

assistance to 24 lakh mothers for improving their nutritional status. There is another programme of Nutritional Education and Training carried out through 67 field units to improve the nutritional condition of housewives and provide food processing facilities for domestic consumption. This also helps in further promotion of nutritious food fortification and enrichment of food supply.

(c) and (d). Evaluational Studies of the ICDS Scheme conducted by the Planning Commission, Nutrition Foundation of India and the Central Technical Committee of the AIIMS have indicated that incidence of severe malnutrition in the country is on the decline manifested in increased birth weight of the babies Vitamin 'A' deficiency and Anaemia among them is also on the decline.

Amount Spent on Welfare of Socially and Economically Weaker Sections

2678. SHRI SUBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by the Union Government towards the welfare of poor and needy persons belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Class and Economically weaker section and Minorities category-wise during 1989-90; and

(b) the number of persons benefited by such welfare schemes, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) The Government of India in the Ministry of Welfare spent the following amounts on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, during 1989-90;

	<i>Amount Spent</i>
Scheduled Castes	Rs. 338.86 crores

Scheduled Tribes Rs. 28.22 crores

Besides, Rs. 2108.06 crores was spent through the special Component Mechanism for Scheduled Castes of the States and Rs. 205.50 crores was spent towards Special Central Assistance for Tribal Sub Plan of the States/Uts.

(b) 24,42,954 Scheduled Caste families and 10.25 lakh Scheduled Tribe families were benefitted during 1989-90.

Schools for Handicapped and Disabled Persons

2679. SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH:
SHRI RAMESH CHAND
TOMAR:
SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR
RAWAT:
SHRIMATI MAHENDRA
KUMARI:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schools for handicapped and disabled persons opened so far State-wise; and

(b) the time by which such schools will be opened in each district of the country?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) According to available information, there are 1037 Special Schools for handicapped and disabled set up by Government and the voluntary sector in the country. The State-wise information is given in the attached statement.

(b) Opening of more special schools by Government will be determined by the availability of resources.