

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A sum of Rs. 167.42 lakhs is proposed to be spent on widening of the National Highways 2,7,25,28 and 29 during the current financial year.

#### **Sterilisation Operations in U.P.**

8863. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that majority of the people who have undergone sterilisation or leproscopic operations in U.P. are Scheduled Castes and from Weaker Sections of the Society; and

(b) if so, the percentage thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHA-PARDE) : (a) No such report has been received in this Ministry.

(b) Question does not arise.

#### **Runing of More Trains between Lucknow and Kathgodam**

†8864. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of passengers travelled by trains on Lucknow-Kathgodam-Ramnagar-Tanakpur rail line during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of passengers travelled on this line during the period from April to July and from September to November every year during the last three years;

(c) whether Government propose to run two trains throughout the year and three trains during the period from April to July between Lucknow and Kathgodam;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) and (b). Such statistics pertaining to route wise and train wise are not maintained.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) It is not commercially justified.

#### **Diversion of Forest Land**

8865. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state the total area of forest land of eight hill districts of Uttar Pradesh diverted for non-forestry purposes during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :

The total forest area diverted for non-forest purposes in the 8 hill districts of Uttar Pradesh is 4456.3033 hectares.

[English]

#### **Reservation of Seats for Economically Backward Students**

8866. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTHNAIK : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to reserve a certain percentage of seats for economically backward students, irrespective of caste, in educational institutions controlled by Union Government;

(b) whether any states have reserved certain percentage of seats for economically backward students;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of 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. SHAH) : (a) There is no such