

suitable contractors, railway Out Agencies could not be opened. Opening of Government Railway Police Post concerns the State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

#### **Training of Forest Guards/Officers**

3421. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Forest Guards and Forest Range Officers in the Forest Department of Delhi have been provided any training; and

(b) if not, the details of the scheme for imparting necessary training to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, the matter is reported to be under consideration in consultation with the Directorate of Training, Delhi Administration for making provision and facilities of training to lower level field staff of the Forest Department. For training of Forest Rangers, it is expected that seats will be allotted in the State Forest Rangers Training Colleges in different states.

#### **Asthma Patients**

3422. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:

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

(a) whether there has been an increase in the number of Asthma patients in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(c) the approximate number of patients suffering from asthma in each State and Union Territories; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check the spread of the disease in rural and urban areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (d). No statistics are specifically maintained regarding the Asthma patients in the country. However, a statement showing cases & deaths due to Bronchitis, chronic & unspecified emphysema and Asthma in various States/Uts. of India during the years 1987, 1988 and 1989 is enclosed.

There is no separate scheme for checking spread of this disease.