

(b) whether the powers of the Commission are to be clipped; and

(c) the mandate of the Commission likely to be changed with the new Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI INDERJIT SINGH RAO): (a) Yes Sir. Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission has not been appointed at present. As per the Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules, 1961, all business allocated to department under the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules 1961 shall be disposed of by, or under the general or special directions of the Minister - in-charge. Planning Commission has been allocated business *vide* entry 49 of these Rules. The MoS (Planning) has been given Independent Charge to discharge function as Minister-in-charge. The Prime Minister is the Chairman of the Planning Commission.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal at present.

#### **Cases of tigers affected by CDV, FMD and KFD**

\*538. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the reported spread of Certain Deadly Viruses (CDV), Foot and Mouth Disease virus (FMD), Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD) virus hitting tiger sanctuaries and parks across the country, including Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the number of cases of tigers reported to be affected from CDV, FMD and KFD during the last three years, sanctuary/park-wise; and

(c) the quarantine measures taken by Government to prevent big cats falling prey to these viruses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. While tiger deaths due to Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD) and Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) have not been reported from tiger States, only a single case of tiger mortality due to Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) has been confirmed from the Pilibhit area of Uttar Pradesh in November, 2013. Based on discussion with experts and field officers, and advice from the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), and the Wildlife Institute of India, the tiger States have been advised by the National Tiger Conservation Authority for monitoring and taking precautionary measures against spread of Canine Distemper Virus. On receiving an alert from the Regional Office of the National Tiger Conservation Authority, Bengaluru regarding prevalence of Foot and Mouth Disease and Kyasanur Forest Disease in and

around Bandipur Tiger Reserve (Karnataka), the tiger States have been advised regarding preventive and control measures. A single case of death of Bonnet Macaque (*Macaca radiata*) due to Kyasanur Forest Disease was reported during the summer of 2013 in the Bandipur Tiger Reserve of Karnataka. Under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger, Central assistance is provided to tiger States, which, *inter alia*, includes funding support for prophylactic immunization against diseases communicable to the wildlife.

### Construction of new bridges in NCR

†\*539. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the proposal for construction of new bridges near Kalindi Kunj (Delhi-Noida) and (Delhi-Faridabad) Okhla-Kalindi bypass project is under the consideration of Government; if so, the details of said projects;
- (b) the details of outlay of the said projects; and
- (c) the time by which the work on this is likely to be started, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU):  
(a) The proposal for construction of Kalindi bypass from Noida toll bridge near Maharani Bagh to Badarpur Border has been approved in principle by Delhi Development Authority and United Traffic and Transportation Infrastructure (Planning and Engineering) Centre (UTTIPEC).

Another proposal for construction of second bridge over Yamuna River near Kalindi Kunj (Kalindi Kunj-Noida) has not yet been approved by DDA/UTTIPEC.

- (b) The project cost has not yet been firmed up.
- (c) The process of obtaining approval from the various authorities has been initiated.

### High speed trains

†\*540. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether final decision to run high speed trains between Delhi-Meerut, Delhi-Panipat and Delhi-Alwar has been taken;
- (b) if so, by when these high speed trains are likely to be operated;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.