

Encroachment on Ridge by C.R.P.F.

1000. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Encroachment on Ridge by CRPF" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated December 21, 1991;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to get the encroachment vacated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Reserve Police Force has established tents and certain semi-pucca structures in Central and South Central Ridge in the Capital.

(c) The concerned authorities, Delhi Development Authority and the Central Public Works Department have taken up the matter with Ministry of Home Affairs and the Director General, Central Reserve Police Force, Government of India.

World Bank Assistance to Karnataka for Hospitals

1001. SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the assistance from the World Bank or modernisation of the existing hospitals and setting up of new hospitals in Karnataka has been obtained; and

(b) if not, the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b). A project report for improvement of secondary level hospitals in Karnataka at an estimated cost of Rs. 172.00 Crores was received by the Government in October 1991 for posing for World Bank assistance. The project is being revised by the government of Karnataka on the basis of the comments received from the World Bank in respect of a similar project sent to them for implementation in Andhra Pradesh.

Cataract Control

1002. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cataract induced blindness is increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for such an increase; and

(d) the remedial measures taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The prevalence of blindness is only found out by surveys which are not conducted every year. Therefore, State-wise details for the last three years are not available. However, as per WHO-NPCB survey 1986-89, estimated number of cataract cases (State-wise) as per 1981 census is given at Statement.

(c) The incident of cataract is more common in elderly group of persons. Better