

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (b) Step have been initiated for obtaining financial assistance from the U. S. International Development Agency for pollution control projects. The details have not been finalised.

Title Deeds for those occupying the Reserve Forest Land

1356. SHRI E. BALANANDAN :
SHRI M. A. BABY :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been made by the Government of Kerala for issuing title deeds for those occupying the reserve forest land;

(b) if so, what is the Government's reaction in regard thereto; and

(c) the reason for the delay in issuing title deeds for those, cleared by the State Government ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) Kerala State Government have sent a proposal for diversion of 28588.159 ha. forest land for regularisation of pre 1-1-1977 encroachments in five districts of Kerala, namely Idukki, Ernakulam, Kollam, Pathanamthitta and Trissur.

(b) and (c) After Examination of the proposal, certain essential details found lacking in the proposal were sought from Kerala State Government on 2-4-92. The proposal has been rejected for non-furnishing of information.

Extension of Tigers

1357. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that tiger is likely to extinct by next century;

(b) if so, the details thereof and what steps Government propose to take to pre-serve them in the country;

(c) whether Government are also aware of the demand for tiger bones which, are widely used for medicinal purposes in China and throughout South East Asia; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (b) No Sir. In view of continuance of conservation efforts of Tiger, there is no such danger.

(c) and (d) There are reports about demand for Tiger bones for medicinal purposes in some countries of Asia but not with full details.

Biosphere Reserve Programme

1358. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of the Biosphere Reserve Programme;

(b) what is the amount spent annually on this programme; and

(c) what are its future plans for next three years ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Biosphere Reserve Programme was launched in the Seventh Plan period. The main objectives of this Programme are to conserve the diversity and genetic integrity of plants, animals and micro-organisms; to promote scientific research on ecology, conservation and other environmental aspects; to provide facilities for education awareness and training; and effective participation of the people. Since the launch of the Programme, seven Biosphere Reserves have been set up. These are Nilgiri (Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka), Nanda Devi (U.P.), Sunderbans (West Bengal), Nokrek (Meghalaya), Great Nicobar (A & N Islands), Gulf of Mannar (Tamil Nadu) and Manas (Assam).

The main activities undertaken during the Seventh Plan period were survey and demarcation, preparation of management action plans aimed at promoting protective eco-regeneration, education and awareness research projects, etc. for each biosphere reserve which has been established. The to

amount, utilised during the Seventh Plan was Rs. 399.01 lakhs. In 1991-92, the expenditure incurred was Rs. 152.00 lakhs. Rs. 139.00 lakhs have been spent so far in the current financial year 1992-93.

(c) During the Eighth Plan period, it is proposed to further consolidate and strengthen the ongoing activities, and in addition, take up eco-development and demonstration projects, conservation of key species, scientific research programmes, etc. It is also proposed to establish 2-3 more biosphere reserves.

Survey of Botanical Survey of India

1359. SHRI PRATHAPA REDDY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the Botanical Survey of India has completed their survey in India;

(b) if so, what is the number of species in India found till date; and

(c) the details of the endangered species ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) The botanical explorations and taxonomic surveys carried out by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) are a continuous, on-going and long term process.

(b) and (c) According to the surveys conducted by the BSI so far, 17,000 species of flowering plants, 600 species of pteridophytes and 2,500 species of bryophytes have been recorded. An estimated 10% of the flowering plants and pteridophytes are considered to be at various levels of risk for their survival. The details of the endangered species are given in the three volumes of the Red Data Book of Indian Plants published by the BSI.

Variety of Flora and Fauna

1360. SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :—

(a) which State is having maximum varieties of flora and fauna according to the Botanical Survey of India;

(b) what is the nature of this distinction vis-a-vis other states;

(c) what is the ranking of the States in regard to availability of flora and fauna; and

(d) the State where the most endangered flora is found ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) According to the Botanical Survey of India, Arunachal Pradesh has the maximum varieties with about 5000 species of flowering plants.

(b) Because of its physiographic features and location in one of the prime botanical regions, Arunachal Pradesh has distinctively higher diversity as compared to other States.

(c) A list indicating the ranking of different States is attached as Statement (*see below*)

(d) The State of Kerala has maximum number of endangered flora.

Statement

List showing the ranking of various States

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Sikkim
3. Assam
4. Meghalaya
5. Nagaland
6. Mizoram
7. Manipur
8. Tripura
9. Tamilnadu
10. Kerala
11. Jammu & Kashmir
12. Himachal Pradesh
13. Uttar Pradesh
14. Andhra Pradesh
15. Karnataka
16. Maharashtra
17. Andaman & Nicobar Islands
18. Madhya Pradesh
19. West Bengal