

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE):

(a) T.B. still continues to be a major Public Health Problem

(b) There are about 46,000 beds in the country, out of which according to information furnished by the Government of Maharashtra, 3080 are in the city of Bombay

(c) No, Such circular has been issued by the Government of India.

(d) To control the problem of T.B. in the country, Government has implemented the National TB Control Programme under which a well-equipped and staffed District TB Centre is being established in every District of the Country for undertaking Community wide case finding, treatment and preventive activities in collaborate with existing medical and health institutions of the Districts including Primary Health Centres. So far 371 districts in the country have been provided with District TB Centres. In addition, there are about 300 ordinary TB clinics functioning mainly in the cities and towns. About 46,000 TB beds are also available in the country to cater the needs of emergent and seriously ill TB patients. To prevent the development of disease, BCG vaccination is being given to children of age group 0-1 years as a part of the Universal programme of immunisation.

Salination of Sub-Soil Waters in Coastal Areas

3816. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fast salination of the sub-soil waters in the coastal areas of the country:

(b) if so, the details of the coastal areas which are facing this problem;

(c) whether any study has been conducted to ascertain the cause of this environmental hazard; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps contemplated in this regard?

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

and (b). Yes, Sir. This is attributed to intrusion of saline marine water and heavy withdrawal of ground water without adequate recharge. Coastal areas in Saurashtra and Kutch region of Gujarat and coastal madras areas have this problem

(c) Studies have been conducted by the Central Ground Water Board in this regard in coastal Saurashtra. In coastal Madras, this position was found during ground water investigation under United Nations Development Programmes (UNDP).

(d) The steps contemplated or take in this regard include the following;

- Construction of tidal regulators and check dams.
- Construction of spreading basins and channels for artificial recharge to ground water.
- A Model Bill has been prepared and circulated among the State Governments for enactment of suitable legislation for the control and regulation of ground water development on scientific lines.

Export of Fabrics

3817. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum and value of fabrics