

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती मेनका गांधी) : (क) सरकार की पर्यावरण नीति उन विभिन्न प्रशासनिक और वैधानिक कानूनों में प्रतिबिम्बित होती है जो सरकार पर्यावरण को बचाने के लिए समय-समय पर करती है जैसे पर्यावरण (सुरक्षा) अधिनियम, जल तथा वायु (प्रदूषण निवारण एवं नियंत्रण) अधिनियम, वन (संरक्षण) अधिनियम तथा वन्यजीव (सुरक्षा) अधिनियम और देश में विकास गतिविधियों के प्रभाव मूल्यांकन से संबंधित प्रशासनिक निर्णय। तथापि, राष्ट्रीय वन नीति 7 दिसम्बर, 1988 को पहले ही घोषित की जा चुकी है।

(ख) जी नहीं, इसके कारण ऊपर (क) में दिए गए हैं ?

Non-Amendment of Rules by Delhi Administration regarding the pecuniary benefits admissible to teachers of aided schools

152. SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the Delhi Education Act, teachers of aided schools are entitled for all the pecuniary benefits including housebuilding advance, as are admissible to Government School teachers;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Union Ministry of Law and Justice had directed the Delhi Administration to amend the relevant Rules in line with the provisions of the Act, 3-4 years back; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not amending the Rules despite the directions of the Ministry of Law and Justice to Delhi Administration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) Under Section 10(1) of Delhi School Education Act, the same pay scales, allowances, pension, gratuity and Provident Fund facilities are available to teachers of aided and unaided recognised schools as are available to teachers in Government

schools; but house building advance is not covered within its ambit.

(b) Delhi Administration had initiated amendments to the Delhi School Education Rules, 1973, which included amendment of Rule 125 so as to provide for house building advance to employees of recognised private schools. On reconsideration, on account of financial constraints, difficulties in recoveries from teachers of private schools and legal problems in making property mortgages, in favour of the President of India' in respect of loans advanced to such teachers, the Delhi Administration has dropped the proposal.

(c) Does not arise.

Uniformity in the Pensions

153. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the demands made and the deliberations held on the 93rd December, 1989 at the 34th Annual General Conference of Bharat Pensioners' Samaj, as reported in the press on 10th December, 1989; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken and those which are being contemplated and the decisions since taken to meet their demands, especially the one for bringing about uniformity in the pensions and allowances drawn by different persons retiring from the same rank and stage, merely on account of the year of their retirement?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS:

<SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b) Press reports relating to deliberations of the 34th Annual General Conference of Bharat Pensioners' Samaj have come to the notice of Government. The pension structure of Central Government pensioners both past and future, was reviewed and orders were issued in 1993 in the light of the recommendations

of the 4th Central Pay Commission. Any future review by the Government of any retirement benefits will take into account the demands and suggestions made by various pensioners' organisations.

Protection of rhinos

154. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rhinos is a threatened species; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken and schemes drawn upto protect and promote the species, indicating their number in 1960, 1970, 1980 and at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (1) The steps taken to protect and conserve rhinos are given below:—

(i) The rhino has been placed in Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thus giving it maximum possible legal protection;

(ii) A Centrally sponsored scheme has been formulated for conservation of rhinos in Assam for expansion and better protection and

management of the rhino habitats. The scheme includes creation and maintenance of additional protection staff and infrastructure like purchase of elephants, vehicles and equipment, construction of roads, survey and acquisition of lands, rewards to informers, anti-flood measures, etc.

(iii) Central assistance is given under the Centrally sponsored scheme of Project Tiger and Assistance for development of national parks and sanctuaries, to the national parks and sanctuaries, some of which contain rhinos also.

(iv) Under the Centrally sponsored scheme of control of poaching and illegal trade wild-life, assistance is given to the State Governments of Assam and West Bengal to take measures against poaching of rhinos.

(v) Five rhinos have been translocated from Assam and four from Nepal in 1984 and 1985 respectively to the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve in Uttar Pradesh with the aim of establishing as alternative home for the species.

(2) The estimated population of rhinos in India in different years is given in the statement appended. (See below).

Statement

Estimate of rhino population in Different years

State	Year	Estimated population
Assam	1966	400 (Kaziranga)
	1972	658 (Kaziranga)
	1978	939 (Kaziranga)
	1986	1080 (Kaziranga)
	1989	1395 (Kaziranga)
		1500 (Whole State)
West Bengali	1960	76
	1970	88
	1980	30
	1989	39

EP Gee had estimated the rhino population of India in 1958 as 422. PD Stracey had estimated the population in 1960 as 350,