

nominees of the deceased have not completed the formalities. The position in regard to the cases pending, if any in respect of MCD Pry. School Guru Ramdas Nagar, Laxmi Nagar, are being looked into.

#### **Nationalisation of forests in Bihar**

[*Translation*]

885. SHRI BHUBAMSHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have declared the forests of Santhal Pargana and Chhota Nagpur as reserved forests rendering lakhs of tribals homeless and jobless; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to rehabilitate the tribals of the area so displaced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The forests of Santhal Pargana and Chhota Nagpur were declared reserved forests several years ago, and this has not rendered lakhs of tribals homeless and jobless;

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Medical Facilities in Tribal Areas of Bihar**

886. SHRI BHUBAMESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of tribals die each year in Chhota Nagpur and Santhal Pargana districts of Bihar for want of medical facilities as;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have chalked out any scheme for providing medical facilities to these tribals;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b). As per information received from the Government of Bihar, no tribal person has died due to the lack of medical facilities.

(c) to (e) Health is a State subject under the Constitution of India, Medical and health care facilities are made available in tribal areas in the States through rural health infrastructure of Sub-Centres, Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres, besides dispensaries.

The norms for establishment of Sub-Centres and Primary Health Centres have been relaxed for Tribal/Hilly areas as 1 Sub-Centre for 3000 population and 1 Primary Health Centre for 20,000 population against the general norm of 1 Sub-Centre for 5000 population and 1 Primary Health Centre for 30,000 population in general rural areas. Central Government have also been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments by providing medical facilities under Centrally sponsored programmes like T.B. Control, Leprosy Eradication, Blindness control, Malaria Control, Kala Azar Control and immunisation.

[*English*]

#### **Making of Sanskrit compulsory in Arunachal Pradesh**

887. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Arunachal Pradesh has decided to make Sanskrit compulsory in its schools;

(b) if so, the rationale for the decision;

(c) whether this decision has given rise to any protest and agitation;

(d) whether the Union Government have received any representation to intervene in the matter in order to secure the proper implementation of the three language formula and for safeguard in the mother tongue; and

(e) if so, the details of the advice of the Union Government to the State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (e). The requisite information is being obtained from the State Government and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

#### Denudation of Forests

888. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU  
SHRI RAMESH CHENNI-  
THALA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the present area of forests land as compared to that of 1947;

(b) the yearly rate of denudation of forests and the reasons therefor;

(c) the names of States where denudation of forests has been maximum; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to check this denudation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) According to the State of the Forest Report 1989, the total extent of recorded forest area is 75.18 million ha. and as per the Handbook of Forest Statistics, the forest area in 1946-47 was 34.76 million hectares.

(b) and (c) According to State of Forest Report 1989, the annual loss of forest cover is 47,500 ha. The State where maximum denudation has been indicated is Orissa, and the main cause of this denudation has been attributed to shifting cultivation.

(d) The following steps have been taken by the Government to check this denudation :

1. The Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 was enacted to check diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes. The Act has been made more stringent by an amendment of 1988.

2. The National Forest Policy, 1988, lays more emphasis on conservation of forests. There are specific provisions for protection of forests from grazing, fires and encroachment.

3. A Centrally sponsored scheme has been started to help the States to develop infrastructure for protection of forests.

4. Alternative sources of energy are being developed to replace fuelwood in domestic and commercial sectors.

5. Import policy for timber has been liberalised.

6. Fiscal incentives are given to industries for wood substitution.

7. Wood is being substituted by alterna-