

(a) whether it is a fact that turtles and tortoises in the country are facing extinction as a result of unscrupulous activities of some greedy traders and fishermen; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to stop the unauthorised catching and export of these species?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (b) it is correct that certain species of sea turtles and tortoises have been facing over-exploitation. For this purpose, all five species of Indian turtles and all tortoises have been proposed to be included in Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to give them legal protection.

#### Protection to Breeding Beaches..

496. SHRI GANESH LAL MALI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government propose to take to protect breeding beaches with a view to ensuring maximum incubating and hatching of turtles and checking the destruction of pregnant female turtles in the waters of the Bhitarkanika Bookery discovered by Dr. H. R. Bustard, F. A O Consultant; and

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to entrust the job of saving these animals to the Indian Navy; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (b) The sea turtle rookery at the mouth of Mahanadi river in Orissa, has been incorporated in the Bhitarkanika Sanctuary. Under Central Sector Scheme, Orissa Government have been requested to provide requisite staff for protection of sanctuary including the rookery. To conserve tur-

tles from over exploitation, it is proposed to extend protection to all five Indian species by including them under Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. If necessary, Government will seek the assistance of the Indian Navy or any other appropriate authority for preventing exploitation of turtles at sea.

#### Cost of Construction of Sansadiya Soudha

497. DR. V. B. SINGH:  
SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI:  
HARSH DEO MALAVIYA;  
HIMMAT SINH:

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the cost incurred on the construction of Sansadiya Soudha (Parliament House New Delhi; and

(b) the expenditure on the day-to-day maintenance of the building during the years 1975-76 and 1976-77?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) The cost so far incurred on the construction of the Sansadiya Soudha (Parliament House Annexe Building) as available is Rs. 3,69,40,549/-. Some bills are still to be finalised and paid. The total expenditure on the work is expected to be Rs. 3,70,000/- including departmental charges.

(b)

	1975-76	1976-77
	Rs.	Rs.
(i) Parliament House Annexe	1,31,408	3,91,710
(ii) Parliament House	14,22,181	13,49,313