

annual income is less than the grant admissible are given Rs. 3000/- per annum. Previously, it was Rs. 1800/- per annum, which was increased from the year 1980-81.

(c) Since this is an ordinary financial assistance, the question of giving DA etc. does not arise.

(d) and (e) The question of enhancement of present amount is under consideration of the Ministry.

#### **Extinction of Salt-Water Crocodiles**

3016. SHRI A. JAYA MOHAN: Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT & FOREST be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fast extinction of salt-water crocodiles found along the coast of Bay of Bengal in the States of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the suitable measures Government propose to take for the conservation of this rare species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) The population of the salt-water crocodile has increased in the recent past in the states of Orissa and West Bengal and is not facing extinction in these two States. In the States of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, this reptile had been extinct for some years.

(b) Captive breeding of the salt-water crocodile has been successfully carried out and specimens have been released in designated sanctuaries, including previous habitats. Sanctuaries have been created for the protection of the species and its habitat along the eastern coast.

#### **Scarcity of Trained Nurses**

3017. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a tremendous scarcity of trained nurses in the country as claimed by the Trained Nurses Association of India at its biennial conference at Guwahati recently;

(b) whether working conditions of nurses are satisfactory;

(c) whether a high powered Committee is looking into these aspects;

(d) whether its report has been received and if so, the recommendations made therein; and

(e) any short-term steps initiated to bridge the gap between demand and supply of nurses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) According to the available information, there is shortage of nursing personnel in the country. Working conditions for Nurses are same as obtaining in respects of other health professionals.

(c) and (d) A High Powered Committee on Nurses and Nursing Profession has been constituted to review the conditions of services, status, allied matters pertaining to Nursing Profession in the country and to make suitable recommendations to the Government. The report of the Committee has not been received by the Government.

(e) Training of Nurse is mainly a State subject and training of Nurses is undertaken by them according to their requirement.

[Translation]

#### **Social Forestry Scheme**

3018. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether decisions regarding the species of trees to be planted under the exter-