

(e) what steps have been taken to provide proper medical facilities in these villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) and (b). Medical facilities are available in the rural areas through a net-work of Sub-Centres/Dispensaries/Primary Health Centres/Rural Hospitals etc. A Primary Health Centre caters to the needs of 80,000—1,00,000 population covering 80—100 villages and a Sub-Centre is to be established for every 10,000 population, covering about 10 villages. There are at present 5444 Primary Health Centres and 48571 Sub Centres in the country which are providing medical facilities to the rural areas. The Planning Commission have agreed, in principle, to the establishment of a FHC for 20,000 population in the tribal, hilly and backward areas. There is also a plan for having a Primary Health Centre for every 50,000 population. 25 per cent of the P.H.Cs. are also to be upgraded as 30 bedded Rural Hositals.

(c) and (d). As per information available for period uptill 31-3-79, out of 5423 Primary Health Centres 4710 Primary Health Centres were having 2 or more doctors, 655-PHCs were having one doctor and only 58 PHCs were functioning without a doctor.

(e) A Scheme known as the Community Health Volunteers Scheme was introduced in the selected PHCs of the country in October, 1977 to provide first-aid facilities in regard to minor ailments as well as to foster preventive and promotive aspects of health in the rural areas. A Community Health Volunteer, who is selected by the community, is provided for a population of 1000. He is given 3 months training in basic health care and is thereafter provided with a kit, containing medicines for the cure of minor ailments. He is paid an honorarium of Rs. 50/- per month for working with the community on part-time basis and Rs. 600/- worth of medicines per year. Upto 31-2-79, 1,29,654 CHVs had been trained. It

is planned to cover the whole country under this scheme by 1982-83.

Child Labour in Rural Area

1318. **SHRI P. K. KODIYAN;**
SHRI ANANDA PATHAK:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated figure of child labour in India both in the urban and rural areas;

(b) whether the working conditions and the remuneration of children engaged in various sectors of production are quite unsatisfactory;

(c) whether the existing Child Protection Law covers only a small section of child labour in India and those engaged in agriculture and other allied sectors in the rural areas are out of the purview of the existing law; and

(d) if so, what measures government propose to take in order to protect the children engaged in agriculture and allied sectors?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHR J. B. PATNAIK): (a) According to the latest available figures, the number of working children in the age group 5 to 14 is estimated around 14.68 million in the rural areas, and 1.57 million in the urban areas.

(b), (c) and (d). The Government had set up a Committee last year to look into various problems connected with the employment of children, and its report has since been received. A majority of the working children are employed in the sectors where their remuneration and workin conditions are unregulated and the existing legal framework does not substantially cover the children engaged in agriculture and other allied sectors. The above Committee in its report has made certain recommendations in this regard also. The report of the Committee is under consideration.