

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