

They have caused damage to the agricultural crops and also, killed a lot of people. What specific action has been taken by the Ministry on this menace caused by the excessive number of wild elephants?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, I think my dear friend, Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma, is misinformed. To be very frank, according to the 1999 survey, the total area under forests was 23,688 square kilometres. As per the 2001 survey, it is about 27,714 square kilometres, an increase of about 4026 square kilometres. So, forest cover had increased in Assam. As far as wildlife is concerned, Shri Bardolai is the hon. Minister of State for Environment and Forests; he met me last Friday. He has presented the problems being faced in Assam and informed that 27 FDAs have been formed. They have sent the proposal only in July. We are considering them and Rs. 4-5 crores assistance will be extended this year.

SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Sir, Kaziranga is a very important National Park in Assam which was established in order to protect the environment. Now, it is in constant danger. It is under constant danger due to heavy floods in the area. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what measures have been taken by the Ministry of protect Kaziranga and to develop the National Park during the Tenth Five Year Plan. What is the amount sanctioned?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: During the last week, when Shri Bardoloi met me, he specifically requested that the Kaziranga National Park be protected during monsoon because of floods, a lot' of animals pass across the national highways. For that purpose, he wanted to have a tunnel, over-ground or underground. As far as the super-structures are concerned, it is not within the domain of this Ministry. So, I requested him to prepare a feasibility report. As soon as we get the feasibility report, we will take up the issue with the other concerned departments.

**87. [The questioner (Dr. Dasari Narayana Rao) was absent for answer vide page 49-52.]*

Platforms at Madurai railway station

*88. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Madurai railway station has a heavy traffic but there

not enough platforms;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the number of platforms there;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) No, Sir. Existing four platforms on Broad Gauge and two platforms on Metre Gauge available at Madurai are adequate to deal with the present level of traffic.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Although the number of platforms at Madurai are adequate to deal with the present level of traffic, in view of Madurai-Rameshwaram gauge conversion necessitating change in the pattern of traffic, one of the Metre Gauge platform line will be converted to Broad Gauge and the number of Platforms on broad Gauge will become five. In addition, two Metre Gauge platforms are also being commissioned early and the number of Metre Gauge plantforms shall thereafter go up to three.

(e) Does not arise.

श्री लालू प्रसाद :सर, इसके पहले के प्रश्न में माननीय सदस्य एब्सेंट है। आपने पहले व्यवस्था दी थी कि मेंबर एब्सेंट भी रहेगा, तब भी प्रश्न पूछा जाएगा। आन्ध्र प्रदेश में किसानों ने आत्महत्या की है। यह क्वश्चन बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है।

श्री सभापति :ठीक है, महत्वपूर्ण है तो मेंबर आ जायेंगे, सेशन अभी चलता रहेगा और मैं दोबारा एलाउ कर दूंगा।

श्री लालू प्रसाद :फिर उन्हीं का बुक होगा।

श्री सभापति :दूसरे की चीज मैं आपके नाम पर कैसे बुक कर सकता हूं।

श्री लालू प्रसाद :पूछ लीजिए।

श्री सभापति :अभी नहीं। अभी चलने दीजिए।

SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Sir, in the reply it has been mentioned that at the Madurai railway junction, there are adequate platforms to deal with the present level of traffic. But actually, the fact is that at the Madurai Junction in Tamil Nadu, which is a very important junction, there are no adequate number of platforms. There is only one train leaving from Madurai to Chennai in the evening. And because of the inadequacy of platforms at the Madurai Junction, trains are being originated from Kanyakumari and other stations. This is the actual fact. So, I would like the hon. Minister to consider this matter. Also, in his reply, he has mentioned about the conversion of metre gauge into broad gauge between Manamadurai and Rameshwaram. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when the conversion work will be completed.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAY): Sir, the Madurai railway station is a junction station. It has both broad-gauge and metre-gauge lines. At present, there are four broad-gauge platforms and two metre-gauge platforms. The station handles 13 pairs of trains. Six pairs of terminating trains are originating from broad-gauge per day. The station also handles three pairs of crew trains and eight pairs of originating and terminating metre-gauge trains per day. I am also happy to say that one additional broad-gauge platform at Madurai railway station as a part of Madurai-Rameshwaram gauge-conversion is going to be taken up.

SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: There is a long-pending aspiration of the people from southern part that there should be double line from Madurai to Chennai so that we can have frequent trains from Madurai to Chennai. Is there any proposal for allocation of budget for it? I would like to know this from the hon. Minister.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: She is asking for doubling of a particular project. The question relates to the provision of platforms ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: This is only supplementary. It is not a main question. I am just asking: Is there any proposal with the Government? It is not a main question. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is there any proposal? ...(*Interruptions*).... Is there any proposal? ...(*Interruptions*)....

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: This question requires a separate notice.

[25 July, 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

The question relates to platforms but she is asking about doubling of a particular project.

SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: We want adequate trains from Madurai to Chennai. For that reason, I am asking this question. Is there any such proposal with the Government?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: It requires separate notice.

PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: In Madurai, there are four broad-gauge platforms and one metre-gauge platform. The metre-gauge platform is being converted into broad-gauge platform. Are there any criteria to fix the platform regarding transportation and number of trains? Passengers pass through that area. We all pass through Madurai. Madurai is very important town because from Madras, a number of trains to Kerala, Andhra and even to the north pass through Madurai. I would like to know. Will the Government consider it and examine the criteria on how it could be done?

SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA: I have already given the answer that coach-in terminal of the broad-gauge and two metre-gauge platforms, in addition to metre-gauge platforms, are going to be commissioned shortly. The important thing is that we are going to have gauge conversion programme on priority basis. That is why criteria, which have been given station-wise, are different. Madurai is considered one of the junction places, so we will take necessary steps.

SHRI C. PERUMAL: We are facing the same problem in several other railway stations also. It is connected with Madurai, Coimbatore, Bangalore and Chennai. The same problem is at Salem also. What are the measures which are being taken regarding this? I would like to know from the Minister. There are no sufficient platforms.

SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA: Sir, as I have mentioned because of this gauge conversion programme going on, it has to be examined whether another survey has to be conducted. Only after getting the survey report, any action can be taken.

SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, as can be seen from the reply, there will be five plus three platforms in Madurai. The Hon. Minister, Shri A.K. Murthiji, has visited almost all the platforms in Tamil Nadu. May I know from the Minister whether there is any proposal

by the Ministry of Railways to have a complete review of the existing facilities available in the railway platforms in Tamil Nadu? May I know from the Minister whether there is any consideration by the Ministry to construct additional platforms wherever necessary and also extend the facilities which were available when the platforms were length-wise short? Now, with the introduction of additional coaches, additional facilities are required now. May I know from the Minister whether there is any consideration for extending the existing facilities which will be corresponding to the length of the platforms? These facilities should be extended to Kodaikanal road, which is a junction, leading to Kodaikanal hills. An identical station can be considered.

SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA: Sir, this is an ongoing project. In the Indian Railways, we have an allocation under the head 'Passenger Amenities', under which we are spending Rs. 210 crores for the entire country. Every time, whenever there is need for extension of platforms, these are undertaken from the Passenger Amenities. Regarding Kodaikanal road, I will get the matter examined.

उर्वरक निर्माताओं को सब्सिडी

*89 श्री लाजपत रायः
श्री कपिल सिब्बल :

क्या रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

- (क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने देश में विभिन्न प्रकार के रासायनिक उर्वरकों के निर्माताओं को सब्सिडी देने के लिए अलग-अलग प्रणालियाँ अपनाई हुई हैं?
- (ख) यदि हाँ, तो उन रासायनिक उर्वरक निर्माताओं का प्रणाली-वार ब्यौरा क्या है जिन्हें सब्सिडी दी जाती है, और
- (ग) इन प्रणालियों को अपनाने से होने वाले लाभ का ब्यौरा क्या है?

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री (श्री सुखदेव सिंह ठिंडसा) : (क) से (ग) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर प्रस्तुत है।

विवरण

(क) और (ख) दिनांक 1.4.2003 से लागू हुई नई मूल्य निर्धारण नीति के तहत यूरिया उत्पदकों को राजसहायता दी जा रही है। नई निर्धारण योजना के तहत ग्रुप आधारित रियायत