

- (vi) Improvement of communication system through wireless.
- (vii) Long range and short range patrolling by forest staff with the help of ex-army/local people in the high altitude vulnerable areas.
- (viii) Separate contingency plans for anti-poaching operations in Corbett and Rajaji National Parks funded by Government of India are in operation. Also, a project is also, under consideration of the Government for anti-poaching operations outside PAs with the help of ex-army/ex-para military personnel.

Computerization of Railway Stations in NER

*356. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH:
SHRI R. KAMARAJ:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of railway stations in the country, particularly in States of NER, computerized, so far, State-wise;
- (b) the estimated cost involved therein; and
- (c) the station-wise/Railway Zone-wise number of railway stations in the country proposed to be computerized during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) It is presumed that Hon'ble Members of Parliament desire to know about Computerized Passenger Reservation Centres (PRS) in the country. There are a total of 805 such Computerized Reservation Centres in the country. A list of these centres is given in the Annexure. [See Appendix 197, Annexure No. 24]. There are a total of 21 Computerized Reservation Centres in the States of the North Eastern Region. Details are given in the Annexure. [See Appendix 197, Annexure No. 24]

(b) At present average estimated cost to provide computerized reservation facility is around Rs. 15 lakhs per station.

(c) There is no specific target for providing computerized reservation facilities during 10th Five Year Plan. However, as per the extant policy, all stations having reservation related workload of more than 100 transactions per day, all District Headquarters, important stations and tourist centres

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will be covered with computerized reservation facility in coming years depending upon availability of funds. A list of stations sanctioned with computerized reservation facilities in the financial year 2002-03 is given in the annexure. [See Appendix 197, Annexure No. 24]

Penalty for crimes against wild animals

†*357. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the provisions in force to impose penalty for crimes against wild animals;

(b) whether Government are contemplating to increase the amount of penalty adequately, under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for such crimes, in order to deter the offenders;

(c) whether some State Governments have also proposed to increase the amount of penalty for such crimes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Penalties for crime against wildlife are imposed as per provisions of Section 51 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(b) to (d) The Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2002 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha on 9th December, 2002 seeks to enhance the amount of fine and extent of imprisonment. The said Bill has been made after consultation with the State Governments.

Lakes in Bangalore

*358. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has sought Rs. 250 crore Central assistance to conserve and develop the lakes, in and around Bangalore; and

(b) if so, what is the present status of the above proposal?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.