisations (MTO) of Madhya Pradesh has asked the World Bank to discontinue Madhya Pradesh Forestry Project (a World Bank assisted project) and not to consider Madhya Pradesh Forestry Project Phase-II for funding, due to the project being harmful to the interest of the tribals. The contention of the MTO has been found to be correct by the State Government.

Hunting of Lions in Gir National Park

11721. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of Lions in Gir National Park in Gujarat and the number of people residing in that region.

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.