

posed to be extended upto Ichchapuram the first station in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAL-LIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

**Railway Recruitment Board in Vishakhapatnam**

792. SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KON-ATHALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to have a separate Railway Recruitment Board for Vishakhapatnam in South Eastern Rail-way; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAL-LIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Increase in Waste Lands**

793. SHRIGURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total Statewise area of waste-land in the country;

(b) whether wasteland is increasing at a faster rate;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government have for-mulated any scheme for its development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOR-ESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c). A country-wise survey on State by State basis of the extent of wastelands and the rate at which these are increasing or decreasing has not been carried out. However, accord-ing to one estimate, State-wise area of wastelands is given in the attached state-ment.

(d) The Wastelands Development Programme, initiated in 1985, aims at check-ing land degradation, putting wastelands to sustainable use, increasing bio-mass availa-bility, especially fuelwood and fodder and restoring the ecological balance.

**STATEMENT**

*Statement referred to in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 793 due for answer on 26.11.91*

*Estimates of Wastelands in India*

*(Area in Lakh Hectares)*

<i>States/UT</i>	<i>Total</i>
Andhra Pradesh	114.16
Assam	17.30