

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILA-MANI ROUTRAY): (a) and (b) On the occasion of World Environment Day, an Ornithology Centre at Bombay was started and an afforestation programme, entitled "Rehabilitation of common lands in the Aravali Hills in Haryana" was launched. Besides, various other programmes like tree plantations holding of exhibitions, special lectures workshops were held.

(c) The programme is being implemented with financial assistance of Rs. 39.34 crores from the European Economic Community (EEC). The project extends over 293 villages in four districts with a total geographical coverage of 1,46,000 ha.

Threat from Pakistan's Naval Prowess

134. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item under the captioned 'Pak Navy teeth now sharper' which appeared in the National Herald of June 16, 1990, quoting a US Journal according to which Pakistan has acquired the critical surface and air capabilities required to inflict conspicuous and possibly unacceptable damage to the Indian Navy in a battle; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR RAJA RAMANNA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government closely monitor all developments that have a bearing on our security and take adequate measures to equip our Defence Services to effectively deal with all threats to our security.

Admission in Science Courses in Delhi and other Metropolitan Cities

135. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAV-RAO JADHAV:

SHRI H. HANUMAN-THAPPA:

SHRI PRABHAKAR B. KORE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of students do not get admission in science courses in the colleges of Delhi and other metropolitan cities after their secondary education despite securing upto 85 per cent of marks; and

(b) what are Government's plans to provide adequate educational facilities so that students do not get depressed in getting higher education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) According to information furnished by Delhi University, it is not a fact that candidates securing upto 85 per cent marks in the qualifying examination have been denied admission in Delhi Colleges. In fact, in some of the colleges, the minimum qualifying marks for admission to Science Courses have been in the range of 66 to 80 per cent. However, in order to meet the demand for admission in Science courses in Delhi Colleges, the University Grants Commission has agreed to the introduction of additional courses in Science subjects in six colleges this year with intake capacity of 140 students.

Information regarding admission in Science courses in Colleges in other metropolitan cities is not available.

(b) The requirement and feasibility for starting new colleges/courses in a particular region is determined by

the concerned university in consultation with State Government and U.G.C. The open university and distance education system also provide greater access to higher education to larger segments of the population.

Theft of missiles from an Ammunition special train

136. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH
HANSPAL:

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 105 mm tank missiles were stolen from two wagons after breaking the locks of Ammunition special Train between Dhanbad and Gomoh station on 8th June, 1990; if so, what are the details of security arrangements made for safe transportation of ammunition, the circumstances under which these arrangements failed to prevent the theft and the details of missiles and other ammunitions found missing;

(b) whether any investigation in the theft has been conducted;

(c) the details of efforts made to recover the missiles;

(d) the details of steps taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents; and

(e) what disciplinary action has been taken against the concerned defence personnel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) An Ammunition Special Train had been despatched from Panagarh in West Bengal to Suranasi at 10.30 p.m. on 7.6.1990 under Army escort. The Special Train was carrying 105 mm Indian Field Gun ammunition. It was not carrying Tank ammunition or missiles. When the train arrived at Gomoh station on the morning of 8.6.1990, the locks and seals of two wagons were found broken by the escort

party and one box of ammunition each from these two wagons was found missing. Each box contained 2 rounds of 105 mm IFG HE plugged ammunition.

An adequately strong escort party consisting of 2 JCOs, 3 NCOs and 24 ORs had been deployed to provide security to the wagons containing the ammunition.

A Court of Inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the circumstances under which the security arrangements failed to prevent the theft.

(b) First Information Reports were promptly lodged with the Railway Police of Gomoh and Dhanbad stations and an Army Staff Court of Inquiry has also been ordered.

(c) Combing operations have been carried out jointly by the RPF, the CRPF and the local police. Further police investigations are in progress.

(d) Detailed instructions already exist for the prevention of such thefts. However, based on the results of the detailed investigations, further measures as necessary would be initiated to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

(e) Action will be taken based on the recommendations of the Court of Inquiry which is already in progress.

Report of the Swedish National Audit Bureau on the pay offs in Bofors Gun deal

137. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

SHRI VISHWASRAO RAM-
RAO PATIL:

DR. BAPU KALDATE:

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH
MALAVIYA:

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Stockholm