

(b) if not, whether Government is taking initiative to develop Titanium Metal production in the country; and

(c) which are the facilities available in India to produce metal forms from Titanium dioxide; alongwith the details including capacity of production/revenue from production, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Titanium Metal is produced from Titanium bearing minerals i.e.; ilmenite, leucoxene and rutile. Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL), Hyderabad has installed a pilot plant of 4 tonne per annum (tpa) capacity to produce titanium sponge. Department of Space in collaboration with M/s Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd. (KMML) has set up a 500 tpa titanium sponge plant at KMML's facility in Chavara, Kerala. The facility available at Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (MIDHANI) has the potential to produce 300 tpa metal forms and generates a revenue of Rs. 50 to 60 crores per annum towards this component.

Killing of animals by human beings

*270. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of tigers, leopards, elephants and other animals are being killed by human beings;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in many places elephants, tigers and rhinos are killed for bone and horn and elephants in large number are also dying in Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and Bengal in rail accidents; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps being taken by Government to avoid this conflict between human beings and animals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) Details of tiger mortality and elephant deaths due to train hits, as reported by States, are in the Statement-I and II (*See* below). Mortality of other animals is not collated at the Government of India level.

Funding assistance is provided to States under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored

Schemes of 'Project Tiger', 'Project Elephant' and 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' for conservation of tiger, elephant and other wild animals, *inter-alia*, including protection and mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts.

Statement-I

*Details of tiger mortality during the current year, as reported by States
(as on 26.08.2013)*

Sl. No.	Name of State	Natural and other causes	Poaching including seizure	Under scrutiny	Total
1.	Assam	0	0	5	5
2.	Karnataka	0	3	10	13
3.	Kerala	1	1	2	4
4.	Madhya Pradesh	1	2	4	7
5.	Maharashtra	2	2	5	9
6.	Odisha	0	0	1	1
7.	Tamil Nadu	1	0	1	2
8.	Uttarakhand	0	0	7	7
9.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	1	1
10.	West Bengal	1	0	0	1
11.	Rajasthan	0	0	1	1
TOTAL:		6	8	37	51

Statement-II

*Details of elephant death due to train hits during 2012-13,
as reported by States*

Sl.No.	Name of State	Number of Elephant
1	2	3
1.	Odisha	10

1	2	3
2.	West Bengal	4
3.	Uttar Pradesh	0
TOTAL:		14

Note: During the current financial year (2013-14), reports of casualties of elephant due to train hits, as reported by States, are as below:—

- (i) West Bengal: 3 elephants were reported to have died in a train accident on 30.05.2013 between Banarhat and Binnaguri Railway Station.
- (ii) Uttar Pradesh: 1 elephant was reported to have died in a train accident on 22.08.2013 near Manjhra East railway station at Katemiaghat Sanctuary area in Bahraich district.

Projects pending for environmental clearance

*271. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several tourism as well as other developmental projects in various States are pending for environmental clearance with Government, and if so, the details thereof, State-wise and

(b) the steps being taken to expedite the clearance of these projects and by when all these proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) The proposals for prior Environment Clearance (EC) in respect of projects or activities listed in the Schedule to the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification 2006, as amended from time to time, are considered as per the provisions in the Notification. The State-wise details of proposals pending with the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) as on 31st July, 2013 are given in the Statement (*See* below).

Various steps taken by MoEF to fast track the environment clearance process without compromising the quality of appraisal or the integrity of the environment include continuous monitoring of status of pending projects, regular and longer duration meetings of Expert Appraisal Committees for consideration of projects in different sectors, streamlining of process, etc.