

[16 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

Conversion of forest villages into revenue villages in Assam

*175. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of forest villages converted into revenue villages in Assam;

(b) what is Government's policy to convert all forest villages, which have fulfilled the necessary criteria, into revenue villages; and

(c) the steps, if any, to include some villages under forest village category which were settled before 1981 itself?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No proposal has been received from the Government of Assam for conversion of forest villages into revenue villages.

(b) The Central Government have issued policy guidelines on 18-09-1990, under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for conversion of forest villages into revenue villages. According to these guidelines, the Central Government may convert recognised forest villages into revenue villages on the basis of the proposal submitted by the concerned State/UT Government under the said Act. The Central Government would consider all land on which pattas have been issued prior to 25-10-1980 by the authorised officers and the land is in continuous possession of the patta holders or their legal successors. These lands will include land under habitation, existing buildings, gochar lands, health centre, community centre, cremation ground, road etc. Further, it has also been clarified that the State Government shall submit a map delineating the external boundaries of the areas where pattas have been issued pre-1980. It should not be necessary for them to submit details of individual pattas.

(c) There is no general provision to include villages not recognised as forest villages into the category of forest villages. However, according to the said guidelines issued on 18-09-1990, certain specific habitations in forest areas which are more than twenty five years old, other than recognised forest villages, involving sizeable group of families, may be examined case by case on merits for their amicable settlement on the

basis of the proposal submitted by the concerned State/UT Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Moreover, at present, legal status of forest land can not be changed due to the ban imposed by the Supreme Court of India on dereservation of forest land *vide* their order dated 13-11-2000 in W.P. No. 337 of 1995.

Mobile diagnostic labs

*176. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mobile diagnostic labs which are functioning in different States of the country;

(b) whether the lack of modern diagnostic technologies at the rural level leads to the death of millions of people, especially women; and

(c) whether Government plan to have a big project with the help of NGOs to create a network of these mobile labs fitted with Ultrasound, Catscan and other facilities?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) The Central Government has no scheme under which mobile diagnostic laboratories are being run in rural areas. As per reports received from several major States, they too do not have any scheme for this purpose. Information about the number of mobile diagnostic labs functioning in different States of the country is, therefore, not available.

(b) There is no available data linking the lack of modern diagnostic technologies at the rural level leading to the death of millions of people especially women. In Community Health Centres and even some Primary Health Centres and First Referral Units, laboratory with technicians are available to test blood, urine etc. relevant for ante natal care of expectant mothers. However, diagnostic technologies such as well-equipped pathology laboratories and ultrasound machines are available at the District hospital level, and a CT scan is available at many of the tertiary hospitals, women requiring these investigations are referred to a higher level of health care where these facilities are available.

(c) No. Sir.