

mum Needs Programme has been designed for ensuring adequate allocation of funds for rural areas. In the VII Five Year Plan, an allocation of Rs. 1,096 crores out of Rs. 3,393 crores allocated for Health, is intended for the Rural Sector. Apart from this, a major portion of the allocation of Rs. 1000 crores intended for control or communicable diseases like Malaria, Leprosy, T.B. and Blindness will also be available to the rural areas. Similarly the allocation for family welfare including MCH and Immunization is also predominantly being spent in the rural areas.

The scheme of Primary Health Care Services was introduced mainly with a view to ensuring availability of preventive, promotive and curative care facilities in rural areas. This programme aims:--

- (i) to provide one Health Guide for every village and at least one trained Dai in every village;
- (ii) to provide a sub-centre and one male and female multi-purpose worker for every 5,000 rural population in general and for every 3,000 population in tribal and hilly areas;
- (iii) to open new PHCs so as to ultimately have one Primary Health Centre for every 30,000 rural population in general and for every 20,000 population in tribal and hilly areas;
- (iv) to provide facilities for treatment in basic specialities at upgraded PHCs, Community Health Centres, to be established in a phased manner, so that ultimately there is one Upgraded PHC/GHC for every one lakh rural population.

All the required number of sub centres and Primary Health Centre and fifty per cent of the required number of Community Health Centres will be in position by the end of the 7th Plan. With the establishment of these Rural Health Centres and gradually

building them up into a well-knit preventive and promotive health services, it would be possible to ensure that the rural areas receive their due share of health services.

[English]

### Setting up of Low Vision Centres

\*969. SHRI P. R. S. VENKATESAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a large population in the country with low eye sight;

(b) whether Government propose to encourage setting up of Low Vision Centres in various parts of the country on the pattern of the National Association for the Blind Workshop at Bombay; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) As per ICMR Survey of 1971-73, 9 million people were estimated to have low eye sight i.e. they could not see well at six metres distance. The National Sample Survey Organisation through another study in 1981 estimated the number of people with low eye sight who could not see well at 3 meters distance at 3.47 million.

(b) and (c). According to available information an amount of Rs. 72,374/- was given as assistance to National Association for the Blind, Bombay from 1980-81 to 1983-84 to establish a low vision aid project.

[Translation]

### Working of Akademies

\*972. SHRI D. P. YADAV:  
SHRI YASHWANTRAO  
GADAKH PATIL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: