

1. Ajmer
2. Alwar
3. Faizabad
4. Gaya
5. Pondichery
6. Diu
7. Dwarka

Document on 'Safe Motherhood Initiative'.

***241. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA :**
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank and the World Health Organisation have produced a document on 'safe motherhood initiative';

(b) whether a Conference on this issue was held at Nairobi;

(c) whether India participated at this Conference; and

(d) if so, the decisions taken at the Conference and which of them will be implemented by Union Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Based on the consensus arrived at in the deliberations a call is being issued by the sponsors for a concerted effort to reduce the maternal mortality rate at least by 50% before the end of the century, indicating broad approaches and calling on individual nations to examine and re-order their priorities and allocations for ensuring Safe Motherhood.

Air Service in Joint Sector

***242. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :**
SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the main reasons for bringing air services in joint sector; and

(b) how far it would be helpful for the users and Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to bring schedule air services in Joint sector.

(b) Question does not arise.

Ecological Improvement of Sunderbans

2232. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any major plan has been formulated to bring about ecological improvement in the Sunderbans area of West Bengal;

(b) if so, broad features of the Plan and financial implications involved therein; and

(c) if no plans have been formulated, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Project Tiger scheme has been in operation in the Sunderbans since 1973. It has also been declared as a National Park. The main objectives of these schemes are ecological improvement, protection of flora and fauna, habitat improvement and water conservation.

In the Sixth Five Year Plan the amount spent was of the order of Rs. 80.00 lakhs of which Rs. 35.65 lakhs constituted, Central assistance. In the Seventh Five Year Plan the Central assistance is expected to be Rs. 50.00 lakhs of which Rs. 20.00 lakhs have already been released.

(c) Does not arise.

More Concessions to Physically Handicapped

2233. **SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK** : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to give more concessions to the physically handicapped persons for their all round development; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI) : (a) and (b). Government of India is already giving a number of concessions to the physically handicapped persons for promoting their education, vocational training, physical and economic rehabilitation of the handicapped. A statement indicating in brief the measures taken in this regard is given below.

The budget 1987-88 has proposed raising the limit of income-tax rebate for physically handicapped employees from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 15,000.

Statement

The following measures have been undertaken for physical rehabilitation, education, vocational training, and economic rehabilitation of physically handicapped :

1. Physical rehabilitation

(i) **Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances** : Aids and appliances costing between Rs. 25 and Rs. 3,000 are provided free of cost to those handicapped persons whose income is upto Rs. 1200 per month and at half cost to persons whose income is between Rs. 1200 and Rs. 2500 per month. The Scheme includes supply of wheel-chairs, tri-cycles, calipers, artificial limbs, hearing-aids, educational kits for the blind comprising braille-slates, braille-pocket frame abacus and measuring-tapes for high school students; braille measuring devices like micrometers, calipers etc for vocational

trainees in the relevant trade. In addition braille writer and tape-recorders for students enrolled in post graduate classes are also given.

2. Education

(a) **Special Schools for the Handicapped** : Voluntary Organisations are given financial assistance to set up special schools for education and vocational training to disabled children. In addition Central Government and State Governments and UTs are also running such institutions;

(b) **Integrated Education for Disabled Children** : Ministry of Human Resources and Development gives 100% financial assistance for promoting Integrated Education of disabled children in normal schools. For this purpose certain facilities are given to the handicapped children, the teachers in the schools where such a programme is undertaken;

(c) **Scholarships to the handicapped** : Education is available free to disabled students upto 8th class in schools and institutions run by Government of India and State Governments. To assist in securing education, academic, technical/professional training on the shop floor of industrial establishment, scholarships/stipends are given from 9th class onwards. In addition to the scholarship, reader's allowance is given to blind students, Conveyance allowance and an allowance is given to orthopaedically handicapped for maintenance of aids and appliances.

3. Vocational Training

14 Vocational Rehabilitation Centres have been set up to assess the residual ability of the disabled, arrange the training and place them in regular employment. Six skill training workshops have been added to these Vocational Rehabilitation Centres. 11 Rural rehabilitation centres have been added in order to promote the placement of the handicapped in rural areas.

(b) Assistance to Voluntary Organisations is given to set up Vocational Training Centres for the handicapped under the scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for the handicapped.