

of 17 districts. The floods have also claimed 19 human lives and damaged 53.0 houses.

(b) Government of India have released two instalments of the Central share of the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 1996-97 amounting to Rs. 18.755 crores. Government of India have laid down the list of items, the expenditure on which alone will be chargeable to the CRF. The accountant Generals are required to see that only expenditure on the items approved by the Government of India is booked to the CRF.

(c) It has been decided to depute a Central Team to the State to assess the situation caused by floods and give its recommendations.

#### **Aerial Survey of the Forest Cover in Andhra Pradesh**

2039. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any aerial survey has been done of the forest cover in Andhra Pradesh in 1995-96;

(b) what were the conclusions from this aerial or satellite survey;

(c) whether the forest cover has not recovered in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the steps proposed to increase vigilance on forest depletion in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### **Special Rice Production Schemes In Madhya Pradesh**

2040. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the districts of Madhya Pradesh included under the special rice production schemes;

(b) whether any specific assistance has been provided to the farmers of the state under this scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the names of the development blocks in Bilaspur and Raipur districts being benefited therefrom; and

(e) the assistance provided so far?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) For rice development all the rice growing districts of Madhya Pradesh are covered under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes "Integrated Cereals Development programmes in Rice Based and Coarse Cereals Based Cropping Systems Areas" (ICDP-Rice & ICDP Coarse Cereals)

(b) and (c) Under the schemes, assistance provided to farmers includes incentive on certified seeds and identified improved farm implements. Besides, field demonstration and farmer's trainings are also being organised in the identified low productivity blocks.

(d) Through ICDP-Rice all the development blocks in Bilaspur and Raipur districts and being benefitted.

(e) The assistance provided includes incentives on certified seed and identified bullock drawn and manually operated improved farm implements. Besides, field demonstrations and farmers trainings are also being organised in the identified blocks.

#### **UGC Research projects**

2041. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether paucity of funds is a major hurdle for research scholars all over the country;

(b) if so, whether there are several hundred research proposals of vital importance which are lying unattended due to financial crisis;

(c) whether the University Grants Commission has been able to fund less than 1/5 of the proposed major research projects in humanities and social science during 1995-96 and whether UGC would give grants to around 8 per cent of the proposed major research projects during the same period;

(d) if so, the projects which could not be provided fund because of shortage; and

(e) whether Government have decided to provide sufficient funds to the UGC so that atleast recommendations of the Expert Committee which had recommended 154 & 232 projects are implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKLA): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by University Grants Commission (UGC), 1182 Major Research proposals were received by the Commission in Sciences, Humanities & Social Sciences, and Engineering & Technology. Out of this, 459 proposals were recommended for financial assistance. The Commission, however, could not provide requisite funds for implementation of 274 proposals in Sciences and Humanities & Social Sciences due to constraint of financial resources.

(c) and (d) The Commission has provided funds for implementation of 80 Major Research Projects out of 154 projects in Humanities and Social Sciences recommended by the Expert Committee.

(e) It has not been possible for UGC to fund the remaining 200 Major Projects in Sciences and 74 in Humanities and Social Sciences mainly due to the resource constraints.

### **Destruction of Wildlife**

2042. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Govt. are aware that illegal trade in wildlife has been flourishing in the absence of sufficient machinery coupled with lack of meaningful follow-up action against offenders?

(b) if so, what action Govt. have taken to save the wildlife?

(c) What is the total number of persons arrested for the wildlife destruction during the last three years, together with the details of machinery and other items recovered from them;

(d) How many of them have been actually convicted in the court so far, and

(e) The number of forest officials involved in these cases and action taken against them?

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) A number of cases relating to illegal trade in wildlife have been detected in recent years, which is the result of increased level of detection due to sensitization and effective coordination, initiated by this Ministry with the other law enforcement agencies. This has also helped to overcome the inadequacy of the machinery available with the state Forest & Wildlife Departments. The State & Union Territories have been advised to ensure effective follow-up of the cases detected.

(b) The major steps taken to protect wildlife are given in the enclosed Statement. (See below)

(c) to (e) Information is being collected from all the states and UTs and will be laid on the Table of the House.