

rigation schemes in the IIIrd Plan is Rs. 140 crores.

**Accidents on G.T. Road near Howrah**

1428. { Shri Dinen Bhattacharya:  
Dr. Saradish Roy:  
Shri Sarkar Murmu:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there has been a serious increase in the number of accidents on G.T. Road covering the portion from Howrah to Durgapur; and

(b) if so, the steps Government proposed to take to check it?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). The information required is being obtained from the Government of West Bengal and a statement will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as a reply is received from the State Government.

**Harnessing of Rivers in Kerala**

1429. { Shri A. V. Raghavan:  
Shri M. K. Kumaran:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Kerala had submitted a master plan for harnessing the rivers in Kerala to provide irrigation facilities;

(b) what action has been taken on the above matter; and

(c) in view of the fact that Kerala is not self-sufficient in the matter of food, whether Government will give top priority in this matter?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Detailed schemes when received from the State Government

are examined in the light of the Master Plan for inclusion in the Five Year Plans. Execution of all the schemes included in the Master Plan will extend upto the year 1991. Priorities for taking up the schemes within the financial resources are fixed by the State Government.

**Doctors**

1430. Shrimati Vimla Devi: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 558 on the 3rd May, 1962 and state:

(a) what the number of doctors will be by the end of Third Five Year Plan;

(b) what is the ratio of doctors to population at present and what will it be at the end of Third Five Year Plan; and

(c) whether the ratio will be high enough to attain a reasonable level of medical care for the population at the end of Third Five Year Plan?

The Minister of Health (Dr. Sushila Nayar): (a) According to the Planning Commission's estimates the total number of doctors at the end of the Third Five Year Plan is expected to be 81,000.

(b) The present ratio of doctors to population is estimated to be 1: 6000. The ratio is likely to remain more or less the same at the end of the Third Five Year Plan as the increase in current output of doctors would almost be set-off by parallel increase in population while steps taken for increasing the out-turn of doctors during the Plan period will bear fruit only during the fourth and subsequent Plans.

(c) Compared to the corresponding ratios prevailing in some of the Western countries, the ratio of 1 doctor for 6000 population in India is low. According to the Health Survey and Planning Committee appointed by the Government of India it would perhaps be a safe target to aim at hav-