

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) Central Government are not promoting the entry of private industries to raise plantations on forest lands.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

#### Conditions in Mental Hospitals

\*158. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH:

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been made about the conditions in Mental Hospitals in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the deficiencies noticed and remedial measures taken;

(c) the details of patients who are normal but are retained in the Homes; and

(d) the number of the Homes which need to be closed down?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (d). No specific study has been carried out by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare about the conditions in Mental Hospitals in the country. However, the workshops of Superintendents of Mental Hospitals held from time to time, have identified some deficiencies in terms of the staff position, facilities for living, treatment and Rehabilitation and have suggested to provide minimum staff and improvement of living conditions. For the establishment, maintenance, closure etc. of the private and other State Government Mental Hospitals, the State Governments concerned exercise

their control keeping in view the relevant statutory provisions. No specific report of retention of normal persons in the Mental Hospitals has been received by the Government. However, there are some longstay patients in some of the Mental Hospitals, who essentially do not require active treatment but continue to stay in the Hospitals as they have no place to go.

#### Electrification of Erode-Cochin Trivandrum Railway Line

\*159. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a cost-cum-feasibility study has been made to determine the feasibility of electrification of the Erode-Cochin Harbour Terminus-Trivandrum Central Railway line;

(b) If so, the findings thereof;

(c) whether the State Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal for electrification of important sections of the railway lines in Kerala; and

(d) if so, the decision taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A detailed examination of the feasibility survey report submitted by Southern Railway in 1978 revealed a return of only 8.7 per cent for the projected traffic density of 10.27 million GTKM/route Km/annum. The project was, therefore, considered unremunerative.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The proposal has not been approved.