

& Competitiveness Act an official delegation from USA visited New Delhi in the first week of May, 1989. In the discussions we explained the rationale of and also provided clarifications on our policies in areas such as Investment, Import Licensing, Government Procurement, Intellectual Property Rights and Insurance. We did not agree to discuss any changes in our policies in these areas.

(c) No final decision was taken during these discussions.

(d) Does not arise.

Scheme for Augmentation of Ground Water Resources

794. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:
SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:
SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA:
SHRIMATI JAYANTIPATNAIK:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain suggestions were made to develop ground water resources at the conference of State Secretaries;

(b) if so, whether any specific scheme has been drawn up for augmentation of water resources in different States;

(c) the salient features thereof; and

(d) the amount and time involved in the implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The conference recognised that development of ground water resources

was a National priority. It recommended that the Central Ground Water Board would carry out a number of experimental and operational recharge projects to develop area specific methodologies and assess techno-economic feasibility. The States would prepare action programmes in consultation with the Central Ground Water Board for augmenting natural recharge and also for artificially recharging the ground water systems. These projects would be prioritised and implemented in a phased manner. The Central Ground Water Board may prepare a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for this purpose.

The State Governments and the Central Ground Water Board have been advised to take immediate follow-up action on the recommendations.

Shortage of Doctors in Railway Hospitals

795. SHRINARAYAN CHOUBEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies of doctors in the Indian Railways, zone-wise as on 1st January, 1989 to 30th June, 1989;

(b) whether Government are aware that the Departments of Pathology, Orthopedic, ENT and Radiology of many big hospitals like Kharagpur on South-Eastern Railway are without doctors/specialists/surgeons;

(c) whether the dispensary at Wagon-shop at Kharagpur is also functioning without a doctor from 23 March, 1989;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken to equip all the Hospitals/Dispensaries with requisite number of doctors/specialists?