

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.

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†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.