

- (iv) A pilot project on solar fencing has been undertaken by the State Farms Corporation of India Ltd. under National Food Security Mission - pulses.

**Expansion of branches of Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant
Institute of Himalayan Environment**

803. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has chalked out a plan to open branches of Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development situated in Katarmal (Kosi) Distt. Almora, in other hilly States of the Country for studying the changes in environment caused by the geographical changes in Himalayan region.

(b) if not, whether the Ministry would consider to expand it in future; and

(c) if so, the places where its branches are proposed to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, with its HQs at Kosi-Katarmal, Almora, has four regional units located at Srinagar, Garhwal (Uttarakhand), Kullu (Himachal Pradesh), Pangthang (Sikkim) and Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh). There is no plan to open any new unit in the near future. However, a field station is proposed to be started at Leh to look into cold desert areas in the Twelfth Five Year Plan.

(b) and (c) Expansion of regional units in the future will be considered depending upon the requirement and availability of resources.

One time grant for raising Special Tiger Protection Force

804. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had given one time grant a few years back to the National Tiger Conservation Authority for raising Special Tiger Protection Force in sensitive tiger reserves across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the progress made so far in the matter;

(c) the reasons for non-utilisation of this grant so far; and

(d) the remedial or corrective measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) Based on the one

time grant of Rs. 50.00 crore provided to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for raising, arming and deploying a Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF), the States of Karnataka and Maharashtra have already created and deployed the STPF. The State-wise details of STPF along with the composition are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) Action has been initiated by the States of Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Rajasthan for raising, arming and deploying the STPF.

Statement

*State-wise details of Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF)
along with the composition (As reported by States)*

Sl. No.	Name of posts	Name of Tiger Reserve and State		
		Pench Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra	Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra	Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Karnataka
1.	Range Forest Officer	2	-	3
2.	Forester	4	18	14
3.	Guards	86	77	63
4.	Watchers	-	-	27

Conservation of Hornbill birds

805. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has conducted a census of the various Hornbill birds found across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry had also undertaken any steps to save the Narcondam Hornbills found in the Andamans from extinction;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) No such census has been conducted by the Ministry.

(c) to (e) The Ministry has undertaken the following steps to save the Narcondam Hornbills found in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands from extinction: