

FARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of doctors in about fifty per cent Government hospitals situated in rural areas;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal under consideration of Union Government to start an All India Rural Medical Service to overcome this shortage; and

(c) if not the other steps being taken to meet the shortage of Doctors in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE):

(a) and (b). According to the information received from State Governments, around 12% of the posts of doctors in rural areas are reportedly lying vacant.

(c) In order to attract doctors to serve in rural areas, the 8th Finance Commission, on the suggestions of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has provided special funds to the States for providing the following incentives to doctors serving in rural areas and not allowed private practice;

(i) A rural allowance equal to 25% of the basic pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 250/- per month for the doctors serving in Primary Health Centres; and

(ii) House rent allowance at the rate of Rs. 150/- per month where the doctors are not provided residential accommodation.

In addition, the Finance Commission has made special provision of Rs. 53.52 crores for construction of residential quarters for the doctors. The hilly areas have been provided 30% 'make-up' in the cost of construction.

Consequent to the introduction of these incentive schemes, there appears to be at

present better deployment of doctors in rural areas.

[English]

Increase In Steel Prices

468. SHRI KAMAL NATH:
SHRIMATI BASAVARAJES-
WARI:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite the average fifteen per cent hike in the steel prices announced by Government, the Steel Authority of India is likely to incur a huge loss during the current year;

(b) the extent of the loss and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The question of profit or loss of SAIL during the current year will be known only when the Financial Accounts get compiled and audited at the end of the financial year.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

NWDB Assistance to Voluntary Agencies in Orissa

469. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the voluntary agencies in Orissa getting assistance from the National Wastelands Development Board;

(b) the amount released so far; and

(c) whether any evaluation of the projects has been made and if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) and (b). The agencies in Orissa getting assistance from NWDB and the amount released to each are given below:

Name of Agency	Amount released
(1) Gram Vikas Mohuda, Berhampur	12,88,375
(2) P.R.E.P.A.R.E., Koraput, Rayagada	15,500
(3) Nyaya Sahyak Samiti, Pujariput, Koraput	1,12,355
(4) Vikas Niketan, Moniguda, Koraput	60,000
(5) All India Harijan Sevak Sangh, Titligarh	5,520
(6) Gopal Bandhu Welfare & Cultural Association Badagaon, Kendrapara	7,500
	14,89,250

(c) An evaluation of Gram Vikas Mohuda was carried out by NWDB. It is found that although there was some mortality of seedlings due to drought conditions, the general condition of the saplings and the planting techniques are satisfactory.

Objections to Navodaya Vidyalayas by various States

470. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any State Government has raised objections to the starting of Navodaya Schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof and objections raised by those States;

(c) the number of Navodaya Vidyalayas started in the States of West Bengal, Tripura and Kerala respectively;

(d) whether fresh applications have been received by the Ministry from the Kerala Government for starting more Navodaya Vidyalayas there; and

(e) if so, the decision taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI): (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, the State Governments of Assam, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have expressed certain reservations regarding some features of the scheme of Navodaya Vidyalayas. So far, no proposal for the establishment of Navodaya Vidyalayas has been received from these