

The extent of wasteland in Karnataka according to the last estimate is 91.65 lakh hectares.

(b) and (c) State of Karnataka had submitted an outline of schemes for wastelands development through afforestation for fuelwood and fodder in 12.62 lakh hectares area in November, 1985. The State Government has been taking up afforestation programme in a phased manner and the State has reported total achievement of afforestation in 3.8 lakh hectares since then.

(d) The following Central assistance has been released to the State :

Year	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88
Amount in crores	14.23	17.66	12.42

Amaravati-Narkhed railway line

4704. SHRIMATI USHA CHOU-DHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to take up Amravati-Narkhed rail line in view of Vidarbha region being industrially backward ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) If not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Constraint of resources and heavy commitments already on hand for New Lines.

Conversion of Yeotmal-Murtizapur Achalpur railway line

4705. SHRIMATI USHA CHOU-DHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to convert Yeotmal-Murtizapur-Achalpur narrow gauge railway line into broad gauge and extend it upto Baitual (Madhya Pradesh) on Delhi main line ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and when the work in this regard is likely to be taken up ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(c) Constraint of resources and heavy commitments already on hand for Gauge Conversions and New Lines.

Financial Assistance to States to train para-medical personnel

4706. SHRI KAMALA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the details of financial assistance provided to the States to train para-medical personnel with details of achievements during 1987-88 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : The Central Government provides assistance to States/Union Territories for the training of male and female Multi-purpose Workers, Female Health Assistants, Laboratory Technicians and Ophthalmic Assistants. During 1987-88, an allocation of Rs. 1398 88 lakhs is available for giving financial assistance to the States/Union Territories for the training of male and female Multi-purpose Workers, Female Health Assistants, Laboratory Technicians and Ophthalmic Assistants. 9036 female Multi-purpose Workers and 1442 female Health Assistants have been trained so far during 1987-88. Training is in progress in 37 schools for male Multi-purpose Workers and approximate number expected to qualify is 1350, 30 laboratory technicians and about

1,000 ophthalmic assistants were trained during 1987-88.

Bed population ratio

4707. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the bed-population ratio in Government hospitals/Primary Health Centres in urban and rural areas of the country at present ; and

(b) the steps taken to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : According to latest information available from the States/Union Territories, as on 1-1-1987 the number of beds in Government hospitals is 3,85,616 which gives a bed population ratio of one bed for 1984 persons. There are only observation beds in Primary Health Centres as per existing approved pattern and separate bed population ratio for rural areas is not available.

(b) To improve the availability of medical care services in rural areas a scheme for establishing Community Health Centres with 30 beds has been started and there were 1253 Community Health Centres functioning as on 1-1-1988 by 1990 it is expected that 2708 Community Health Centres will be established. The establishment of hospitals, Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres is a State sector activity and allocations are provided under State Plans.

Educational facilities to weaker section amongst Hindus

4708 SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government provide incentives and facilities to educationally

deprived section amongst Hindus as provided to minorities ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAH) : (a) to (c) A number of incentives and facilities to educationally backward sections are provided by Government at the Centre and State levels, in the form of provision of scholarships, freeships, free books and stationery free uniforms, mid-day meals, opening of schools, Non-formal Education Centres, Adult Education Centres, Ashram Schools, Hostels etc., provision of coaching facilities and Reservation of seats in Educational Institutions.

Achievement of India's Immunisation Programme

4709. SHRI R.M. BHOYE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to the study of UNICEF, the immunisation programme on the supply side is remarkable in the country ; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) and (b) No such study has been conducted by the UNICEF. However, in their publication 'The State of the World's Children 1988' only a statement has appeared which is given below.

Statement

THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S CHILDREN

India :

the threshold of immunity

A mid-course review of India's immunization effort the largest anywhere, suggests a cautious optimism. A great surge is