

Control Board with its secretariat Ganga Flood Control Commission was established in 1972. The Ganga Flood Control Commission has prepared comprehensive master plans for flood management for all the 23 river systems of Ganga. Similarly, Brahmaputra Board established in 1981 has prepared comprehensive master plans for flood management in Brahmaputra and Barak basins. These master plans alongwith long term and short term recommendations have been sent to State Governments for formulating detailed schemes after carrying out ground surveys, investigations and taking up their implementation.

(e) to (g). At present there is no such proposal.

[English]

Fluorosis Disease

*475. SHRI V. SREENIVASA
PRASAD:
SHRI TARA SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fluorosis has been spreading in the country;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted to ascertain the exact number of patients suffering from fluorosis;

(c) if so, the findings thereof;

(d) whether the Union Governments propose to allocate funds to the State Governments to eradicate this disease; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Fluorosis is endemic in some parts of the country.

(b) and (c). Epidemiological studies have shown that 15 States are endemic for fluorosis. However, exact number of patients has not been assessed.

(d) and (e). The Government has launched a Sub-Mission on "Control of Fluorosis" under the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM) with emphasis on supply of safe drinking water and installation of defluoridation plants in the endemic areas.

Sardar Sarovar Project

*476. SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:
SHRI RAM VILAS
PASWAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Narmada Control Authority was given two years time to complete the environmental impact assessment of Sardar Sarovar Project and to formulate Environmental Action Plan;

(b) whether the environmental impact assessment has been completed;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) No, Sir. According to the stipulations laid down by the Union Ministry of Environment &

Forests, while according the environment clearance to Sardar Sarovar Project in 1987, Narmada Control Authority has to ensure that the environmental safeguard measures are planned and implemented pari-passu with the progress of work on the project.

(b) and (c). Comprehensive studies of physical, biological and socio-economic components of the environment on the upstream and downstream and the command area regions of Sardar Sarovar Project have been carried out.

(d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Medical Colleges

*477. SHRIMATI MAHENDRA
KUMARI:
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUS-
MARIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of medical colleges in the country at present;

(b) whether these medical colleges are sufficient to meet the demands of the growing population of the country; and

(c) if not, whether the Government are contemplating to open new medical colleges?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) (a) to (c). As per Medical Council of India, at present, there are 146 medical colleges in the country. The Central Government has no proposal to open any new colleges. Opening of new

medical colleges is governed by the provision of IMC (Amendment) Act 1993 and the Regulations made thereunder.

Changes in adoption procedure

*478. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of norms required for adoption of Indian children;

(b) whether there is any proposal to make suitable changes in the norms, procedure and guidelines for adoption;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which changes are likely to be affected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) There is no uniform law governing adoption of children in the country. Hindus can adopt a child in accordance with the provisions of the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956. Other communities can take children in guardianship under the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890.

The inter-country adoption of Indian children is regulated by norms and procedures laid down by the Supreme Court in Sh. L.K. Pandey Vs. Union of India & O.M. (Writ Petition No. 1171 of 1982). In accordance with these directions, the Ministry of Welfare had issued guidelines on 4th July, 1989.

(b) to (d). A Task Force under the Chairmanship of Mr. Justice P.N. Bhagwati, former Chief Justice of India was