

(d) whether any survey has been conducted on the possible reasons for decrease in the number of tigers; and

(e) If so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to protect tiger from extinction?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) In the context of the reports that the census in Ranthambhore in 1992 was conducted under great limitations, it has been decided that the census be reverified during 1993 for firming up the figures.

(b) Yes, sir.

(c) The information is given in the enclosed Statement. [See below]

(d) No state Government has reported any net decrease in the number of tiger population.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

As per the last All India Tiger Census conducted in 1989 the total tiger population in the country is 4334 and the population in the Tiger Reserves is 1327 as per details given hereunder:

Sl. No.	Name of Tiger Reserve	Population of Tigers 1989
1.	Bandipur	50
2.	Corbett	91
3.	Kanha	97
4.	Manas	92
5.	Melghat	77
6.	Palamau	55
7.	Ranthambhore	44
8.	Simlipal	93
9.	Sunderbans	269
10.	Periyar	45
11.	Sariska	19
12.	Buxa	33
13.	Indravati	28
14.	Nagarjunsagar	94
15.	Nandapha	47
16.	Dudhwa	90
17.	Kalakad-Mundanthurai	22
18.	Valamiki	81
TOTAL:		1327

Botanical Survey of India

255. DR. SHRIKANT RAM-CHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the annual expenditure of the Botanical Survey of India;

(b) how much is spent on the salaries and emoluments of its employees; and

(c) whether any analysis has been made on the work being done by the Botanical Survey?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The annual expenditure of the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) during the financial year 1990-91 was Rs. 5.78 crores.

(b) The total amount spent on salaries and emoluments of its employees during 1990-91 was Rs. 4.48 crores.

(c) A review of the functioning of the BSI was done in 1987 and its objectives and priorities have been redefined so as to achieve the targets by 2000 AD. Government have also constituted a Programme Advisory Committee to review the work being done by the BSI and its sister organisation, the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), and to suggest new areas of study and research.

Congress Grass in Maharashtra

256. SHRI RAMDEO BHANDARI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of 'Congress Grass' in Maharashtra, the seed of which had come to India along with the PL 480 wheat imports;

(b) whether the Botanical Survey of India has made any eco-study about the problems created by this grass;

(c) whether Government are aware of the amount and area of land that has become waste and crops and forests damaged due to the rapid growth of this grass; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) It is learnt that the species *Parthenium hysterophorus* Linn (Family Asteraceae) was recorded in West Bengal as early as 1845. The occurrence of the same species, also known as 'Congress Grass' was reported from Pune in 1956. It is stated that the Weed was introduced through foodgrains under the PL-480 Scheme.

(b) Scientists of the Botanical Survey of India have observed and studied the features of 'Congress Grass', and also the possibilities of using other species to check the growth of the weed.

(c) and (d) Congress Grass has currently occupied large areas of agricultural and non-agricultural land in the States of Maharashtra and Karnataka. However, no data is available about the exact area of its spread.

Expenditure on the National Museum of Natural History

257. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of annual expenditure on the National Museum of Natural History;

(b) the expenditure on the emoluments of the employees of the Museum;

(c) what is the total strength of the staff therein; and

(d) the number of Senior staff who have visited such museums in other parts of the world?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The annual expenditure on the National Museum of Natural

History during the financial year 1991-92 was Rs. 115.99 lakhs.

(b) The expenditure on the emoluments of the employees of the Museum during the financial year 1991-92 was Rs. 31.92 lakhs.

(c) The total strength of the Museum staff is 122.

(d) 10 members of the staff of the Museum have visited museums in other parts of the world.

Prevention of cruelty to animals

258. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases detected under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act during the last three years;

(b) the animals against whom the cruelty was done;

(c) whether any convictions were made or penalties imposed; and

(d) the steps being taken for the effective implementation of this legislation?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The State/Union Territory Government of Gujarat, Sikkim, Dadar and Nagar Haveli, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Andaman Nicobar Islands, Punjab, Tripura, Daman & Diu, Rajasthan, Mizoram, Orissa and Meghalaya have reported detection of 21181 cases under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960 during the last three years.

(b) Acts of Cruelty were generally committed against Buffaloes, Camels, Goats, Sheep, Cows, Dogs, Bulls, Monkeys and birds.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Measures Taken to implement the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960 include the following:

(i) Animal Welfare Board has taken up training programme for mem-