

**Relocation of the settlement areas in National Parks in Assam**

2330. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to relocate the settlement areas from the various National Parks in Assam as the presence of people inside the park is contrary to the Rule and Regulations and it is also affecting the wild life;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the re-plantation activities inside forest cover area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) No financial assistance has been provided by the Central Government to the State Government of Assam for relocation of the settlements from the National Parks in Assam.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

**Conservation of endangered species of plants and animals in J and K**

2331. SHRI G.N. RATANPURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted to identify endangered species of plants and animals in Jammu and Kashmir (J and K);

(b) whether unregulated tourism and human interference in the fragile ecology of J & K is perceived as a future environment challenge; and

(c) whether Government is satisfied with the efforts made to protect and conserve endangered life form particularly Hangul, the Kashmir stag?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) Yes. Sir. Increasing tourism, rapid development and different type of human interference in the fragile ecology of the State of J and K are perceived as causative factors of environmental degradation and future environmental challenges.

(c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests and the State Government of J & K have been making several efforts to conserve endangered species of the State with technical support from many scientific institutions and conservation organizations. The Government is satisfied with the efforts made to protect endangered life forms in the State.

To protect the last surviving population of the Hangul, the Kashmir stag, the State Government has been regularly monitoring its population with technical support from the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) since 2004 and also conducting surveys in remnant sites with support from the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI). The Ministry of Environment and Forests developed the Hangul Recovery Programme with the technical support of WII and is providing financial support the State Government for its implementation. Further in pursuance to the decision of Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife, a sub-group has been constituted by the Ministry to specifically consider and advice conservation of Hangul species.

#### **Allocation and utilisation of funds in Assam**

2332. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated and spent in Assam by the Ministry and its various organizations during the last three years and the current year,so far;

(b) the details of purposes for which these funds were given and spent; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase allocation of these funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests and organizations under its administrative purview provide funds to various States, including Assam, under various Plan schemes. Out of the Central Plan outlays approved for the Ministry in any financial year, Scheme-wise allotment is made depending on overall priorities, objectives and projected needs under the Scheme. Increase in allocation of funds to any State under any Scheme in turn depends on a multiplicity of factors, including allocation of required State's contribution from its financial resources as applicable under the Scheme concerned,