

(ii) 73.4 and 79.9 percent of villages in the sample did not have Mahila Mandals/Yuvak Mandals and "other voluntary organisations" respectively. However, about 88 and 80 per cent of villages having these organisations reported the role played by these organisations.

(iii) As regards the extent of participation, most of these agencies helped in motivational work, in organising Mass campaigns, meetings and in extension/health education activities. The report suggested that the involvement of these agencies in these three activities be channelised by planned efforts.

Proposal to Wind up Shipping Development Fund Committee

29. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to wind up the Shipping Development Fund Committee ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and its implications thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The decision to wind up Shipping Development Fund Committee and to set up new arrangements to provide institutional finance to the Shipping industry has been taken keeping in view the importance of the shipping industry and special nature of issues involved and to move the shipping industry to an arrangement where the required credit will be made available through financial institutions. Such an arrangement would lead to more professional management of sanction, disbursement and recovery of loans. An institutional arrangement of this type would also help in enlarging the size of the total credit to the shipping industry in the 7th Plan than what would be available only by way of budgetary support to the Shipping Development Fund Committee.

[*Translation*]

Fraud in National Book Trust

30. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA :
SHRI SIMON TIGGA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the bungling of Rs. 45 lakhs as referred to in the Audit Report of the National Book Trust for 1985-86 ; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI):

(a) In para 4.5.1 of the Audit Report of the National Book Trust for the year 1984-85, it has been stated that the Trust suffered a loss of Rs. 45.04 lakhs during the five years ending March, 1985, due to underpricing. Since the National Book Trust is not a commercial organisation, the prices of its publication are generally fixed at less than the cost price with a view to make them available to the general public at moderate prices.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Spread of Sickle Cell Disease

31. PROF. RAMAKRISHNA MORE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a recent research a disease known as "sickle cell disease" has spread in a number of States in the country killing thousands of persons ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the number of persons estimated to have died in each of the States affected with the disease and the measures taken by Government to control its spread and for effective treatment of the patients ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) and (b), Sickle cell

disease is a public health problem, generally affeting the tribal population. Limited surveys of different tribal groups have indicated frequencies of positive sickling between 2% and 35% in the areas surveyed. The disease has been noticed among some castes of Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and the ueighbouring regions.

The strategy to control basically consists of early diagnosis and proper treatment which is being attended to by the concerned State Governments.

Ratio of Doctors and Nurses in Country

32. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the existing ratio of Doctors and Nurses in the Country ;

(b) whether it is a fact that there are more doctors than nurses ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the nurses live in a condition of comparative exploitation ; and

(d) what are the steps envisaged by Government to increase the number of nurses and to improve their working conditions in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) to (d). According to the information available, the Nurses enrolled in the State Register up to 31.12.84 were 1,70,888 and as per the statistics obtained from the Medical Council of India there are 3,20,867 (1984) doctors in India. These figures will show that there are more doctors than nurses.

Nurses enjoy all the benefits as admissible to other Government employees.

Several States have already increased seats in their schools of nursing according to their need which will result in the incrwase in the number of nurses. Apart from this, the Central Government has also plans to provide assistance for additional training of nurses for which an

outlay of Rs. 40 lakhs has been approved for the 7th Five Year Plan period.

New Railway Lines in Kerala During Seventh Plan

33. SHRI K. MOHANDAS :

SHRI K. KUJAMBU :

PROF. P.J. KURIEN :

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of new railway lines suggested by the Government of Kerala during the Seventh Plan ;

(b) whether Government propose to construct/survey any of those lines in the Seventh Plan ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, with amount being earmarked for this purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (c). Requests have been received from Government of Kerala for accelerating the progress of ongoing new line works and taking up construction of new rail lines. Position in regard to ongoing New Lines and other important new lines asked for is as under :

S. No.	New Line	Remarks
Ongoing New Lines		
1.	Ernakulam-Alleppey	Against estimated cost of Rs. 38.63 crore, expenditure upto March '85 was Rs. 14.66 crore. In 7th Plan, Rs. 2 crore was provided in 85-86 and Rs. 3 crore in 86-87. Funds will be provided in the coming years depending on availability of resource resources.
2.	Alleppey-Kayankulam	Against estimated cost of Rs. 16 crore expenditure upto March '85 was Rs. 63 lakhs. Rs. 1 crore