

(c) if so, how the Government propose to dispose them of; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to allow private agencies to run such railways on contract basis for the benefit of public?.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) No Narrow Gauge train is operating in the Saurashtra region. coaches or locomotives released have either been condemned due to over-age or redeployed on other narrow guage sections.

(d) No, Sir.

Ecological Task Force

8316. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the role played by the Ecological Task Force in protecting forest property during last one year;

(b) whether Government propose to strengthen and expand the Ecological Task Force; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The Eco - Task Force have been set up on a pilot basis to utilise the services of ex-service personnel for the task of eco-development in difficult terrain. The main functions include eco-development activities, such as nursery raising, tree planting, soil and moisture conservation works. These Forces have no role to play in protection of forest property,

except caring for the plantations raised by them during the project period.

[*Translation*]

Rural Health Schemes in Madhya Pradesh

8317. SHRI ANAND AHIRWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes being implemented under the rural health services in Madhya Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) the details of the targets fixed for the State in this respect during each of the last three years, district-wise;

(c) whether the number of schemes being implemented in Madhya Pradesh are lesser than those being implemented in other States; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (d) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Extinction of Tortoise

8318. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORSTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain species of tortoise are facing the danger of extinction:

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to protect such endangered species;

(c) the names of the animals which are