

FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The state of environment in the country is the outcome of a variety of factors which have a historical background and which arise from a complex interplay of pressures on the natural resources. During the past decade, the Government has taken several measures to deal with the situation and to protect the environment. These include legislative and policy measures, strengthening of infrastructure at Central and State levels, implementation of action programmes for 'cleaning' and 'greening' involvement of non-governmental organisations, environmental awareness campaigns and related activities. These measures are to be expanded in the future.

Requirement of Rice and Wheat

7352. SHRI M. RAMANNA RAI: Will the

Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the total requirement of rice and wheat per year in the country;

(b) the quantity of rice and wheat out of the total production exported during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) As the demand depends on various factors, such as population growth, extent of urbanisation, levels of income, prices of substitutes etc., precise estimates of requirements of wheat and rice in the country are not available. The target for food production is fixed by the Ministry of Agriculture after taking into account the requirements.

(b) The required information is given below:

(Qty. in lakh tonnes)

	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92 upto Feb., 1992)
Wheat	0.12	2.01	6.72
Basmati rice	3.97	2.42	2.02
Non-Basmati rice.	0.27	3.14	4.06

Age Care Home

7353. SHRI M.G. REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an increase in life expectancy of male and female in India;

(b) whether the Government propose to construct age care homes in each district

with Central subsidy during the Eighth Plan;

(c) whether voluntary or charitable organisations are proposed to be encouraged to establish age care homes with financial assistance;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the action proposed to by the

Government to look after the welfare of elder citizens?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e). Voluntary Organisations are provided financial assistance upto 90% of the approved cost for establishing Old Age Homes under the General Grant-in-Aid Scheme of the Ministry of Welfare. The remaining 10% of the cost is to be borne by such organisations themselves.

[Translation]

Shortage of Medicines in T.B. Hospital

7354. SHRI VISUWANATH SHASTRI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of medicines in Rajan Babu T.B. Hospital of Delhi;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to check irregularities in the purchase of such medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Municipal Corporation of Delhi have informed that there is no shortage of medicines in Rajan Babu T.B. Hospital.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Delhi Forest Department

7355. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Forest Department of Delhi is capable to protect the environment and forest in the capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the scheme in this regard;

(c) whether the Forest Guards and Forest Range Officers have been provided ample powers and facilities for protecting environment in the Capital;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Forest Department of Delhi Administration is reported to be looking after forests/plantations in the Union Territory outside the urban limits. Within the Urban Limits, the local authorities viz. D.D.A., M.C.D., & N.D.M.C. look after plantations, parks gardens through their Horticulture Departments; For controlling environmental pollution, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee coordinates action.

(b) Delhi Administration have proposed in the VIIIth Plan to upgrade and strengthen their Forest Department and equip it with capability to look after afforestation and protection of Forests in the Union Territory.

(c) & (d). Delhi Administration have reported that the concerned officials in the Forest Department and in the Horticulture Departments of local bodies have been declared as Forest Officers under the Indian Forests Act.