

Proposals for permission of railway crossings

*452. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several proposals for permission of railway crossing for various water supply projects, affecting water supply to large number of villages in Gujarat, are pending with Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, such proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) and (b) Railways receive requests from various agencies/individuals for crossings of railway tracks for various purposes including relating to water supply. Such proposals are examined and permission is granted, if the proposal is complete, feasible, does not affect the safety of trains, and after the party has deposited the required fees and met with all the procedural requirements. This is an ongoing process and Railway strives to accord approval on fast track. For the State of Gujarat, permission has been granted for 37 proposals in last one month and at present 38 proposals are in hand with Zonal Railways, out of which 27 proposals are pending on party's account and 11 proposals are pending on Railway's account.

(c) As the sponsoring parties take time in complying with the procedural requirements, it is not possible to fix any target by railways for granting approval to the proposals.

Damage of crops due to wild animals

†*453. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wild animals, particularly Nilgais etc., cause heavy damage to crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the damage caused to crops by these animals in Haryana and the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Wild animals, including Nilgais, etc. cause damage to agricultural crops

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

particularly in areas adjacent to forests. Details of crops damaged due to wild animals including Nilgais in various States including Haryana during 2010-2012 is given in Statement (*See below*).

Government of India is advocating use of traditional/chemical repellents, trenches, live/solar electric fencing, bio-fencing and other innovative methods to reduce the damage to crops caused by wild animals including Nilgais, etc. in the areas adjoining the forests. Financial assistance is provided to State/Union Territory Governments under Ministry of Environment and Forests' Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for management of wildlife and its habitats in the country. Activities under the scheme include construction/erection of physical barriers like barbed wire fence, solar power electric fence, bio-fencing using cactus, boundary walls, etc. to prevent the entry of wild animals into fields. Funds are also provided for making payment of *ex-gratia* relief in respect of damage to crops suffered by the victims of depredations/attacks by wild animals.

Government of Haryana has authorized Divisional Forest Officers to issue permits for elimination of Nilgais on the recommendation of concerned Panchayats.

Statement

*Year-wise details of extent of crops damaged due to wild animals
including Nilgais during the year 2010 to 2012.*

States	Extent of crop damage (area in hectare)		
	2010	2011	2012
Andhra Pradesh	260.22	470.66	781.41
Arunachal Pradesh	528.40	871.23	1404.58
Assam	4617.00	2828.00	1082.00
Bihar	18.68	0.00	90.30
Chhattisgarh	11828.00	13269.00	13321.00
Haryana	2.00	1.00	4.00
Karnataka	7572.05	2288.29	1900.37
Madhya Pradesh	639.00	1520.00	0.00
Manipur	0.00	0.00	100.00

States	Extent of Crop Damage (area in hectare)		
	2010	2011	2012
Meghalaya	437.26	573.39	268.94
Mizoram	1863.00	0.00	0.00
Nagaland	1923.50	788.70	777.00
Sikkim	70.00	80.00	52.00
Tamil Nadu	26.00	34.00	39.00
Tripura	25.75	34.20	11.33
Uttar Pradesh	203.88	226.60	141.02

Source: Wild Life Division, Ministry of Environment and Forests

Cultivation of betel leaves

†*454. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any scheme has been formulated to promote betel leaf cultivation in those areas of the country where it is grown;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether any research centre is operational in Bihar to promote the cultivation of betel leaves and if so, the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) provides assistance for area expansion, promotion of Integrated Pest Management/Integrated Nutrient Management and organic farming, post harvest management, development of markets etc. in respect of various horticultural crops including betel leaf. Cultivation of betel leaves is also promoted under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) in some states.

Under MIDH, Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development (DASD), Kozhikode also provides financial assistance to State Agricultural Universities for production of quality nucleus planting material of betel vine for further multiplication and distribution to farmers.

- (c) Yes, Sir. Bihar Agricultural University, Islampur and Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa, Samastipur are the two research centres in Bihar which are engaged in

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