

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fifth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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CONTENTS

[Thirteenth Series, Vol. XI, Fifth Session, 2000/1922 (Saka)]

No. 8, Wednesday, November 29, 2000/Agrahayana 8, 1922 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 141 to 144	2—28
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos. 145 to 160	28—77
Unstarred Question Nos. 1536 to 1765	77—400
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	401—406
MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA	406
COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS	
Tenth Report	406
ESTIMATES COMMITTEE	
Statement	406
STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND WELFARE	
Seventh to Tenth Reports	407
PRESENTATION OF PETITION	407
BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE	
Fifteenth Report	444
CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE	
Labour unrest in Maruti Udyog Limited	445—474
Shri Ramji Lal Suman	445
Shri Manohar Joshi	445
Dr. Sushil Kumar Indora	452
Shri Ajoy Chakraborty	455
Shri Nawal Kishore Rai	456

* The sign + marked above the name of a Member indicates that the question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that member.

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	474—484
(i) Need to ensure payment of dues to sugarcane growers in Bundi, Rajasthan Shri Raghuvir Singh Kaushal	474
(ii) Need to ensure major share for tribals in all spheres of work in Jharkhand State Shri Salkhan Murmu	475
(iii) Need to set up a heavy industry in Banaskantha Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat Shri Haribhai Chaudhary	476
(iv) Need to accord clearance to irrigation projects of Bastar region in the State of Chhatisgarh Shri Sohan Potai	477
(v) Need to declare road between Gopalpur Port and Raipur as National Highway Shri Bikram Keshari Deo	478
(vi) Need to provide financial assistance to Government of Rajasthan to tackle drought situation in the State Dr. Girija Vyas	479
(vii) Need to provide financial assistance to Government of Andhra Pradesh to check spread of brain fever (Japanese Encephalitis) in the State Shri Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy	480
(viii) Need for construction of a railway overbridge at Phagwara in Punjab Shrimati Santosh Chowdhary	481
(ix) Need for early implementation of the scheme providing pension benefits to employees who had left service between 1.4.93 and 15.11.95 under Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 Prof. A.K. Premajam	481
(x) Need to bring down prices of insulin at an affordable range Dr. Manda Jagannath	482
(xi) Need to provide stoppage of Utsarg Express at Ratanpura railway station in Mau District, Uttar Pradesh Shri Bal Krishna Chauhan	482
(xii) Need to provide more railway facilities to the commuters travelling between Tiruthani and Avadi, Tamil Nadu Shri A. Krishnaswamy	483
(xiii) Need to set up fertilizer plants at Mashrakh in Chhapra and Basantpur in Siwan districts of Bihar Shri Prabhu Nath Singh	483

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(xiv) Need to look into the problems being faced by tea plantation workers and farmers in the country particularly in Pollachi Parliamentary Constituency in Tamil Nadu	
Dr. C. Krishnan	484
COAL INDIA (REGULATION OF TRANSFERS AND VALIDATION) BILL, 2000	484—522
Motion to Consider	484
Shri N.T. Shanmugam	484, 514
Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev	486
Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava	491
Shri Basu Deb Acharia	493
Dr. B.B. Ramaiah	497
Shri S.D.N.R. Wadiyar	499
Shri P.R. Khunte	502
Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	504
Shri Raghunath Jha	506
Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay	508
Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi	510
Shri M.V.V.S. Murthi	512
Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale	513
Clauses 2 to 4 & 1	522
Motion to Pass	522

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

[Translation]

Wednesday, November 29, 2000/Agrahayana 8, 1922 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the work of destroying the minority status of the Aligarh Muslim University and calling it a base of ISI ...(Interruptions). Presently there is tension and the situation is very grave there.

MR SPEAKER: Now, you please raise this issue during the 'Zero Hour'. It is not good to do so everyday. This is not the procedure. Ramji Lal Sumanji, please do not raise it. Now you should raise it in 'Zero Hour'.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please raise it in 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the procedure. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am on my legs.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): What can he do if the Aligarh University is called the base of ISI. If the hon. Prime Minister calls it a base of ISI...(Interruptions). You see that what is the position there. The question is that how they are making it a base of ISI...(Interruptions). If one student is an agent of the ISI then you hang him. I have said a lot about ISI. If you have guts you raid the base of ISI. The Samajwadi Party wants that if the university is a base of ISI then you raid it...(Interruptions). If you listen to on priority basis, then I will sit.

MR. SPEAKER: We will listen to it in 'Zero Hour'. You please sit down. It is not proper to behave like this daily. You will be given time in 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not have any objection if they speak but I would like that I should also be given an opportunity to speak.

11.03 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Educated Unemployed

*141. MOHD. SAHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are more than seven crore educated unemployed persons in the country at present;

(b) if so, whether as per the Government estimates the number of such persons are likely to double during the ensuing ten years;

(c) whether the Government are aware that lakhs of persons are likely to be rendered jobless due to adoption of new economic policies, modernisation and retrenchment of employees followed by use of latest technique and disinvestments in public sector undertakings etc. in the country; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

* Not recorded.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

As per the latest available estimates of the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) unemployment rate amongst the educated has come down when figures of 1993-94 are compared with those in 1987-88. The conclusions based on the next survey conducted in 1999-2000 are yet to be received.

While new job opportunities have been created as a result of new economic policies, at the same time due to declining efficiency of the older type of enterprises, job opportunities in these are getting reduced. New employment opportunities are being created in the services sector such as financial services, Information Technologies and Tourism. In addition, for the educated unemployed in the rural and urban areas, the schemes of Central Government for self-employment are sustaining the trend of employment creation.

MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, presently the population of the country is nearly hundred crore out of this approximately seven crore people are unemployed. Whether it is a question of Kashmir or North Eastern States, the unemployment is also a major reason for the increase in terrorist and criminal activities in the State.

MR. SPEAKER: We will provide chance to junior Members and not the senior Members.

[English]

They are also 'unemployed' in the House. They are not getting any chance to speak.

[Translation]

MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN: The educated unemployed are also included in it. The unemployment is one of the many reasons of suicide. Nearly 25% suicide are committed on account of this. I had asked a question through which I wanted to know about the concrete steps taken by the Government to check the incidents of suicide. Do the Government propose to include the right to employment in the list of fundamental rights of the Constitution?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member wanted to know about the steps taken by the Government in this regard. I am glad to inform you that as per the announcement of the hon. Prime Minister, the Government are waiting for the recommendations of the Montek Singh Ahluwalia Committee for the effective implementation of the schemes for providing employment to one crore people per year in the coming years. The Committee has been constituted. The groups of the Committee have also been constituted. We are waiting for their findings. Presently there are ample opportunity of employment in the field of Information Technology. There have been many opportunities of employment for educated people. As for example it is business service.

[English]

Computer-related Services, Research and Development Services, Real Estate Services, Rental/Leasing Services without operator, Other Business Services, Communication Services, Construction-related Engineering Services, Distribution Services, Educational Services, Environmental Services, Financial Services, Health-related and Social Services, Tourism and Travel-related Services, Recreational, Culture and Sporting Services, Transport Services are included in it.

[Translation]

There are ample opportunity of providing employment to trained people through the said services. The possibility is that all the people who are educated and unemployed. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: It is only a dream. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: It not a dream. It is reality. As you know that the older employment opportunities are vanishing and newer opportunities are being generated. The younger educated people may get their names registered in Employment Exchange Office. Besides this there are several Government agencies for the employment generation like banking and railways. We have a lot of opportunity for providing employment to more and more people. That is why it is pertinent to say that in coming years we will be able to provide employment to educated people.

MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN: In Part (b) of the question I had asked whether as per the Government estimate the population of the unemployed people of the country will double in ten years? One can guess about this keeping in view the increasing population of the country. However, the hon. Minister did not reply about it. He only said that the rate of unemployment has declined in 1993-94 in comparison to 1987-88. Just now the hon. Minister said that in one year one crore unemployed people will be provided with employment. There should be some fixed time frame. For example if the target is to provide employment to seven crore people then it should be declared that within such and such seven years, the target will be achieved. I have also asked whether the Government propose to include the right to employment in the list of Fundamental Rights of the Constitution to provide employment to unemployed youths?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: The hon. Member in its original question has stated that there are more than seven crore educated unemployed people in the country. But this figure is not correct. As far the increase in the employment rate is concerned. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: You please tell us the exact figure of the unemployed. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: As far the number of educated unemployed are concerned...*(Interruptions)*, there are 55 lakh educated people fully unemployed...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR: Hon. Speaker, Sir, the question of educated unemployed...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except the question of Dr. Bikram Sarkar.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raghunath Jha, please, take your seat.

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question of educated unemployed is...*(Interruptions)*

DR. GIRIJA VYAS: It is increasing rather than decreasing. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The information is totally incorrect. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR: Sir, the question of educated unemployed is a matter of serious concern for the whole nation. It is more so in the case of educated unemployed because it is a common experience and knowledge all over the country that it has come to an explosive situation. The question was a specific question asking about the total number of unemployed educated youths. The reply has not come.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: I have said.

[English]

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR: There is a mechanism to know it. In the reply it has not come. There is a specific mechanism to make the studies. We want to know, the House wants to know it. It is a matter of concern about the total number of unemployed educated youths at the moment. The hon. Minister has given some figures and that too by comparison. The figure has not come.

Secondly, it is a matter of general experience and we share the concern and we want to know as to what exactly is going to be the projection in this regard. We first want to know the number, if they have any; and secondly what is going to be the trend of the situation in the next ten years. It is specifically asked about the number. The situation is becoming worse because of disinvestment of the public sector. This question has been totally avoided.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your supplementary?

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR: Sir, we want to know from the hon. Minister as to exactly what is the position in terms of the number of unemployed and what is going to be the trend in the next ten years.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have stated that in organised and unorganised sectors of the country, we have 36 crore labour force and out of which 35 crore people are employed. The educated man force constitute 95 per cent who have not got any employment. The educated unemployed in organised and unorganised sectors are 80 lakhs.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is it the number of educated unemployed?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: The educated employed people are 55 lakh.

DR. RAGHUNATH JHA: It is absolutely wrong.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the information is based on the National Survey Report.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I would like to ask one thing from the hon. Minister through you. The reply given reflects lack of knowledge and lack of information of the ground reality at present.

[Translation]

Through you I would like to request the hon. Prime Minister that he should visit the markets of Delhi particularly the Meena Bazar and the area in front of Jama Masjid as Prof. Vijay Malhotra has also stated that.

[English]

20-30 trucks loaded with imported cloth costing Rs. 20 or Rs. 25 per metre come there depriving the Indian tailors from making ready-made garments. You go to NOIDA. Due to heavy import of Chinese goods the small-scale units manufacturing pressure cookers and other things got closed there. ...*(Interruptions)* I am coming to that. The hon. Minister is saying that due to information technology and development, new jobs are being created. I am saying just the opposite. The existing jobs of the

educated youths have been taken away one after the other. The total number is not 55 lakhs.

He should take the updated data of the employment exchanges throughout India. In West Bengal alone, the number of unemployed youths is more than 55 lakhs of which 30 lakhs are educated. He is talking of the country's figure as 55 lakh. Will the Minister, therefore consider the seriousness of the issue and provide the real information along with the Government's Plan of Action regarding how to meet the challenge of the educated unemployed youths at the end of Ninth Plan and at the beginning of Tenth Plan?

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: As the hon. Member has said that the number of unemployed people are more than the persons who are registered in employment exchanges. However, my submission is that this number is not correct because some persons registered in employment exchanges are through employed but in search of better opportunities and some of them are already employed, but the employment exchanges do not have its information. That is why the Government propose to make the employment exchanges as the guiding centre and the action is being taken in this regard so that the proper guidance may be provided to the unemployed and more and more employment opportunities may be generated...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you my submission is that in backward regions of many of the States parents provide education to their children by cutting the cost of their basic needs. I would like to know the number of the educated unemployed of Rajasthan who have been provided employment in Finance Services, Information Technology and Tourism Sector if the Government have Statewise details of the educated unemployed who have been offered employment in finance, information technology and tourism sectors.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: I will certainly furnish reply if a separate question is asked seeking the information regarding the educated unemployed of Rajasthan and the other States.

[English]

SHRI MUDRAGADA PADMANABHAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, providing job opportunities to the unemployed youths in the country seems to be a day-dream. It will not happen in the near future that we would be able to provide jobs to the fast growing unemployed youths. I would, therefore, like to know whether the Government is thinking of paying any unemployment assistance to the jobless youths. If not, I would request the Government to pay a sum ranging between Rs. 300 and Rs. 3,000 to the persons, who have studied up to 10th class, and post-graduation respectively.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a question on unemployment allowance.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: In fact, we know that this concept is to a great extent based on resources and presently we are not in a position to pay such allowance to the youths as there are so many unemployed in the country. This concept is in vogue in developed countries because they have financial resources and therefore, this is viable for them. However, the measures are being taken by the Government to provide employment through self employment as it is effective measure. The educated unemployed youths have been offered with job opportunities through the Prime Minister's self employment scheme and it is certainly generating employment opportunity. But presently it is not possible to provide unemployment allowance to youths ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP: The Kerala Government is already giving it...*(Interruptions)*

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: There should be Half-an-Hour-Discussion...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Is there any objection to having a Half-an-Hour Discussion?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: No...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Because of the importance of the subject, I have allowed Half-an-Hour Discussion.

[Translation]

Ayurveda and Homoeopathy in Developed Countries

*142. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some developed countries have shown interest in introducing courses in Ayurveda and Homoeopathy there;

(b) if so, the names of those countries; and

(c) the concrete measures being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make the Indian system of medicine and Homoeopathy more effective and modern keeping in view its demand in the developed countries?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Gujarat Ayurved University, Jamnagar, has been approached by institutions in Japan, Australia, Netherlands, Italy and USA for collaboration in the field of Ayurveda. The Institute of Post Graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (IPGTRA) of Gujarat Ayurveda University (GAU) is fully financed by the Government of India.

In pursuance of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Government of India and the Government of the Russian Federation. It has been intimated by the Russian Ministry of Health that the Panchakarma therapy is at an advanced stage of recognition in that country. This has been treated as a major step towards recognition of Ayurveda in that country.

Another Ayurvedic therapy, namely Kshar-Sutra is also being investigated by two institutions in Russia prior to recognition. The Government of the Russian Federation have also sought the services of Ayurvedic doctors to support their efforts.

The Thames Valley University in United Kingdom has also started a degree course in Ayurveda, last October.

The Royal London Homoeopathic Hospital in London, conducts Postgraduate level courses in medical homoeopathy. That qualification is recognized in India under the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973.

(c) A number of measures have been taken to develop and propagate the Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy (ISM & H) which inter-alia include:—

- Assisting the States to upgrade the standards of education in the ISM & H institutions so that the students are exposed to adequate training and clinical material.
- Decision to provide financial support for strengthening the State Drug Testing Laboratories and Pharmacies which will help test the ISM & H drugs and also produce better quality drugs in the Government sector.
- Taking up extensive intra mural and extra-mural research through operational studies as well as clinical trials to determine the efficacy of the drugs.
- Establishing a Medicinal Plants Board to improve the availability and quality of raw material used in the formulations of ISM & H drugs.
- Notification of Good Manufacturing Practices for industry and development of Pharmacopoeial standards for the ISM & H drugs.
- Participation in Seminars and Conferences in different countries to increase awareness about the systems and what they can offer in respect of present health concerns and priorities.
- Dissemination of relevant information about the systems and how to access it on the Department's Web-site.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the reason for non popularity of Ayurvedic system of medicine when the system was born in India itself. The steps being taken by the Government to popularise the Ayurvedic medicine at national and international level. Whether the hon. Prime Minister had made any announcement to open National level Ayurvedic Hospital in Delhi. If so the time by which such hospital will be established?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Ayurveda is the ancient Indian system of medicine. However, there is

craze for this system of medicine all over the world and as per the estimate of World Health Organisation (WHO) Ayurvedic Medicines have a world market of 62 billion dollar per year. Only in America its market is of four billion dollar. Our Government are making efforts to compete in the growing international market of Ayurvedic medicine. The export of Ayurvedic Medicine from India is Rs. 400 crore while export from China amounts to Rs. 20,000 crore. In order to lessen the gap of conference on Ayurveda was organised in New York which was inaugurated by the hon. Prime Minister. We have taken several measures to strengthen our Ayurvedic system to make it competitive in the world market. Several foreign institutes like Australian Academy of Natural Medicine have desired to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Jamnagar University. The Institute of Traditional Oriental medicine in Japan, European Institute of Scientific Research in Ayurveda, Universiad Awarda Intermerikana of Argentina, Ayurvedic Mans Group Argentina, American Academy of Ayurvedic Medicine, California College of Ayurveda, Institute of Italiodi, Ayurveda and Gandhi Foundation of Italy have also expressed the similar desire. Just now the hon. Member has asked whether the Prime Minister has announced that a premier institute of Ayurveda is proposed to be established in Delhi. The work in this regard is in process and the Ministry of Urban Development have been requested to allot land for the institute...(Interruptions). Further, a Medicinal Plant Board has been constituted. The Board will monitor the progress of Ayurveda and the cultivation and export of medicinal plants. Besides this we have started manufacturing of standard quality of Ayurvedic Medicines. We are also going to provide assistance to the States. The efforts have been made to improve the conditions of the Aurvedic colleges by way of providing financial assistance to each of the States which have such Ayurvedic colleges. ...(Interruptions). We are providing such assistance to all the States. You should send proposal from your State. We will also provide them assistance.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: That State also belongs to you.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: We are doing for that State also. We are doing for all the States. The drug testing laboratories are being set up in all the States. A standard drug testing laboratory will be set up. I would like that India should contribute to the world market so that within few days Indian export may be enhanced to Rs. 1000 crore.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: My second question is related to sceptic attitude of the common people towards the use of Ayurvedic medicine. They have doubts whether

the medicine will work or not. Whether it will harm or is there any steroids present in the medicine. What steps are being taken by the Government to remove such doubts of the people? The constitution of medicinal plants Boards have motivated the farmers for the cultivation of medicinal plants. That is why I would like to ask as to what basic facilities are being provided to the farmers for growing medicinal plants in agricultural States like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar...(*Interruptions*)

DR. C.P. THAKUR: After the formation of Medicinal Plant Board, we will encourage common people for cultivating medicinal plant that will increase the income of poor people. We are going to decide about the variety of medicinal plants that will be cultivated and the modus operandi of its trade.

The second question of the hon. Member is whether we are going to set up testing laboratories in each of the States to improve the status of cultivation of medicinal plants.

Her third question is related to sceptic attitude of the people towards efficacy of Ayurvedic medicines. We are going to start the research in this regard to examine the efficacy of the Ayurvedic medicine in the diseases.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are trying to catch your eyes but you are not looking at this side. ...(*Interruptions*)

VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the demand of Ayurveda is on increase abroad whereas in our own country we have failed to recognize it fully. This system of medicine has its origin in India. But so far, it has not been adopted as a National Medical System. My submission is that whether India would take steps to adopt Ayurveda as a National Medical System as China has adopted its local medical system as its National Medical System?

Secondly, India's every medicinal system is aimed at protecting health of mankind. But in the mad race of liberalization, the Government of India have earmarked barely one percent funds for Ayurveda in the Budget. You tell, what progress the Ayurveda would make with so small amount? I would like to know, in how many of the States, though three new States have been added very recently, there are Ayurveda Directorates who practise this system and how many Health Ministers provide protection and guidance for development of this

system of Medicine? I would like to know how many percent people in India adopt this system of medicine and how many percent people adopt modern system of medicine?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Hon'ble Member has asked about the three States recently constituted. In this connection, I would like to say that in these States also the Ayurveda would develop. Rajasthan is the only State where there is a separate Minister for Ayurveda. In rest of the States, Health Minister looks after this. In almost all the States, Directorate of Ayurveda have been set up.

VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA: I know where the Directorates are, but I would like to know which are the States where no such Directorates have been set up.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please address the Chair. Nowadays, Ministers are also creating some problems in the House.

You can address the Chair. What is the problem with you?

[*Translation*]

DR. C.P. THAKUR: For development of Ayurveda, almost every State has an Ayurveda Directorate. Hon'ble Member has rightly said that this is our system of medicine and as I have just told, the Government are making every effort to bring Ayurveda at par with Allopathy. We are introducing Ayurveda as an elective course in all the Medical Colleges. Whosoever desires, he may opt for it. We are taking steps to provide introductory knowledge of Ayurveda to medical students.

SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know whether the Government are taking steps to develop Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic system of medicine. Just now you mentioned about Jamnagar University in Gujarat. There are about six medical colleges in Gujarat. There is one reputed Ayurvedic institute in my city where even patients come from as far as Germany. In addition, students also come from Germany to study here. One Shri Gupta, who is a doctor, is often called to Germany for delivering a lecture. Yesterday, one question relating to UGC grant was asked. No grant was released to Agriculture University. During last four years, a nominal amount of just Rs. three lakhs was provided to Ayurvedic University. How the development

will take place with so meagre amount. My submission is that this grant may be enhanced. Germans take our Ayurvedic books written in Sanskrit to Germany and after reading these books they are planning to develop this system of medicine in their country. I would like to know why it is not possible in India since it is an ancient system of medicine. I would like to ask hon'ble Minister whether the Government propose to enhance subject grant so that it can develop very well in Gujarat?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dinsha Patel, there are other hon'ble Members who want to ask Supplementaries. Please understand.

[Translation]

DR. C.P. THAKUR: As far as the grants are concerned, the Government are planning to enhance grants for colleges. Jamnagar in Gujarat is a famous centre of Indian System of Medicine. As you have stated, students not only from all parts of India, even students from abroad come to Jamnagar to study this system. As far as our old Sanskrit books are concerned, we have introduced Internet in our department. We propose to translate all our religious books, right from Rigveda till today, into English and we would get it patented and provide translated version on internet so as to avoid it to be patented by anyone else. We are going to introduce all this. ...*(Interruptions)* Every year we provide them Rs. four and a half crore and three lakhs...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY: Sir, there is a famous Ayurvedic institute known as Kottakkal Ayurvediyashala at Mallepuram, Kerala...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Akhilesh Singh, please take your seat. I have not allowed you.

SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY: There is a famous Ayurvedic institute known as Kottakkal Ayurvediyashala at Mallepuram, Kerala. The hon. Minister of Health visited Kerala last month and announced that a University of Ayurveda shall be opened in Kerala. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what action has been taken in this regard so far.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Sir, I was in Kerala and I also visited that institution. That is really a very good institution. I found that people from Zimbabwe and South Africa

were getting treatment there. They wanted that it should be made a deemed university. The process will start and it will take time but it will be done.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister has stated in his reply that this system is gaining popularity abroad and foreigners conduct seminar etc. to popularise it. I would like to ask hon'ble Minister as to how many percentage of people have developed interest towards it. I feel people are losing interest towards it in India. Would you like to conduct State-wise seminars for its publicity and to bring awareness amongst the public? Further, would you direct the State Governments to appoint Homoeopathy qualified doctors as Directors while appointing medical professionals for their secretariat? Would you direct the State Governments to appoint Homoeopathic doctors in each division as it has been done at block level?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Ayurvedic and Homeopathic doctors are again being appointed at block level. As far as conducting of seminars etc., as has been inquired by hon'ble Member, is concerned, I would like to say that we are conducting seminars. Shortly, we are going to organize health-mela.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: How many seminars you organized during last one year?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: The seminar on Ayurveda is being organized all around.

Officers Deputed Abroad for Training

*143. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers of the Central Government sent abroad for training during the last three years till date and the amount of foreign exchange spent on them, Department-wise and year-wise;

(b) the particulars of training imparted and how they were fruitfully utilised in the country in various Departments of Government of India;

(c) whether such training facilities are not available in the country;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to provide such training in the country in the near future;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (g) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The number of officers, belonging to the Central and the State Governments, sent abroad for training under various programmes fully funded by the donor Governments/organisations during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (as on 1.11.2000) is as given below:

1998-1999	—	610
1999-2000	—	520
2000-2001	—	150
(as on 1.11.2000)		

In addition, 31 officers were deputed to the World Bank for training during the period beginning January 1998 and upto July 2000.

Besides, 10 officers have been deputed with funding by Government of India for MBA Programme in the University of HULL (UK) and 10 officers for MBA (Public Service) Programme in the University of Birmingham (UK) during the year 2000-2001. The foreign exchange incurred on those 20 officers as on 1.11.2000 is of the order of 56,420 Pound Sterling (Rs. 38,92,980.00 at the exchange rates that prevailed at the relevant times).

The aforesaid information is not maintained Ministry/ Department-wise.

(b) The training programmes under the Technical Cooperation Programme of Government of UK, Australia and other countries have been in the areas of General Administration/Public Administration, Social Planning, Rural Development, Development Administration, Project

Management, Economic Planning and MBA. The training is aimed at enhancing knowledge, skills and efficiency and bringing about an attitudinal change in the officers for performing the jobs to which they are posted on return from training.

(c) to (g) A large number of training programmes are being successfully implemented in the country which enhance the capacity/skills of the officers. However, since rapid changes in management systems and technology are taking place globally, it is important to expose officers to the best management practices in the countries across the world. Training abroad gives access to the officers to the knowledge and expertise about latest projects and techniques at international level. The benefits of learning from the experience of the fellow-participants from other countries in problem solving are some of the hallmarks of training abroad, which can hardly be replicated in the training programmes organised within the country. Exposure to training abroad enables our civil servants to frame better policies/plans and implement projects and thereby ensure better delivery of services to the public.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Sir, there is no denial of the fact that training our officers abroad is of help to our administrative machinery. The interaction helps them to get some knowledge and information. But a voice of concern is raised because when the officers come back after training, they are posted in other places. Will the hon. Minister inform the House about the criteria of selection of such training? How do we ensure that all such training programmes are beneficial to the country? Is there any method by which the officers can be posted in such places where they can deliver goods out of the knowledge and experience which they gain out of the training?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, selection is not an arbitrary process and it is made against a very well laid down criteria. First of all, we issue a Circular to the State Governments and Cadre Controlling Authorities giving them two to three months' period along with the last date. A lot of things are followed in the criteria, like the minimum years of service, upper age limit, only one long-term programme entitled to an officer in his entire career, a cooling off period for an officer having attended training period of more than one month after six months, an officer having attended a training programme of more than six months, service record which should be at least "very good", vigilance record which needs to be cleared that they have not been debarred; and that they have got the clearance etc. Nominations of them are placed before the CEB, the Central Establishment Board which

then recommends the name. The whole idea is to try and post an officer after the training in a field in which he has experience. Generally, training takes place in areas like general administration, rural development, computer training etc. These trainings can be used in any post where he is normally posted. We try to see that these are synergetic and upgraded basic skills, and are basically integrated programmes. Except for a few sector, they are sector-neutral. We do try to post officers at the same area of operation in which they have been trained as far as possible.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: I have figures for the last three years prior to last year. It shows that selections have been made in different areas, like urban development and employment. During the year 1998, we have sent 87 officers abroad for training.

So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister specifically as to what methods are adopted for selection of the areas of training. How do we ensure that which are the areas where we necessarily train our officers to get some benefit out of their experience?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: At the moment, there are only a few programmes which the Department of Personnel and Training is following. These are the ones in Hull, Birmingham, Queen Elizabeth House Programme, Japan and Australia. These are the general programmes. As far as specific Ministries are concerned, they are run through the Department of Economic Affairs. If there is anything specific which the Member wishes to know, I will be happy to provide that information to him.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister specifically about some of the policy initiatives in training abroad. One of the conditions which had been imposed earlier was that those officers who are sent abroad for training should, in writing, commit themselves to be available to training institutions run in the country so that the knowledge and the specified skills which they imbibe abroad could be widely made available to other officers within the country. Most of them, when they go abroad, think that they are going abroad for their own sake and not be able to use that knowledge for the development.

I would like to know if that guideline, which had been brought in much against their wishes at one time, is still in operation and whether it is being enforced. I would say further that most training panels which are sent to the decision-makers, the power that be around the Department of Personnel, generally do not contain

women, the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe officials. We have, therefore, asked that every panel should also contain women, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe officials. Would the Minister assure us that this kind of guideline is followed so that it does not become a special prerogative of a few privileged groups?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: I have just mentioned here that selection is not made in an arbitrary manner at all. There is a specially laid down criteria. I am sure the hon. Member would be aware of it since she was a part of that Department.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: But the panel gets very specially made in a very special place. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Now, about the condition which you have just mentioned that there is a condition being laid down. I must correct it. The aspect is certainly kept in view that when these people come back from training, they can be utilised in their field of experience at a particular institute. However, there is no such condition which is stipulated...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: I has been given up. It was there before. They gave it in writing. They have withdrawn it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: There is no such condition stipulated at the moment. I would also like to make it clear that we are very careful about the manner in which we send our officials abroad. I have already told you about the criteria. As far as the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and women are concerned, when we send people for overseas training, we try to ensure that representation is made for all of these. I would just give one example of the training course which was done in Birmingham. The Services were taken into account; IAS were three, CSS-one, Central Civil Service-four, State Civil Service-one, UT Civil Service-one. This was in the framework of 10 officials that went. Out of that, two were women, one Scheduled Caste and one Scheduled Tribe official and two were from the North-East. So, we try to keep everything in consideration and go along the guideline so that there is complete transparency in the manner and method in which we send officials abroad.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : A lot of complaints have been received from different State Governments. The criteria being followed by the Government is okay but

they are not informing all the States. If the Government want to select one person, they only inform a particular State and not all the States as a result, we are not able to pick up the cream of the officers in a particular field. So, the Government of India should evolve a concrete system to inform all the States. There should be competition without which we cannot elect eminent people. Has the Government evolved a system? A lot of complaints are coming. Has any complaint been received by the Union Government in this regard?

Secondly. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER You can ask only one supplementary. The Minister can answer only one supplementary.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, (b) part of my question is this. We are spending a lot of foreign exchange on sending our officers abroad to acquire special skills but after their return they are not getting the right kind of posting. I would like to know how many officers have been sent abroad to get training in special skills and out of them how many have been posted in that particular field after their return. If they do not get the right posting, then the money which we have spent on them, gets wasted. So, the Government of India should evolve a concrete policy. After their return, the services of these officers should be utilised for the progress of our country.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, I will repeat that the process is transparent. It is not arbitrary. We issue a Circular every year to the State Governments and Cadre Controlling authorities well in time—two to three months in advance—and we also tell them the last date. It is up to them to send officers for training. Apart from that, we have a National Training Policy. This has been formulated in 1996. There is a whole booklet which has come out. It has been distributed and everybody has access to it. They are welcome to use it. But as far as officers are concerned, I would like to make one thing very clear that while we send officers for training in 50 or 54 programmes abroad involving about 500 officers, and we are also giving training to about 40,000 people in more than 1900 courses.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, as per the question, generally we send officers abroad by spending a lot of

money. After that, they come back but we do not utilise their expertise. So, in this way, a lot of money is being wasted. Sir, I want to know whether it is only India which sends officers abroad for training or there are some other countries also which send their officers to India for training. I would also like to know who are those countries.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Yes, Sir. This is not something that is specific to India. While we send our officers abroad for training into other countries under the Colombo Plan which started in 1950 and gained more popularity in the 60s, we train people from 16 countries and approximately 400 people have passed through our hands.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the experience and expertise are two different things. The officers acquire experience after serving in the Department for a definite period of time. They acquire expertise immediately or initially after the recruitment. Will the Government of India choose young officers so that after getting further training from abroad, they can be utilised here? Will the Government put an end to the proposal of sending officers on the verge of retirement or five years prior to the retirement so that the officers who have been deputed will come back and serve the country with an acquired expertise?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, I have given the criteria which we use for nomination.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: What about age? If an officer is 40 years of age, he would acquire expertise and serve the country. But if he is 55 years of age, he will be in service for two-three years.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, we try to keep it under an age bar of 45 years.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Sir, may I ask the hon. Minister whether any study has been made about the relationship between the so called exposure to global techniques, technologies, improved procedures, practices, and their subsequent performance? It is because one hears very often that there is no relationship between the training received and the subsequent postings. It is quite common to see that a person who has got training in urban development is posted thereafter in agriculture

and somebody who has received training in improved-veterinary sciences is subsequently posted in industry. So, could this sort of a thing be avoided?

I would also like to know whether the Minister is aware that in all these years very up-to-date and the latest training facilities are available in India. So, it is not necessary to spend foreign exchange on training them abroad.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, I have just now also mentioned that we have approximately 500 programmes which cater to a whole lot of things in India. We train over 40,000 officers here alone. The comparison is actually very minuscule. There are about 1.5 per cent of 2 per cent officers who are sent on 54 training programmes. There are only about 500 people at the most that go abroad. I think it is very vital because in the area of globalisation, it is very important for officers to go out, especially, because they are such a part of the administrative system that they go out and learn to feel the pulse of the world. Then, they could come back and try to impart some of it in the country.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a certain criteria is followed to send the officers abroad. I would like to ask the Minister whether a criteria is followed in respect of age limit also. People belonging to Scheduled Caste communities get jobs in the age of 35, that's why most of them could not go abroad due to the norms fixed. Whether the hon. Minister is going to give some relaxation in the age limit?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: I have already stated that very carefully and strictly, we ensure the adequate representation of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Women in the training programmes. I have also read that if 10 officials are sent abroad, adequate representation is definitely given to the people belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Women.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: What relaxation will be given in respect of age bar?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: It is below 45 years.

[English]

Change in Central Labour Act

*144. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have initiated consultation process with Trade Unions with regard to change in the provisions of the Central Labour Act;

(b) if so, the reactions of the Trade Unions on the said move of the Government; and

(c) the details of suggestions given by the Trade Unions?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Government has been holding discussions with representatives of the trade unions in regard to changes in various Labour Laws through the mechanism of Tripartite Committees, meetings of the Standing Labour Committee (SLC) and Indian Labour Conference (ILC). Additionally, interaction with Central Trade Unions and Employers' Organisations have also been held from time to time.

2. The Second National Commission on Labour has also been set up by the Government *vide* resolution issued on 15.10.1999 which would comprehensively review labour laws to ensure both consistency of labour laws with general changes taking place in the economic policy and and to provide greater welfare of the working class. The Commission is tripartite in nature and has invited views from all concerned and is simultaneously holding consultations with them.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: The Minister has stated in his reply that the Second Labour Commission is tripartite in nature and has invited views from all concerned. As you know, the policy perspective and the approach of the NDA Government on labour and labour laws are reflected in two documents. The first one is the Task Force set up by the PMO. This is consisting of the representatives of industrial houses. I am not naming

them. The second one is the Ninth Plan document. Under the leadership of the Member-Secretary of the Planning Commission Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia a Committee has been set up.

May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that the National Labour Commission has been asked to go by the recommendations of the two Task Forces where the views of labour have never been heard.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): It is inappropriate to say so because the first Labour Commission was set up in 1966 and then after 33 years the second Labour Commission was set up and we will get no better opportunity than this to review and discuss the labour laws and the matters related to labour. This Labour Commission has been set up with the objective to review the existing labour laws in the organised sector and to update these laws as per the present requirement. Keeping in view the global changes taking place due to economic liberalisation, our labour laws should be more strengthened to protect the interest of the working class. It is our endeavour that labour laws should be strengthened to protect the job opportunities for labourers and to provide them public security. The second objective is to bring the working class of unorganised sector under the umbrella of existing legislation thereby to provide them security. Hence, the second Labour Commission has been set up with a view to consider comprehensively the existing laws regarding the unorganised and organised sectors of labourers. It is a separate issue that purposefully the recommendations were considered after the submission of report but the Commission was set up exclusively to review the existing laws.

[*English*]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: My question has not been answered. My question was whether it is not a fact that the Second National Labour Commission has been asked to go by the recommendations of the two Task Forces where the views of the Central Trade Unions are not being heard.

[*Translation*]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: It is inappropriate to say so. As hon. Members are aware that the first Labour Commission was set up in 1966. Many suggestions have been received to bring contemporary changes in the existing labour laws to suit the present requirement. Therefore, to consider it comprehensively and to

incorporating the changes took place in 34 years since 1966 to 2000 due to the changes in economic policy and labour sector, Second Labour Commission came into force. Even though the second Labour Commission has been set up very soon, we are going to amend those existing laws where the need is urgent. Yesterday only a Bill has been passed in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha regarding the enhancement in compensation which should be given if someone becomes disable while working. Besides we are reviewing the other labour laws and this work is going on continuously.

[*English*]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that there are industrialists in the Task Forces who have themselves blatantly violated major labour laws of this country and thrown employees out in the streets. They have illegally closed down or ordered lock-outs. They are the same people in the Task Forces. There is a recommendation that instead of the 150 labour laws, there should be a single course which may be used freely by the employers to deprive the labour of this country their due protection as they have been enjoying.

Secondly, in spite of the corollary of the pressure of the employers that the Bonus Act should not be changed, the pay scales of millions of workers of this country have gone beyond Rs. 3500 and they are being deprived of their due bonus. The Government has received representation from almost all the Central trade unions. Still, because of the pressure of the industrial houses, the representatives of the employers, the Government is not making any changes in the Bonus Act to make available the due bonus to millions of workers in this country.

[*Translation*]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Sir, we have a very good system for considering the problems through the mechanism of Tripartite in which representatives of trade Unions and Government also participated. In the presence of these representatives no such law can be framed which is against the interest of the labourers. We have developed a comprehensive policy to discuss in details all the matters related with working class. We protect the interest of labourers through the labour laws. An hon. Member has mentioned about the bonus and minimum payment of wages. Labour Ministry has sent a proposal to the Government in this regard. I hope the Government's decision in this regard will come very soon.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, since long it was demanded to change the existing labour laws as these are very old and there are many loopholes in it due to which they are being violated. Even the action is not taking against the persons who violates the law. How can we stop its violation? It has been clearly mentioned by the hon. Minister in his reply regarding to the objective of setting up of Second Labour Commission that

[English]

We should comprehensively review labour laws to ensure both consistency of labour laws general changes taking place in the economic policy and to provide greater welfare to the working class.

[Translation]

It is contradictory. What is the objective of Second Labour Commission? I would like to know from the hon. Minister the purpose for which the Second Labour Commission has been set up. What are the terms of reference? There is an Act regarding Contract Labour Evolution and Regulation. A conference was also called to amend this Act. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government intend to change or to abolish the 70 years old Contract Labour Evolution and Regulation Act?

DR. SATYANRAYAN JATIYA: Sir, I have already mentioned it clearly that the Labour Commission was set up keeping in view the requirements of labour market in the changing conditions and for the social security of working class. Also the four points mentioned by the hon. Member.

12.00 hrs.

Secondly, we have also stated that institutional infrastructure, labour protection and welfare measures should be such that they not only help the flexible labour market but also adjust the changes taking place for economic development and technological promotion. Labour protection is included in it.

We have also stated about the social security, healthy and secure professionalism, effective implementation of the efforts related with minimum wages, timely payment of wages, ensure the scheduled production and to provide security and other facilities to women and disabled persons in jobs. Hence, we are very much clear in our objectives and to fulfil all these objectives, second labour commission has constituted 6 groups and consideration

is still going on them. I hope labour commission will accomplish its task in time.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You did not mention about the contract labour law, please tell about that...*(Interruptions)*

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, safai karamacharies are crores in number in our country be it private sector, public sector or any local body. However, no commission has ever considered them. Special provisions should be made for them in second safai commission and safai karamacharies should be given relief from the contract system. What is the attitude of the Government in this regard?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: He is mentioning about Karamchari Ayog but we are talking about Labour Commission.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: Safai Karamacharies are being talked about...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you can send a written reply to the hon. Member. The time is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Kashmir Issue

*145. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the specific efforts initiated to secure global support for curbing terrorist activities encouraged by Pakistan along Indo-Pak border;

(b) the extent to which the Government have succeeded in creating a favourable position in this regard at the global level so far; and

(c) the extent to which it will be helpful in finding a solution to the Kashmir problem?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) Government have effectively brought to the attention of the international community, Pakistan's support to cross-border terrorism and continued attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of India. Facts regarding Pakistan's State sponsorship of terrorism have been highlighted in several international fora. This issue has also been raised at high level bilateral discussions with world leaders.

The international community in large measure now recognizes Pakistan's State sponsorship of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, and elsewhere in India, and the impact this has on the security of our country and the region. This greater awareness is being reflected in the international media coverage on Pakistan, as also in statements by official spokesmen of several Governments.

Simultaneously, Government have been continuing with its efforts to normalize the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, and to hold talks with all those who are prepared to dialogue, in keeping with the strong desire of the people of Jammu and Kashmir for peace. Towards this end, on 19th November 2000, Government announced that Indian security forces have been instructed to not initiate combat operations against militants in Jammu and Kashmir during the forthcoming holy month of Ramzaan. Government are, however, aware that Pakistan is continuing with its efforts to damage prospects of peace in Jammu and Kashmir. Government is resolved to defeat such attempts.

Birth Rate and Child Health

*146. SHRI SUNIL KHAN:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH:

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

(a) whether the Government have failed to check birth rate and ensure health for all;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the funds allocated for this purpose to States during the last three years, State-wise and the success achieved in the aforesaid areas;

(d) the details of the child health programme existing in the country as on date, State-wise; and

(e) the extent of their implementation during last two years?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) Considerable progress has been achieved in the promotion of Family Planning and Health status of the people of India. The Crude Birth Rate (CBR) has come down from 40.8 in 1951 to 26.1 in 1999 and the Total Fertility Rate from 6.0 in 1951 to 3.3 in 1997. The Mortality Rate per thousand population (Crude Death Rate) has declined from 25.1 in 1951 to 8.7 in 1999. Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) came down from 146 in 1951-61 to 70 in 1999. Life Expectancy at Birth has gone up from 37.1 years in 1951 to 62.4 years in 1996-2001 for males and from 36.1 years to 63.4 years for females during the same period. Small Pox and Plague have been eliminated. Mortality from Cholera and related diseases has declined. Malaria has been brought under control to a large extent. Polio is on the verge of being eradicated. Under the revised National TB Programme, about 260 million population has already been covered. Under Leprosy Programme since 1995-96 all districts have been covered for providing free Multi-Drug Treatment Services. Besides, infrastructure for primary health care has gone up manifold. The number of sub-centres and primary health centres which were 33616 and 5293 as on 31 March, 1975 have gone up to 137271 and 22975 as on 30.06.99 respectively.

The funds released to all States/UTs during last three years under Family Welfare programme is given in statement I. The release of funds under National Health Programme at all India level and funds in respect of selected diseases is given in statement II.

(d) and (e) The Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme is under implementation in all the States/UTs since 1997-98. A number of Child Health interventions including immunisation against vaccine preventable diseases, management of acute respiratory infections and diarrhoeal disease, provision of essential new-born care and prophylaxis against nutritional anaemia and Vitamin-A deficiency are under implementation in all the States/UTs. The coverage level of vaccines in the last two years is given in statement III. In addition to the interventions under the RCH Programme, Pulse Polio Immunisation programme is being implemented every year in all the States/UTs to eradicate Polio from the country. To improve the outreach services in relatively poor performing areas, additional support is being provided under the Border Districts Cluster Strategy project in 47 districts of 16 States with a view to reducing the infant and maternal mortality to half of existing level over the next three to four years. A new scheme for improving outreach services in selected 50 weak districts of Assam, Bihar, MP, Orissa, Rajasthan,

UP, West Bengal, and Gujarat has been launched to give inputs to improve maternal and child health services. Inputs are being provided to improve mobility of staff,

supervision of field activities and demand generation by launching local specific Information. Education and Communication Campaigns.

Statement I

Grants in aid (cash and kind) under F.W. Programme

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of State/UT	1997-98 Total	1998-99 Total	1999-2000 Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11225.96	14614.20	19632.70
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	237.38	219.81	334.55
3.	Assam	4450.31	4437.80	8492.91
4.	Bihar	12621.82	12817.90	33304.28
5.	Goa	206.83	243.77	325.94
6.	Gujarat	11323.12	12611.98	17213.08
7.	Haryana	4244.30	3652.67	4407.75
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1431.02	2373.54	2407.34
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2137.78	2056.50	2261.85
10.	Karnataka	6461.33	9792.97	19086.05
11.	Kerala	3955.16	5503.94	6864.11
12.	Madhya Pradesh	9993.30	13153.54	16361.97
13.	Maharashtra	10677.68	15036.24	15896.09
14.	Manipur	585.85	731.06	1055.35
15.	Meghalaya	397.04	469.53	750.71
16.	Mizoram	296.04	307.88	444.27
17.	Nagaland	268.24	338.27	500.51
18.	Orissa	6159.09	6484.16	7819.21
19.	Punjab	3569.72	3684.16	4188.09
20.	Rajasthan	9476.69	11180.84	17545.57
21.	Sikkim	264.87	349.40	485.06
22.	Tamil Nadu	12759.97	11779.69	23103.19
23.	Tripura	572.78	1975.59	1000.48
24.	Uttar Pradesh	25073.58	51256.08	36652.35

1	2	3	4	5
25.	West Bengal	7707.15	14295.80	11948.24
	Total (States)	146097.01	199367.78	252081.65
	UTs with Legislature			
1.	Pondicherry	174.02	192.40	186.32
2.	Delhi	1155.41	1485.94	2791.07
	Outlays for UTs without Legislature			
1.	A&N Island	122.40	123.60	0.00
2.	D&N Haveli	39.96	69.29	0.00
3.	Chandigarh	113.33	189.05	0.00
4.	Lakshadweep	19.16	35.06	0.00
5.	Daman & Diu	44.40	52.05	0.00
	Total (UTs)	1668.68	2147.39	2977.39
	Grand Total:	147765.69	201515.17	255059.04

Statement II*Financial Outlays for Health Programme During 1997-98 to 1999-2000*

(Rs. in lakhs)

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Revenue (Plan)	84735	89714	100500
Revenue (Non-Plan)	63919	81820	91637
Capital (Plan)	1737	1350	500
Capital (Non-Plan)	39951	33872	30549
Total	190342	206756	223186

Financial Outlays for Centrally Sponsored Plan Schemes for Selected Diseases During 1997-98 to 1999-2000

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of Programme/Organisation	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	National Trachoma and Blindness Control Programme	7000	7500	8400
2.	National Malaria Eradication Programme (including Kala-Azar)	19000	22700	20500

1	2	3	4	5
3.	National AIDS Control Programme (including Blood Safety Measures and S.T.D. Control Programme)	12450	11100	14000
4.	National Leprosy Control Programme	7900	7900	8200
5.	National T.B. Control Programme	8000	7200	9500
6.	Cancer Research & Treatment Programme	2575	3000	4075

Statement III*Immunisation Coverage (In%)*

Programmes	1998-99	1999-2000
TT (PW)	83.9	81.7
D.P.T.	93.7	95.3
Polio	95.3	95.6
B.C.G.	97.7	101.6
Measles	88.1	89.6

*[Translation]***Eradication of Hepatitis-B, AIDS and TB**

*147. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that the rapidly growing diseases like Hepatitis-B, AIDS and B have again started taking its toll of the country's population;

(b) if so, the comparative figures of deaths due to the said diseases in 1998, 1999 and 2000 so far, State-wise;

(c) the number of persons affected by the aforesaid diseases during the above period;

(d) the total funds allocated for eradication of the above diseases;

(e) the total funds spent by each State on each programme out of the total funds allocated during the above said period;

(f) the total amount of assistance received from the foreign countries and World Health Organisation to tackle the AIDS and TB during the said period; and

(g) the steps contemplated by the Government to check further spread of these diseases?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (g) The Government is aware that diseases like Hepatitis B, AIDS and Tuberculosis are still prevailing despite the coordinated efforts being made to eradicate/control them.

Hepatitis B:

No accurate estimate of prevalence of Hepatitis B is available. The figures indicating the total number of reported cases and deaths of viral Hepatitis for the years 1998 and 1999 is given in statement I. The following steps have been taken for controlling the spread of Hepatitis B:

- Guidelines have been issued for mandatory testing of blood in all blood banks.
- Central Government hospital personnel at high risk are immunized against Hepatitis B. State Governments have also been advised to take similar steps.
- IEC campaigns have been launched for promotion of safe sex and regarding the dangers of using unsterilized syringes and needles under the National AIDS Control Programme.

- Guidelines have been issued to the State Health Authorities for use of separate syringe and needle for each injection.
- Guidelines have been issued for disposal of used syringes and needles to prevent re-use.

Tuberculosis:

The control of tuberculosis is a major focus area in the country's National Health Programme. The total number of reported cases and deaths due to tuberculosis is given in statement II.

The National Tuberculosis Control Programme was implemented in 1962 on a 50:50 cost-sharing basis between Centre and States with the objective to detect as many cases as possible and effectively treat them. Under the National Tuberculosis Control Programme, 447 district centres and 330 chest clinics have been established. Diagnosis and treatment facilities including supply of anti-TB drugs are provided free of cost to the TB patients in rural areas through the District TB Centres. The Government of India has evolved a revised strategy [RNTCP] with the objective of curing at least 85% of the new sputum positive patients and detecting at least 75% of such patients. It was initially pilot tested in 1993 in a population of 23.5 lakhs and showed remarkable success. Today it covers 26 crore population of the country and is anticipated to cover 50 crore population by 2002. The total approved budgetary allocation for the programme in the 9th Five-Year Plan is Rs. 450 crores. The State-wise releases and reported expenditures for the last three years are given in statement III. It is also stated that for the implementation of the revised National TB Control Programme [RNTCP], the following International Agencies have agreed to provide financial assistance as under:

• World Bank	Rs. 604.00 crores
• DANIDA	Rs. 31.95 crores
• DFID	Rs. 109.93 crores

In addition WHO has given assistance of \$ 1.1. million in the biennium 1998-99 and 1999-2000.

HIV/AIDS

For the control of AIDS, which is an emerging disease, a National AIDS Control Programme [NACP] is

being implemented in the country. Phase I of the programme is already over and Phase II of the programme is presently under implementation at a total cost of Rs. 1425.10 crores. As per data available the total number of reported full blown AIDS cases in the country are as below:

• 1997	1984
• 1998	1548
• 1999	3273

No accurate estimate of AIDS related deaths is as yet available. The total funds released and the expenditure reported State-wise are given in statement IV. The funds provided by foreign agencies and WHO in Phase II are as below:

1. World Bank	Rs. 959.10 crores
2. USAID	Rs. 166.00 crores
3. DFID	Rs. 104.00 crores

In addition WHO has kept a provision for US\$ 130,000 for biennium activities during 1999-2000.

The main strategies followed under the Programme are:

- Reducing the spread of HIV in groups at high risk by identification of target population and providing peer counselling, condom promotion, treatment of sexually transmitted infections, etc.
- Preventive intervention for the general population by Information, Education and Communication [IEC] and awareness campaign.
- Provision for voluntary testing and counselling.
- Safe blood transfusion services and prevention of occupational exposure.
- Providing financial assistance for treating opportunistic infections, home and community based care for people with HIV/AIDS.

Statement I

Reported number of cases and deaths due to viral Hepatitis for the years 1998 and 1999 (data for the year 2000) is not yet available for the country)

S. No.	Name of States	1998		1999	
		Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19309	101	34673	108
2	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—
3.	Assam	15519	4	—	—
4.	Bihar	—	—	—	—
5.	Goa	157	1	151	0
6.	Gujarat	2928	30	2676	9
7.	Haryana	1034	10	—	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1606	4	1717	2
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1658	@	5874	2
10.	Karnataka	6353	72	5897	46
11.	Kerala	14983	17	7197	4
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5291	31	1841	25
13.	Maharashtra	11057	419	29221	297
14.	Manipur	1625	1	690	3
15.	Meghalaya	498	6	374	5
16.	Mizoram	243	2	514	6
17.	Nagaland	435	2	32	0
18.	Orissa	18145	125	—	—
19.	Punjab	1604	27	—	—
20.	Rajasthan	1152	14	2415	46
21.	Sikkim	264	0	35	0
22.	Tamil Nadu	528	9	504	18
23.	Tripura	317	0	122	0
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2779	25	1289	31
25.	West Bengal	—	—	—	—
26.	A&N Islands	230	2	247	3

1	2	3	4	5	6
27.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	76	3	3	0
29.	Daman & Diu	124	0	37	0
30.	Delhi	2972	30	2081	56
31.	Lakshadweep	120	1	319	1
32.	Pondicherry	203	1	578	21
Total (All India)		111230	937	98487	683

@ : Data not received

Data is provisional.

Statement II

Reported number of cases and deaths due to Tuberculosis for the years 1998 and 1999 (data for the year 2000 are not yet available for the country)

S. No.	Name of the States	1998		1999	
		Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	104896	1214	115088	957
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—
3.	Assam	13478	65	—	—
4.	Bihar	—	—	—	—
5.	Goa	8919	80	7588	53
6.	Gujarat	14119	190	36101	84
7.	Haryana	107749	283	29461	194
8.	Himachal Pradesh	17559	245	12732	232
9.	Jammu & Kashmir (x)	@	@	2899	0
10.	Karnataka	66786	828	63495	907
11.	Kerala	39771	120	35987	194
12.	Madhya Pradesh\$	53357	138	25631	41
13.	Maharashtra	78772	1105	84215	716
14.	Manipur	923	10	2399	28
15.	Meghalaya	1940	23	2204	2
16.	Mizoram	482	7	1000	14

1	2	3	4	5	6
17.	Nagaland ^{xx}	1919	1	872	0
18.	Orissa	32567	409	39190	376
19.	Punjab	134794	72	14912	71
20.	Rajasthan	20610	81	54776	287
21.	Sikkim	870	43	2100	21
22.	Tamil Nadu	19251	285	60569	358
23.	Tripura	25	0	0	0
24.	Uttar Pradesh	63853	238	58518	250
25.	West Bengal	35470	460	37546	960
26.	A&N Islands	657	18	879	22
27.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli ^{\$\$}	723	16	79	1
29.	Daman & Diu	1493	3	1328	11
30.	Delhi	28086	1084	19680	688
31.	Lakshadweep	23	0	84	0
32.	Pondicherry	19138	78	18588	69
Total (All India)		868230	7096	727921	6536

@ - Data not available

- Data not received

(x) - Only Kashmir Division

\$ - Data for October, 1998 not received

\$\$ Data for July & August not received

XX - Data for August 1998 not received

Data is provisional and not comparable due to ill-defined coverage.

Statement III

National Tuberculosis Control Programme Allocation 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-2001

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	1998-1999		1999-2000		2000-2001
		Allocation	Exp.	Allocation	Exp.	Release
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	563.57	534.00	372.12	377.0024	472.22
2	Arunachal Pradesh	4.66	1.66	24.03	18.36715	52.22

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Assam	101.67	95.01	216.19	196.847	135.99
4.	Bihar	633.34	369.15	650.90	609.148	273.93
5.	Goa	2.07	2.07	2.87	2.87	10.70
6.	Gujarat	620.77	241.16	433.53	407.0804	264.01
7.	Haryana	63.69	63.69	205.00	118.3501	95.42
8.	Himachal Pradesh	113.46	66.23	111.30	121.2109	109.39
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	26.65	26.65	63.12	63.11524	94.03
10.	Karnataka	414.28	240.61	352.97	400.0404	307.92
11.	Kerala	447.06	191.13	173.26	161.7459	132.15
12.	Madhya Pradesh	258.17	234.91	626.64	594.3669	159.41
13.	Maharashtra	573.75	395.65	1047.76	987.6163	1067.07
14.	Manipur	27.53	18.20	34.62	29.39109	76.87
15.	Meghalaya	5.91	5.91	15.45	15.45213	7.54
16.	Mizoram	5.31	2.31	10.81	5.15342	4.87
17.	Nagaland	4.81	1.81	21.45	15.78867	19.32
18.	Orissa	218.52	215.52	267.90	265.7899	221.11
19.	Punjab	96.11	96.11	64.22	64.22132	70.63
20.	Rajasthan	242.41	183.93	812.06	460.2535	513.36
21.	Sikkim	4.51	1.51	13.80	8.13521	26.89
22.	Tamil Nadu	469.64	272.10	603.24	407.2595	580.33
23.	Tripura	8.75	8.75	21.19	21.19037	19.18
24.	Uttar Pradesh	793.12	709.74	1346.84	1190.911	370.23
25.	West Bengal	707.41	461.76	870.83	519.1913	321.89
26.	Delhi	62.69	84.86	299.69	182.73	17.97
27.	Pondicherry	1.82	1.82	8.27	2.61	3.35
28.	Andman & Nicobar	3.82	0.82	6.83	1.17	0.99
29.	Chandigarh	5.27	2.27	9.18	3.52	12.95
30.	D&N Haveli	0.44	0.44	0.63	0.63	0.70
31.	Daman & Diu	0.32	0.32	0.45	0.45	0.56
32.	Lakshadweep	0.16	0.16	0.23	0.23	2.11
Total		6481.69	4530.26	8687.37	7251.84	5445.31

Note — Figures includes commodity grants in aid to TB Societies

Statement IV**National AIDS Control Programme
Utilisation of Funds by States and UTs**

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	1999-2000		2000-2001
		Grants Released	Expenditure Reported	Grants Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11219.67	1003.93	223.50
2	Arunachal Pradesh	159.00	103.07	19.00
3.	Assam	322.00	314.78	194.00
4.	Bihar	55.00	124.03	96.00
5.	Goa	98.00	67.09	16.50
6.	Gujarat	721.00	673.46	97.00
7.	Haryana	270.00	194.29	124.50
8.	Himachal Pradesh	318.00	176.00	108.50
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	25.00	—	50.00
10.	Karnataka	801.67	555.03	203.00
11.	Kerala	280.00	301.65	193.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	352.31	101.68	310.00
13.	Maharashtra	998.35	1157.80	302.00
14.	Manipur	352.38	190.11	205.00
15.	Meghalaya	70.14	43.88	17.50
16.	Mizoram	168.00	170.55	65.00
17.	Nagaland	380.00	178.70	113.50
18.	Orissa	200.00	34.47	118.50
19.	Punjab	312.39	173.29	101.50
20.	Rajasthan	150.00	22.09	210.00
21.	Sikkim	25.00	44.37	23.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	883.09	1763.98	367.00
23.	Tripura	50.00	37.62	40.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	851.00	343.77	450.00
25.	West Bengal	425.00	621.80	292.50

1	2	3	4	5
26.	Delhi	283.00	369.54	150.00
27.	Pondicherry	25.00	35.78	21.50
28.	A&N Islands	50.00	121.91	42.50
29.	Chandigarh	115.00	122.02	63.00
30.	D&N Haveli	25.00	—	9.00
31.	Daman and Diu	95.00	26.02	9.00
32.	Lakshadweep	25.00	1.04	8.50
33.	MDACS, Mumbai	670.00	728.92	297.00
34.	Ahmedabad MC	75.00	38.89	28.50
35.	Chennai MC	125.00	15.66	39.50
Total		10975.00	9857.22	4609.00

Primary Health Centres

*148. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

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

(a) the number of villages in the country where Primary Health Centres have been opened and the number out of those functioning;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the funds being allocated to these Primary Health Centres to provide basic medical facilities never reach the villages;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether according to the UN report this is the plight of a sizeable number of Health Centres in the country; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps proposed to be taken to give more grants, supply of adequate quantities of medicines for free distribution to poor people and posting of sufficient number of doctors to improve the functioning of Primary Health Centres in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) There are 22975

PHCs functioning in the country. On average, one PHC covers 25 villages. For every 4-5 villages, there is a Health Sub-centre.

(b) and (c) The Primary Health Centres (PHCs) are established and maintained by State Governments. The State Governments provide funds to PHCs for provisioning of basic facilities. Central Government is providing additional funds to PHCs through State Governments to supplement these efforts under the RCH Programme and the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) scheme, launched in 2000-201. Curative, preventive and promotive service are rendered at the PHCs level while village level care is given through Sub-centre and ANMs.

(d) An ICMR Multicentric study covering 398 Primary Health Centres in 199 districts revealed shortages of female paramedics, unevenly distributed, shortages of essential drugs and poorly equipped labour rooms in health centres.

(e) National Population Policy, 2000, has envisaged the provision of health care infrastructure, health personnel and integrated service delivery for basic reproductive and child health care as the immediate objective of the policy. The salient points on action plan and operational strategy enunciated in NPP 2000, are given in the enclosed statement.

Central Government has initiated a series of steps:

- Empowered the State Governments to make contractual appointments of anesthetists and specialists in order to ensure regular outreach and coverage.
- Facilitated the appointment of additional Auxiliary Nurses/Mid-wives on contract basis.
- Ensured that critical gaps in infrastructure, including minor civil works, are bridged through Area Projects and special schemes.
- Provided drug kits as well as equipment kits for essential obstetric care and emergency obstetric care.
- Begun focusing of essential new-born care at Primary Health Centres level.
- Provided increased referral transportation to pregnant women for emergency obstetric care with clear linkages for this purpose.
- 24 hour delivery services at some Primary Health Centres, with honorarium to the staff in CHC/PHC.

Besides, additional Centre Allocation of Rs. 375 crores has been allocated to States by the Central Government under the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana for strengthening, repair and maintenance of health infrastructure, provision of drugs and consumables and towards contingencies at Sub-centres, PHCs and CHCs during 2000-2001.

Area Projects in 14 States meet the needs of strengthening infrastructure facilities, training facilities and procurement of goods, equipment, drugs and furniture.

Statement

National Population Policy 2000

Action Plan and Operational strategy enunciated in National Population Policy 2000-Salient points:

1. Converge service delivery at village levels.
2. Empowering women for improved health and nutrition.
3. Strengthen the referral network between the district Health Office, district hospital, the Community Health Centre, the Primary Health Centre and Sub-centres in the management of obstetric and neonatal complications.

4. Strengthen community health centres to provide comprehensive emergency obstetric and neonatal care.
5. Strengthen the capacity of primary health centers to provide basic emergency and obstetric and neonatal care.
6. Improve technical skills of maternal and child health providers.
7. Expand and improve facilities for safe abortion care.
8. Develop maternity hospitals at sub-district level and at Community Health Centres to function as First Referral Units.
9. Ensure 100% routine immunisation for all vaccine preventable diseases.
10. Pursue Pulse Polio Campaign to eradicate polio.
11. Collaborate with and commitments from the non-Governmental sector and industry.
12. Provide for the older population.
13. Improve Information, Education and Communication.

[English]

Tobacco a Harmful Killer Product

- *149. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that tobacco is one of the major harmful and killer products in the country;

(b) if so, the facts thereof alongwith the number of persons who died due to consumption of tobacco during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the consumption of tobacco is increasing among women and children;

(d) if so, the details and percentage thereof; and

(e) the concrete steps taken/proposed to be taken to ban the use of tobacco in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (e) No representative statistical estimates of tobacco-related deaths are available. However, Indian Council of Medical Research has conducted a few community-based surveys in India to measure the mortality rates among tobacco users and non-users.

National-wide information on consumption of tobacco is available from two surveys by National Sample Survey Organisation, in the years 1987-88 and 1993-94. Over all consumption for the country in different age groups does not indicate any significant change.

Government has already intensified its efforts to discourage people from tobacco consumption. Under the administrative instructions, tobacco smoking is prohibited in hospitals, dispensaries and other health care establishments, educational institutions, conference rooms, domestic air flights, A.C. coaches of trains, sub-urban trains and air conditioned buses under the control of Government of India. In addition, the following measures have been taken to discourage consumption of tobacco:—

- (i) As per the Cigarettes (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1975, it is mandatory to display health warning on all cartons/packets;
- (ii) Under the prevention of Food. Adulteration Rules, 1955, a warning "Chewing of Tobacco is injurious to health" is mandatory on Chewing Tobacco Products;
- (iii) Direct advertisements relating to tobacco or tobacco-related products are prohibited on Doordarshan and All India Radio. The Government have come out with the Cable Television Regulation Act which inter-alia prohibits tobacco related advertisements on cable television also;
- (iv) The Government have advised the State Governments to discourage consumption of tobacco products containing chewing tobacco including Gutkha; they have also been advised to ensure that tobacco products are not sold around educational institutions;
- (v) Health Education regarding the ill-effects of the use of tobacco has also been stepped up by use of electronic Media.

The Government is contemplating to bring a legislation to discourage consumption of tobacco. However, no specific time frame for its introduction can be given at this juncture.

Flood Control

*150. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the current year, the floods have taken a heavy toll of human lives and caused damage to crops and property in various places of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any survey to identify areas affected by heavy floods;

(c) if so, the details thereof; State-wise;

(d) the funds allocated and released to each State to control the floods menace during the last three years, till date;

(e) whether the Union Government propose to constitute a permanent body to deal with the situation; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) to (f) Yes Sir, damages occurred due to floods during the monsoon of 2000 in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh. Statewise details of flood damages during the monsoon of 2000 are given in enclosed statement I.

Rashtriya Barh Ayog assessed the area liable to floods as 40 million ha. in India, Statewise breakup of area liable to floods is given in statement II. The records of area affected by floods in each year is maintained by the respective State. Statewise details of area affected due to floods during the monsoon of 2000 has already been given in statement I above.

Flood management work is a State subject. Funds are allocated to the State by the Planning Commission as block loans and grants for the flood control sub sector

under State plan fund. The approved outlays under flood control sub sector of State plan for each of the flood affected States during the year 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are given in statement III. Central Government also provides Central assistance to the States for specific schemes. Financial assistance provided by the Ministry of Water Resources to the flood affected States of Assam, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh during the last 3 years is given in statement IV. In addition to this, assistance to various States is also provided from the National Fund of Calamity Relief (NFCR) and Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). The details of NFCR and CRF during the last 3 years to the States is given in statement V & VI.

Government of India has set up the Ganga Flood Control Commission in 1972 for preparing comprehensive master plans for flood management in Ganga basin. The master plans prepared by Ganga Flood Control Commission have been sent to the concerned Ganga basin States for their implementation. Similarly, Government of India has set up Brahmaputra Board in 1980 for preparing the master plans for the Brahmaputra, the Barak and their tributaries. The Master Plans prepared by Brahmaputra Board have been sent to all the basin States for their implementation. Government of India is not considering further to constitute any "Body" to deal with flood management.

Statement I

Damage Due to Floods/Heavy Rains During 2000 (Upto 08.11.2000)

(Tentative)

Sl No	Name of State	Area affected in m.ha.	Population affected in million	Damage to Crops Area in m. ha	Value in Rs. crore	Damage to Houses In Nos.	Value in Rs. crore	Cattle lost Nos.	Human live lost Nos.	Damage to public utilities in Rs. crore	Total damages Crops, Houses & public utilities in Rs. crore (Col 6+8+11)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.178	0.098	0.178	15.480	35677	110.000	5368	131	776.750	902.230
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.005	0.025	0.003	—	1500	—	10000	15	105.990	105.990
3.	Assam										
	1st Wave	—	0.062	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	2nd Wave	0.301	0.960	0.055	—	—	—	—	13	—	—
	3rd Wave	0.443	3.579	0.224	—	—	—	—	32	—	—
4.	Bihar	0.700	7.972	0.392	222.807	312298	167.699	1861	274	34.098	424.604
5.	Gujarat	—	0.2408	—	—	23844	2.642	406	116	—	2.642
6.	Himachal Pradesh	0.016	0.611	0.012	34.87	722	4.646	593	41	66.359	105.875
7.	Punjab	0.011	—	0.011	—	55	0.21	1	7	—	0.210
8.	Uttar Pradesh	0.784	6.386	0.472	—	40666	—	997	453	—	—
9.	West Bengal	2.376	22.1	1.511	3886	1887000	361	305000	1293	840	5067.00 (159 missing)

Statement II*Area Liable to Floods in the Country*

(Area in lakh ha.)

Sl. No.	State	Area liable to floods
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13.9
2.	Assam	31.5
3.	Bihar	42.6
4.	Gujarat	13.9
5.	Haryana	23.5
6.	Himachal Pradesh	2.3
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.8
8.	Karnataka	0.2
9.	Kerala	8.7
10.	Madhya Pradesh	2.6
11.	Maharashtra	2.3
12.	Manipur	0.8

1	2	3
13.	Meghalaya	0.2
14.	Orissa	14.0
15.	Punjab	37.0
16.	Rajasthan	32.6
17.	Tamil Nadu	4.5
18.	Tripura	3.3
19.	Uttar Pradesh	73.36
20.	West Bengal	26.5
21.	Delhi	0.5
22.	Pondicherry	0.1
Total:		335.16

(Say 34 million ha.)

Flood prone area as per data from States for period 1953-78	34 Million ha.
Area protected till then (1978)	10 Million ha.
Total:	44 Million ha.
Area flooded due to failure of protection works which might have been added in the reported flooded area (assumed) (—)	4 Million ha.
Total Flood Prone Area in the country	40 Million ha.

Statement III*Approved Plan Outlays and Expenditure in Flood Control Sub-Sector*

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State/UT's	Approved outlay 1997-98	Expenditure during 1997-98	Approved outlay 1998-99	Expenditure during 1998-99	Approved outlay 1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17.00	17.85	49.00	49.00	42.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4.48	3.76	4.61	4.16	4.25
3.	Assam	19.92	16.24	20.27	20.27	27.57
4.	Bihar	40.00	42.34	63.00	43.00	110.00
5.	Goa	0.84	0.94	0.60	1.16	0.85
6.	Gujarat	5.00	4.00	5.00	5.00	5.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7.	Haryana	12.10	20.71	23.40	20.00	20.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3.90	3.65	5.74	5.88	8.12
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	15.90	17.61	26.51	26.12	32.10
10.	Karnataka	7.48	10.31	7.00	7.00	6.90
11.	Kerala	25.50	22.13	24.00	24.00	24.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1.00	0.72	1.00	1.00	1.01
13.	Maharashtra	6.37	0.98	1.16	1.16	0.99
14.	Manipur	6.00	6.84	5.10	5.10	7.00
15.	Meghalaya	2.00	1.50	3.00	2.00	3.00
16.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Nil
17.	Nagaland	0.20	0.20	0.09	0.09	4.50*
18.	Orissa	5.00	18.31	15.00	15.00	12.63
19.	Punjab	70.00	51.05	182.84	184.84	105.39
20.	Rajasthan	7.82	12.34	4.93	4.53	3.55
21.	Sikkim	2.34	1.09	0.50	0.02	0.02
22.	Tamil Nadu	2.03	0.00	0.80	0.80	17.77
23.	Tripura	4.64	4.64	3.21	3.24	5.85
24.	Uttar Pradesh	18.15	14.40	20.00	45.90	23.53
25.	West Bengal	70.23	62.32	145.90	82.22	165.30
26.	A&N Island		—	0.00	0.00	0.00
27.	D & N Haveli		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28.	Chandigarh		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
29.	Delhi	17.96	10.02	24.00	15.81	20.00
30.	Daman & Diu		0.40	0.28	0.28	0.18
31.	Lakshadweep		3.69	2.63	0.00	3.05
32.	Pondicherry		3.83	3.00	3.00	4.00

*Also includes major, medium and minor irrigation and command areas development.

Statement IV

Details of Central Assistance Provided to Assam, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh During Past 3 Years on Works Related to Flood Management

(Rs. in crore)

Assam

1997-1998	18.00
1998-1999	18.00
1999-2000	15.00

Bihar

1997-1998	3.25
1998-1999	3.33
1999-2000	5.18

Uttar Pradesh

1997-1998	Nil
1998-1999	0.44
1999-2000	0.46

Besides this, funds released to bordering North Eastern States and the State of Punjab for undertaking counter protective works in border area @ Rs. 1.5 crore for each of the years during 1997-1998, 1998-99 and 1999-2000.

Statement V

Status of Releases from National Fund for Calamity Relief to States During the last three years

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State Name	1997-98	1998-1999	1999-2000
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4200.00	2650.00	7536.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	1347.00	0.00
3.	Assam	0.00	5990.00	0.00
4.	Bihar	1000.00	1145.00	3818.00
5.	Gujarat	8690.00	5535.00	5458.00
6.	Haryana	0.00	1327.00	0.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	2480.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	7342.00
9.	Karnataka	2200.00	4998.00	1709.00
10.	Kerala	1291.00	0.00	0.00
11.	Madhya Pradesh	6776.00	3500.00	3886.00
12.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	493.00
13.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00
14.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	600.00
15.	Orissa	400.00	0.00	82815.00
16.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Rajasthan	0.00	2198.00	10293.00
18.	Sikkim	700.00	767.00	0.00
19.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Tripura	0.00	505.00	534.00
21.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	13115.00	1668.00
22.	West Bengal	0.00	6633.00	2952.00

Statement VI*Status of Releases from Calamity Relief Fund to States During last three years (Central Share)*

(Rs in lakh)

Sl.No.	State	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	Current Year
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9829	10330	10769	14854
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	557	586	610	439.82
3.	Assam	3958	4160	4337	1566.47
4.	Bihar	4112	4322	4505	—
5.	Goa	85	89	93	33.58
6.	Gujarat	11048	11612	12105	13113.51
7.	Haryana	1983	2084	2173	1568.64
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2133	2242	2337	843.9
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1559	1639	1709	1309
10.	Karnataka	3312	3481	3629	1310.81
11.	Kerala	4385	4608	4804	1734.39
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4042	4249	4429	3197.94
13.	Maharashtra	5398	5673	5914	—
14.	Manipur	196	206	215	156
15.	Meghalaya	221	232	242	175.5
16.	Mizoram	100	105	110	111.5
17.	Nagaland	135	141	147	53.08
18.	Orissa	3879	4077	4250	4105
19.	Punjab	4286	4504	4696	1695.39
20.	Rajasthan	14170	14892	15525	16818.45
21.	Sikkim	373	392	408	294.66
22.	Tamil Nadu	4697	4937	5147	3849
23.	Tripura	356	374	390	140.83
24.	Uttar Pradesh	9902	10407	10850	3918.35
25.	West Bengal	4062	4269	4450	7583.00

[Translation]

Female Foeticides

*151. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of female foeticides take place in the country;

(b) if so, the number of female foeticides cases brought to the notice of the Government during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether such cases have been detected mainly in private and unrecognised hospitals;

(d) if so, the concrete steps being taken by the Government to stop this despicable practice; and

(e) the measures being taken by the Government to remove discrimination between male and female child in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) No separate figures on female foeticide are available. A statement on State/UT wise incidence of foeticide reported during 1997, 1998 and 1999 is enclosed.

(c) and (d) Only a few cases of violation of the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 has been reported from Haryana and Tamil Nadu, which involved private Nursing Homes/Clinics. Government of Haryana has reported in 1998 that two complaints regarding female foeticide were received from Jakhal (Fatehbad) and Mohindergarh. The enquiries were got conducted but the charges could not be substantiated for want of evidence against the violators. In Tamil Nadu, legal action has been taken against one doctor in 1998 in Dharmapuri, who had done the Pre-Natal sex determination of a pregnant mother.

The following steps have been taken by the Government to check the practice of female foeticide:

- (i) With a view to regulate and prevent the misuse of modern prenatal diagnostic techniques, which

often follows detection and selective abortion of female foetus, the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 (PNDT) has been enacted, in the country with effect from 1st January, 1996. Under this Act, pre-natal diagnostic techniques can be conducted and genetic counselling can be offered only by genetic clinics, genetic laboratories and genetic counselling centres registered under the Act. Use of such techniques is allowed only for detecting any of the abnormalities and subject to the fulfilment of one of the conditions specified in the Act. Disclosure of the sex of the foetus is prohibited. Punishments are prescribed for violation of the law.

- (ii) Appropriate Authorities have been constituted in all States, under the Act by the respective State Governments.

- (iii) Advisory Committees to aid and advise the Appropriate Authorities have also been constituted in all States except West Bengal and Bihar. The implementation of the Act rests with the State/UT Government/Administration concerned.

- (iv) A Central Supervisory Board (CSB) has been constituted under the PNDT Act to guide the Government from time to time for effective implementation of the Act.

- (v) Awareness generation programmes about the provisions of the PNDT Act have been undertaken through intensified IEC activities in the States.

- (vi) Government has involved NGOs/Voluntary Organisations for creating awareness about the provisions of the Act, among the Doctors/Nursing Homes/Clinics and general public.

- (vii) Balika Samridhi Yojana to promote survival and care of Girl Child is being implemented under which a cash incentive is awarded at the birth of the girl child of the birth order one or two.

(e) Under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme, NGOs are being involved to take up activities for reducing gender discrimination and bringing about gender equity.

Statement*Incidence of Foeticide during 1997-1999**

Sl.	State/UT	1997	1998	1999
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	9
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	2
3.	Assam	0	0	5
4.	Bihar	5	5	3
5.	Goa	0	0	0
6.	Gujarat	2	0	0
7.	Haryana	0	0	2
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	0	0
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	2	0
10.	Karnataka	1	2	1
11.	Kerala	2	1	0
12.	Madhya Pradesh	20	8	6
13.	Maharashtra	7	4	10
14.	Manipur	0	0	0
15.	Meghalaya	0	0	0
16.	Mizoram	0	0	0
17.	Nagaland	0	0	0
18.	Orissa	1	0	1
19.	Punjab	0	3	4
20.	Rajasthan	2	1	0
21.	Sikkim	0	0	2
22.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0
23.	Tripura	0	0	0
24.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0
25.	West Bengal	0	0	0
26.	A&N Islands	0	0	0
27.	Chandigarh	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
28.	D&N Haveli	0	0	0
29.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0
30.	Delhi	4	0	1
31.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
32.	Pondicherry	0	0	0

*As collected by National Crime Record Bureau.

[English]

World Development Report 2000-2001

*152. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's pace of poverty reduction had slowed down in the past decade particularly in the rural areas despite economic growth as per the World Development Report 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) World Development Report 2000/2001 *Attacking Poverty*, published by the World Bank in September, 2000 has stated that "Recent data from India's National Sample Surveys (NSS) suggest that the pace of poverty reduction slowed in the 1990s, particularly in rural areas. This occurred against a backdrop of strong economic growth (GDP growth of 6.1 per cent a year during 1990-98), according to the national accounts (NAS)". However, while noting factors that may explain the slow down, in another report (Report No. 19471-IN, *India Policies to Reduce Poverty and Accelerate*

Sustainable Development, January 31, 2000) by the World Bank, it has been stated that "the slowing of poverty reduction may be partly a statistical artifact-the National Accounts suggests a faster growth of consumption and cereal availability than the household surveys" (*i.e.* NSS). Further, in the World Development Report 2000-2001 it has also been stated that, "But comparing NSS and NAS data is a complex matter, involving differences in coverage, recall biases in the NSS, price imputations (for example, for home-produced consumption and in-kind wages in the NSS and for non-marketed output in the NAS), and sampling and non-sampling errors in both". In addition, it has been mentioned that, "There is also evidence that part of the observed trend in rural poverty in the earlier part of the 1990s may result from using inadequate price deflators for rural areas" At the end it has been stated that, "It is plausible that the NSS based poverty numbers are under estimating the rate of poverty reduction in India." (Box 1.8 Tracking poverty in India during the 1990s, page-26).

(c) The Planning Commission estimates poverty at national and State level from the large sample surveys on consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The latest estimates of poverty are available for the year 1993-94 based on the National Sample Survey data on consumer expenditure of the 50th Round. The full data from next large survey on consumer expenditure conducted during the period July, 1999 to June, 2000 are not available. As such, the estimate of poverty during the 1990s is available only for year 1993-94. Hence, it is not possible to ascertain the change in poverty during the 1990s. However, comparing two latest estimates, 1987-88 and 1993-94. It is observed that the percentage of people living below the poverty line declined by 1.82 percentage point in rural areas, 5.84 percentage point in urban areas and 2.89 percentage point for the country as a whole.

(d) The strategy for Poverty Alleviation includes acceleration of economic growth with a focus on employment intensive sectors, access to basic minimum services for improving the quality of life of the people, and direct State intervention in the form of targeted anti poverty programmes. Anti-poverty programmes supplement the growth effort and protect the poor from destitution, sharp fluctuations in employment and incomes, and social insecurity. The specifically designed anti poverty programmes for generation of both self employment and wage employment in rural areas have been redesigned and restructured in 1999-2000 in order to enhance their efficacy, impact on the poor and improve their

sustainability. Self and Wage Employment Schemes in the urban areas are also restructured w.e.f. 1.12.1997 under Swarnjayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana. In order to improve the efficacy of the programmes there is greater people's participation in the planning and implementation of the programmes through the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), Self-help and user groups and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

[*Translation*]

Rehabilitation of Small Scale Industries

*153. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount invested in the small scale sector so far and the percentage out of these industries which are sick;

(b) whether the percentage of sick Small Scale Industries has gone up in 1999;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government for rehabilitation of such sick Small Scale Industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The investment in the Small Scale Sector during the year 1999-2000 is estimated at Rs. 82745 crores. The data on sickness in Small Scale Industries (SSIs) is not maintained as registration of SSI is voluntary. However, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) compiles data on sick SSIs including Village and Cottage industries financed by scheduled Commercial banks. As per the RBI, the number of sick SSIs including Village and Cottage industries financed by scheduled Commercial banks. As per the RBI, the number of sick SSIs were 3,06,221 having amount outstanding of Rs. 4313 crores at the end of March, 1999 compared to 2,21,536 SSIs having amount outstanding of Rs. 3857 crores which were sick at the end of March 1998.

(d) The Government is fully seized of the problem of industrial sickness amongst the SSI units and has taken various measures to facilitate timely identification and rehabilitation of potentially viable sick industries, which inter alia, includes institutional mechanism in the form of State Level Inter Institutional Committees, special rehabilitation cells in banks and State financial institutions

and elaborate guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India for extending rehabilitation assistance to eligible units.

[English]

Optimum Utilization of Natural Resources

*154. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the absence of research and advanced technology, natural resources have remained untapped;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to formulate plan to ensure optimum utilization of natural resources for betterment of the country;

(c) whether the Planning Commission is concentrating only on plan formulation of Annual and Five Year Plan and ignoring proper perspective and vision for the years to come and plan accordingly; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to bring desired changes in the approach of Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A large number of agencies eg. Geological Survey of India, Indian Bureau of Mines, Mineral Exploration Corporation of India, Oil & Natural Gas Commission, Indian Oil Corporation, Central Mine Planning and Design Institute, Central Mining Research Institute, Indian School of Mines, Central Fuel Research Institute, National Rock Mechanic Institute, Indian Council of Agriculture Research etc. are actively engaged in locating, exploring and enabling optimum utilization of natural resources of the country. The latest research methods and technologies like remote sensing, geo-magnetism, satellite imaging, etc., are used to reveal natural resources. Keeping in view the resource endowment, plans are drawn to utilize these resources for down stream industries by different sectors and exports; where resource endowment is not large, imports are resorted to in order to ensure optimum life of domestic resources e.g. crude oil, copper etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Before every Five Year Plan, Working Groups are set up in different sectors to come up with perspective plans for development and exploitation of natural resources. During the deliberations of the Working Groups and separately detailed consultations are held with representatives of different Government departments/ministries, State Governments, industry representatives - both public as well as private sector - experts in the field, academicians, economists, scientists, technologists, management experts, consultants, etc. Taking into account the views and opinions of all diverse interests, appropriate plans are drawn up for optimum utilization of natural resources. Towards this end, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is also being encouraged.

Inter-State Water Dispute

*155. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have laid emphasis on the negotiated settlement of Krishna and Godavari river water allocation among the riparian States;

(b) if so, the present position of river water allocation; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to settle the dispute at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) to (c) Godavari and Krishna water disputes relating to sharing of waters of these rivers were referred to the tribunals under the Inter State Water Disputes Act, 1956 in 1969. The tribunals have submitted the final report to Central Government in 1980 and 1976 respectively.

Indo-Japan Agreement

*156. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan has decided to join hands with India on I.T. sector;

(b) if so, whether during the visit of Japanese PM to India the issue was discussed and agreement signed for collaboration in I.T. sector;

(c) if so, the salient features of the agreement and the extent to which it is likely to promote I.T. sector in India;

(d) whether any I.T. Park is being set up in Hyderabad with Japanese help;

(e) if so, the details in this regard;

(f) whether software professionals are being sent to Japan; and

(g) if so, the likely number thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. During the visit of the Japanese Prime Minister in August, 2000, the issue of bilateral cooperation in IT sector was discussed. No agreements were signed between both the Governments in this regard.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) A pre-requisite for software professionals being sent to Japan is a knowledge of the Japanese languages. Since very few Indian IT professionals know even technical Japanese, the numbers at present going to Japan is extremely small, though no precise figures are available with the Government.

[Translation]

Use of Silver in Ayurvedic Formulations

*157. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the use of silver in manufacturing of Ayurvedic formulations is harmful for kidney;

(b) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to put a ban on it; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) Medicines which are prepared in accordance with the formulae prescribed in the authoritative books of Ayurveda are permitted for

manufacture under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940. Use of silver and other metals are permissible ingredients of certain Ayurvedic formulations.

According to the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda & Siddha, no toxicity has been found in Ayurvedic formulations containing silver when they are properly processed according to the prescribed method.

However, the standardization of Ayurvedic formulations containing metals has been taken up for inclusion in the Pharmacopoeia of Ayurvedic medicine. The drug testing laboratories are also in the process of being strengthened to be able to test the formulations being sold in the market.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Wage Ceiling

*158. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to raise the wage ceiling on Employees Pension Scheme from the present level of Rs. 5000 per month to Rs. 6500;

(b) if so, the facts thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) A proposal to enhance the wage ceiling for coverage under the EPF & MP Act, 1952 from Rs. 5,000/- to Rs. 6,500/- per month is under consideration in consultation with the Ministry of Finance. Final decision is yet to be taken in this regard.

Protection of Labour Rights

*159. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of Workers while amending the existing laws to keep pace with the changing environment on the eve of liberalisation;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to protect the workers' right to payment with regard to sick companies;

(c) whether the Government are also considering to make it mandatory to cover the employees under Employees Provident Fund Scheme in all private sector companies irrespective of staff strength; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The Second National Commission on Labour has been set up by the Government *vide* resolution issued on 15.10.1999 which would comprehensively review labour laws to ensure both consistency of labour laws with general changes taking place in the economic policy and also to provide for greater welfare of the working class.

(b) Government is taking all steps within the provisions of the existing Acts to ensure the payment of workers' dues with regard to sick companies.

(c) and (d) There is presently no proposal to remove the condition of employment strength altogether for coverage of establishments/companies under the Employees Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

[Translation]

Sardar Sarover Dam

*160. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to take a decision about raising the height of Narmada Dam following the recent Supreme Court Judgement in the matter;

(b) if so, whether the issue has been considered by the Narmada Control Authority;

(c) the names of the States which will get water for drinking and irrigation purposes from this project alongwith the quantity thereof;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any action plan for the above project;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which the dam is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) to (f) The Supreme Court in its judgement dated 18.10.2000 has inter-alia, directed that construction of the dam will continue as per the award of the Narmada Water Dispute Tribunal. The Hon'ble Court has also permitted construction of the dam upto 90 m. immediately. As per the decision, the construction work on the Narmada Dam has already started.

An action plan to raise the height of the Narmada Dam beyond 90 m, *pari passu* with environment and resettlement and rehabilitation clearance, at each stage of the construction, was considered by the Narmada Control Authority in its 61st Meeting held on 17th November, 2000 and the following time frame has been finalized:

Height of the Dam	Allotment of Land and House to PAFs	Completion of Construction
100 m	December 2001	June 2002
110 m	December 2002	June 2003
121 m	December 2003	June 2004
138 m	December 2004	June 2005

Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal has made allocations of Narmada Waters as under:

Madhya Pradesh	18.25	MAF	(22,511.01 M. Cum.)
Gujarat	9.00	MAF	(11,101.32 M.Cum.)
Rajasthan	0.50	MAF	(616.74 M.Cum.)
Maharashtra	0.25	MAF	(308.37 M.Cum.)
Total	28.00	MAF	(34,537.44 M.Cum.)

Sardar Sarovar Dam will provide irrigation facilities to 17.93 lac ha. of land covering 3360 villages of 62 talukas in 14 districts of Gujarat. It will also irrigate 75,000 ha. of land in the strategic desert districts of Barmer and Jalore in Rajasthan and 37,500 ha. in the tribal hilly tract of Maharashtra through lift. Generally, the canal water serves as a source of drinking water in the settlements in the command area.

Narmada Tribunal has allocated 1.06 MAF of water for domestic and industrial use out of 9 MAF of water allocated from the Sardar Sarovar Dam. It is envisaged to supply water to 8215 villages and 135 towns for domestic and industrial consumption in Saurashtra region located on the west coast, the Kachchh region, which is the arid zone and the North Gujarat region nearing to Rajasthan which is water scarce.

[English]

Clubbing of Ministries

1536. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have appointed a high-power Committee headed by Shri F.S. Nariman to examine clubbing of different Ministries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of recommendations which have been accepted by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (e) No Committee has been appointed to examine clubbing of different Ministries. However, a Group on Telecom and IT Convergence (GOT-IT) was set up in December, 1999 under the chairmanship of the Finance Minister. With a view to tackle the task before it, the Group constituted three Sub-Groups including one under the convenorship of Shri Fali S. Nariman, MP to prepare the draft of a new comprehensive statute to replace the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, keeping in view the rapid convergence of telecom, computers, television and electronics. The Sub-Group, after deliberations, has prepared a draft Communications Bill, 2000 which, inter alia, provides for the establishment of an independent Commission to regulate all forms of Communications and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

DSCFDC Ltd.

1537. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 7998 on May 17, 2000 and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Delhi Scheduled Castes Financial and Development Corporation Limited reviewed the system of defining of income criteria and intimated the applicants on 29.8.2000 that where the applicant is major person and should be treated a separate entity and the income of the parents should not be included in the income of beneficiary and advised the applicants to apply afresh;

(e) if so, the reasons for review and the details of previous system defining of income criteria for the purpose;

(f) the number of applicants deprived of their rights due to faulty system of defining of income in the past five years and the officers responsible for the same;

(g) whether the DSCF & DC propose to consider all the applications received in 1999 for grant of loan to purchase of photo copier/machine instead of asking for fresh applications; and

(h) the time by which the loan is likely to be granted to the affected applicants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) In respect of Unstarred Question No. 7998 on May 17, 2000, an assurance was given, for which the implementation report has been sent on 27th September, 2000. A copy of the Implementation Statement is *enclosed*.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) Delhi Scheduled Castes Financial and Development Corporation Limited has been set up with the main objective of economic development of Scheduled Caste persons living in NCT of Delhi. Guidelines followed by the Corporation is revised from time to time in order

to make the system more effective. So far as income criteria of the beneficiaries is concerned, the Corporation has decided that where the applicant is a major person, he should be treated a separate entity and the income of his/her parents/other family members is not to be included while deciding the income of the applicant.

Prior to this, the Corporation was following a system, under which in case a beneficiary's name is indicated in the ration card alongwith his/her parents, then the beneficiary was considered as a member of the joint family and the income of all earning members clubbed to decide his income.

The income is assessed by the revenue authority, i.e., Sub-Divisional Magistrate concerned, based on which the application is processed in the Corporation.

(g) and (h) In respect of applications received in 1999 for grant of loan, which could not be considered because of taking into account the total income of the family, the applicants have been asked to apply afresh alongwith the documents. Fresh application forms have already been sent to them.

Statement

Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

Date of fulfillment

Question No., Date and Name of the Member	Subject	Promise made	When & how filled	Reasons for delay								
1	2	3	4	5								
Unstarred Question No. 7998 dated 17.5.2000 by Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale.	Delhi Scheduled Caste Financial and Development Corporation. Asking for: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 4998 on April, 26,2000 and state: (a) the number of applications received for grant of loan to purchase of photo-copier machine; (b) the details of each application rejected on the ground of excess income from the prescribed limit as laid down for grant verified by the SDMs in each case; (c) the income assessed by the authority of DSCFDC in each case and the basis of their assessment;	The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.	The requisite information has been obtained from Delhi Scheduled Caste Financial & Development Corporation. The reply in R/o part (a) to (f) of the question is given as under: (a) The number of applications received by DSCFDC for grant of loan to purchase Photo copier Machine during the last three years is given as under: <table> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Application received</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1997-98</td> <td>175</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1998-99</td> <td>103</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1999-2000</td> <td>115</td> </tr> </table> (b) to (e) During 1997-98, the following 3 cases were rejected: 1. Shri Raju S/o Shri Bhano R/o 10/47, Khichri Pur, Delhi. 2. Shri Bhupender Kumar S/o Shri Laxman Sg. R/o New Q.No. 575, Vill. Khera Khurd, Delhi. 3. Shri Sushil Kumar S/o Shri Soni Singh R/o 9-A, S.P. Mukharji Marg, Delhi.	Year	Application received	1997-98	175	1998-99	103	1999-2000	115	It took time because, the requisite information had to be collected from Delhi Scheduled Caste Financial and Development Corporation.
Year	Application received											
1997-98	175											
1998-99	103											
1999-2000	115											

1

2

3

4

5

(d) the number of complaints received by DSCFDC in this regard; and

(e) the action taken thereon so far and proposed to be taken in this regard?

submit any income certificate issued by the SDM.

Shri Bhupendra (S.No. 2), S/o Shri Laxman Singh had submitted an affidavit showing income of Rs. 2000/- per month.

Shri Rajesh Kumar, S/o Shri Mool Chand had submitted income certificate issued by SDM. As per the same, income is reported Rs. 18000/- per annum. The father of applicant is Executive Officer in Parliament and the applicant himself is also working with Member of Parliament Mr. R.K. Malviya and earning about Rs. 2000/- per month. Besides this, the father of the applicant is in possession of three storey house in Paschim Vihar and earning about Rs. 3000/- per month as rent.

The competent authority considered all the above 4 cases and found that the family income from all sources of these applicant exceeded the prescribed limit in the scheme and therefore, all the above mentioned 4 cases were rejected by the Corporation.

Chairperson of DSFDC has reviewed the system of defining income criteria under various schemes of the Corporation and it has been decided that where the applicant is a major person, he/she will be treated as a separate entity and the income of parents should not be included with that of the beneficiary. Accordingly all the above four cases are being reviewed, due to which all of them are being informed separately in this regard to apply afresh in response to the advertisement, published in various Newspapers on 3.7.2000.

Bonded Labour

1538. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has constituted a seven Member Group to prepare a report on the bonded labourer in the country and make suitable recommendations;

(b) if so, the composition of the Group and terms of reference; and

(c) the time by which this Group is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has constituted a 7 member Group for preparation of a report on the present status, improvement of the existing schemes and recommendations to effectively implement the laws on abolition of bonded labour. The composition and the terms of reference are as under:

Composition:

1. Shri S.R. Sankaran, IAS (Retd.)
2. Shri K.R.V. Venugopal, IAS (Retd.), Special Rapporteur, NHRC
3. Shri Chaman Lal, Special Rapporteur, NHRC
4. Shri K.B. Saxena, Principal Adviser, Planning Commission
5. Shri Vivek Pandit
6. Swami Agnivesh, President, Bandhua Mukti Morcha
7. Shri Harsh Mandar, Country Director, Action Aid

Terms of Reference:

1. Identification of bonded labour-prone Districts and industries and occupation employing bonded labourers.
2. Review the existing laws relating to bonded labour in India and their enforcement.
3. Examine the structure of enforcement system of Bonded Labour Laws and suggest improvements.

4. Training on legal aspects and enforcement of bonded labourers for different target groups such as officers of (i) Revenue, Labour and Police Department (ii) Advocates and lawyers who handle bonded labour cases and (iii) Public prosecutors, etc.

5. Seminars and workshops at District and State Levels for bringing together the Government officials and NGOs for a better understanding of their role and responsibilities in the collaborative effort.

6. Study the various Poverty Alleviation Programmes in force with a view to ensuring their optimum utilisation in arranging rehabilitation of the bonded labourers.

7. Analyse and disseminate information relating to judgements/orders of various High Courts and Supreme Court relating to bonded labour laws.

The National Human Rights Commission has asked the Group to submit its report to the Commission within a period of 6 months from the date of its constitution.

Wage Ceiling of Bonus

1539. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the wage ceiling for entitlement of bonus payable to workers in both public sector companies and private corporates has been enhanced;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The Government is seized of the demand for enhancement in the wage eligibility limit and calculation ceiling for workers in establishments in public sector and private sector under the payment of Bonus Act, 1965.

Review of the Working of Corporations

1540. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to review the working of all the six apex corporations set up to improve the economic lot of the disadvantaged groups;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time frame worked out therefor;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government are aware that these corporations have become more dependant on the Government support rather than being self-reliant; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to make these institutions self-reliant so as to enable them to achieve basic aims of their creation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) The working of all Apex Corporations is reviewed in the Ministry on monthly basis. The functioning of the Corporations is thus closely and regularly monitored and corrective steps taken and necessary guidance provided where necessary. As a result steps have been taken to expand the coverage of beneficiaries. Further, the Ministry has also set up this Standing Committee of Apex Corporations which periodically reviews the lending policies of the Corporations with a view to improving the delivery mechanism.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The five Apex Corporations namely, National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC), National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC), National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMFDC), National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) and National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) have been set up under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 as Companies not for profit with the objective of capacity building and to extend soft loans through the State Channelising agencies and NGOs to the needy persons belonging to the categories of Scheduled Castes/Tribes, other backwads classes, inorities and persons with disability to enable them to take up income generating activities. Funds to these corporations are released by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment as equity. Presently these Corporations are able to revolve the funds available with them and meet the requirements of the SCAs.

The sixth Corporations viz. Artificial Limb Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO), which has also been set up under section 25 of the Companies Act 1956 as a Company not for profit, is also a self reliant organization.

Package to NER

1541. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister's package for infrastructural development to the North-East States have considered the rain water and ground water harvesting;

(b) if so, the quantum of rain water being harvested and utilised for different purposes in the States of North-East and Sikkim; and

(c) the quantum of amount allocated for various schemes and project under State Plan and Central Assistance for NER during 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The item relating to rain water and ground water harvesting is not specifically included in the Agenda for Socio-Economic development of North Eastern State and Sikkim as announced by the Prime Minister on 22nd January, 2000 at Shillong. However, this Agenda envisaged provision of Rs. 500 crores every year for Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for North East and Sikkim. Under RIDF, the State Governments may also launch programmes such as Watershed Development, Minor Irrigation, flood control measures etc. These programmes mainly aim at rain and ground water management.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The sectoral distribution of outlays for the Annual Plan 2000-2001 in respect of all North Eastern States and Sikkim has not been finalised.

Development of NER

1542. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken for securing accelerated development under the package of the North-Eastern States;

(b) the Central funds released so far and demand made by each State in the North-Eastern Region, under the said package; and

(c) the progress made in respect of different areas of implementation of the package so far, indicating the targets contemplating under the plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) Efforts have been made in the past few years for boosting the development in the North East. The announcements of the Prime Ministers in this regard are steps in this direction. All the Union Ministries and Departments, unless otherwise

specifically exempted, are required to spend atleast 10% of their Budget for specific programmes in the North East (and Sikkim). Shortfall(s) in meeting this target is to be pooled in a Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources. The Central Pool became operational from the financial year 1998-99. Till date, an amount of Rs. 732.40 crores has been recommended for release from the Pool for developmental programmes/projects/schemes in the North Eastern Region (and Sikkim).

On 21st and 22nd January, 2000, Prime Minister had a Conference with Governors and Chief Ministers of North Eastern States and Sikkim to discuss economic development and security related issues. On 22nd January, 2000, in concluding remarks, Prime Minister announced an Agenda for Socio-Economic Development of North Eastern States and Sikkim. Items covered under this Agenda are to be implemented on priority and they are at present at different stages of implementation. Details are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Progress statement (as on 20.11.2000) in respect of items covered under Agenda for Socio Economic Development of North Eastern States and Sikkim announced by Prime Minister on 22nd January, 2000 at Shillong.

S.N.	Item	Amount/ Source of Funding	Status
1	2	3	4
1.	Provision of Rs. 500 crore for Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for North East and Sikkim.	NABARD-Rs. 500 crore per annum.	Targets have been fixed for sanction and disbursement of funds under RIDF for all the States in 2000-2001. Schemes for Rs. 689.26 crore were sanctioned till 30-09-2000 and amount disbursed was Rs. 192.27 crore.
2.	Provision of banking facilities at all border trading points within one year.	-Nil-	35 bank branches are functioning at 27 Border Trading points. 10 Border Trading points have no Banking Facilities. Out of these 10 centres, SBI and other banks have branches at 4 centres. Other centres are not considered viable for opening of new branches. The United Bank of India (UBI), the Convernor Bank for State Level Banker's Committee (SLBC) for Manipur and Tripura have reported that no place other than Moreh (Manipur) where UBI is already having a branch, is suitable for opening new

1	2	3	4
			<p>branch. A Sub-Committee consisting of major banks functioning in Tripura have, after a thorough study of the existing branch network in the State, opened that the existing network of bank branches in the border areas of Tripura is adequate, and the scope for identification of new centres for opening of bank branches is not considered a viable proposition in the current economic and law & order situation in Tripura. With regard to Assam & Meghalaya, SBI's Regional Office in Assam is convening another meeting of SLBC shortly to decide whether any other bank would be interested to open its branches at the centres where SBI do not have their branches.</p>
3.	Disbursing of at least Rs. 50 crore per annum by North East Development Finance Corporation (NEDFI).	Rs. 50 crore per annum from NEDFI	<p>During the financial year ending 31.3.2000, assistance sanctioned is Rs. 35.03 crore and disbursements were Rs. 14.62 crore. The Board of Directors of NEDFI have approved the business plan for a target of Rs. 85 crore for sanction for the year 2000-2001. During the current financial year (2000-2001), total disbursement upto 30.09.2000 was Rs. 8.48 crore.</p>
4.	Setting of an Export Development Fund (EDF) with an initial cost of Rs. 5 crore and work out the modalities for operation.	Rs. 5 crore under Central Plan	<p>Rs. 5 crore from the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources have been released as initial corpus of Export Development Scheme.</p>
5.	Development of four border township of Moreh (Manipur), Sokhawther (Mizoram), Dawki (Meghalaya) and Suterkhandi (Assam) in two years at a cost of Rs. 20 crore.	Rs. 20 crore under Central Plan (in two years)	<p>Action Plan has been prepared to develop four border towns (Moreh in Manipur, Sokhawther in Mizoram, Dawki in Meghalaya and Suterkhandi in Assam) in a period of two years at a total cost of Rs. 36.32 crore.</p>
6.	Setting up of an Empowered Committee to Process of the recommendations of Inter-Ministerial Task Force on border trade.	-Nil-	<p>An Empowered Committee under the Chairmanship of Commerce Secretary, has been constituted on 28.3.2000 to examine and process the recommendations of the Task Force. The first Meeting of the Committee was held on 14.6.2000, the second meeting was held on 7.7.2000 and the third meeting took place in Guwahati on 25.9.2000 where Chief Secretaries of NE States were also invited.</p>

1	2	3	4
7.	Upgradation of North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences in Shillong at a cost of Rs. 422.60 crore.	Rs. 422.60 crore. (Central Plan)	<p>Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) has prepared an action plan to sanction and implement various stages of the establishment of North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS). MoHFW have set apart Rs. 130 crore (10% of its annual plan 2000-2001 outlay) for North East and Sikkim. Rs. 15 crore have been earmarked for the NEIGRIHMS. Director, NEIGRIHMS, had signed an agreement with M/s. Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation (India) Ltd. on 6.2.2000 for designing, engineering and project management and also made an initial payment of Rs. 5 crore to the Corporation on 14.3.2000. The MoHFW had also released Rs. 3.50 crore to the Corporation towards initial deposit. The EFC Memo prepared by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare was approved on 13.10.2000. Government of Meghalaya has recommended the proposal to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Ministry of Environment and Forests (NEZ), Regional Office, Shillong for according permission for felling of trees at Maw-Diang-Diang. The matter was discussed in office of Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF), NEZ Regional Office, Shillong. M/HUFW have now intimated that clearance of the M/Forest & Environment has been conveyed to the CCF, NE Zone, 18 hectares of land were identified for compensatory plantation. The Institute has since paid the cost of afforestation on 7.11.2000 to the State Forest Department. Minister of Health & Family Welfare had earlier laid commemorative stone for the initiation of the construction of buildings of NEIGRIHMS at Mandiangdiang, Shillong on 8.8.2000.</p>
8.	Setting up of a Central University in Mizoram. Passing of a Bill by Lok Sabha and development of infrastructure at a cost of Rs. 25 crore for the University.	Rs. 25 crore (Central Plan)	<p>The Bill for establishment of University of Mizoram has been passed by the Parliament and assented to by the President on 25.4.2000. 978 acres of land has been identified, courses to be started have been identified.</p>

1	2	3	4
9.	Doubling of number of Industrial Training Institutes and the trainees for imparting training in new trades in the next 3 years with an outlay of Rs. 100 crore.	Rs. 101.39 crore (Central Plan)	Ministry of Labour has prepared action plan to increase capacity of ITIs and open new ITIs in the NE region.
10.	Expansion of the list of items of expenditure incurred by Police eligible for reimbursement, which would include 50% of POL costs, village guards, village defence Committees, and home guards.	—	The Cabinet Committee on Security has approved the proposal on 3.11.2000 to expand the list of items of expenditure incurred by Police eligible for reimbursement, which would include 50% of the POL costs, village guards, village defence Committees, and home guards.
11.	Modernisation of Police Force Scheme and its extension to Sikkim and additional reimbursement of Rs. 40 crore per annum for purchase of equipment for police modernisation.	Rs. 40 crore (Central Non-Plan)	The proposal to extend the Modernisation of Police Force Scheme to Sikkim has been approved.
12.	Sanction of three India Reserve Battalion (IRB) for Tripura, Mizoram and Manipur (estimated expenditure for 3 IRBs for three years will be Rs. 45 crore.	Rs. 45 crore	Three India Reserve Battallions for Tripura (on 7.4.2000), Manipur (on 24.6.2000), and Mizoram (on 24.6.2000) has been approved by Government of India.
13.	(a) Peace Bonus of Rs. 180 crore for Mizoram to tide over its financial problems. (b) Provision of an outlay of Rs. 50 crore every year from Non-lapsable Pool of Resources for five years for specific infrastructure development projects of Mizoram.	Rs. 230 crore (Central Non-Plan + Plan)	Assistance (Peace Bonus) of Rs. 182.45 crore has been sanctioned, and given as grant to Mizoram (as against Rs. 180 crore for Mizoram announced by the Prime Minister). On the request of the State Government, Planning Commission sanctioned various projects in Mizoram and released an amount of Rs. 62.15 crore during 1999-2000 from the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources.
14.	Fencing of remaining portion of Indo-Bangladesh Border, and construction of roads with a total outlay of Rs. 1,335 crore and work to start in April, 2000.	Rs. 1,335 crore (Central Non-Plan)	On 23.5.2000, Government has approved the fencing of remaining portion of Indo-Bangladesh border and construction of roads at a cost of Rs. 1335 crore.
15.	Streamlining of procedure for selection of projects under Central	Rs. 500 crore (Central Plan).	In order to streamline the procedure for accruals to the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources, a budget "Head" has been opened in the Demand for Grants of most

1	2	3	4
	Non-lapsable Pool of Resources for North east and sanction of projects worth Rs. 500 crore and to build up infrastructure and take up economic development projects.		of the Ministries/Departments. This will facilitate in identifying the expenditure incurred by the respective Ministries/Departments for projects/schemes/programmes in the North East and Sikkim.
16.	Implementation of Loktak Downstream Hydro Power Project (90 MW) in Manipur at a cost of Rs. 578 crore.	Rs. 578 crore (Central Plan + FI's)	Loktak Down Stream Hydro Power Project (90 MW) in Manipur costing Rs. 578 crore has been sanctioned.
17.	Implementation of Teesta V Hydro Power Project (510 MW) Power project in Sikkim at a cost of Rs. 2, 198.04 crore.	Rs. 2,198.04 crore (Central Plan + FI's)	In January, 2000 Teesta V stage Hydro Power Projects (510 MW) in Sikkim costing Rs. 2198.04 crore has been sanctioned.
18.	Initiation of action to ensure that work on Subansiri Lower Side (600 MW) Power project in Arunachal Pradesh commences by December, 2001. (Project cost is around Rs. 3,000 crore).	Rs. 3000 crore (Central Plan).	Subansiri Lower Side (600 MW), Rs. 3000 crore project site transferred to NHPC. Investigation of project started.
19.	Preparation and implementation of a scheme for rural electrification of 500 tribal villages in North east at a cost of around Rs. 30 crore.	Rs. 30 crore (Central Plan).	Cabinet approved a scheme on 23.3.2000 to electrify tribal villages and Harijan Basties at a concessional loan at interest rate of 7.5% per annum. Initially 165 tribal villages have been selected in NE States. Ministry of Finance has been requested to release an amount of Rs. 12.53 crore from the Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources for 159 tribal villages in the North East (excluding 6 tribal villages in Arunachal Pradesh which are proposed to be covered by decentralised non-conventional energy sources.
20.	Additional assistance for implementation of on-going critical, sub-critical transmission system at a cost of Rs. 239.92 crore.	Rs. 239.92 crore (Central Plan).	To strengthen the transmission and sub-transmission systems in North East, Ministry of Power has identified critical transmission lines and sub-stations, in consultation with the States in North East and Central Electricity Authority. The estimated cost of these schemes is Rs. 239.92 crore. In a Meeting of the Committee (constituted to administer the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources) held on 5.9.2000. It was agreed to recommend the on going schemes in respect of sub-transmission and

1	2	3	4
			distribution works in the North East and Sikkim. Ministry of Finance have been requested to release an amount of Rs. 52 crore from the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources for these works.
21.	<p>Civil Aviation:</p> <p>(a) Provision of Aviation Turbine Fuel to small aircrafts at international prices.</p> <p>(b) Treatment of Aviation Turbine Fuel for small aircrafts as declared good so as to reduce the level of sales tax of 4%.</p> <p>(c) No IATT for routes operated in the North Eastern States.</p>	(Central Sector)	<p>The Cabinet approved the proposal in January, 2000. A mechanism has been worked out for providing ATF at International price after mutual consultations between Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Civil Aviation. In pursuance of the decision taken in the Meeting of Committee of Secretaries on 19.4.2000, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation took a Meeting on 27.4.2000, with the State Governments, to obtain their consent to the proposal for declaring ATF for turb-pro operation as "Declared Good" under the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956. All routes within the NE States have been exempted from IATT with effect from 2.5.2000.</p>
22.	Sanction of 8 road/bridge projects under NEC with the total outlay of Rs. 258.24 crore.	Rs. 258.24 crore (Central/Regional Plan) + Rs. 117.24 crore has been sanctioned for three more roads.	On 10-2-2000, eight road/bridge projects have been sanctioned under NEC plan with an outlay of Rs. 258.24 crore. Three more road projects costing Rs. 117.24 crore have been sanctioned.
23.	Provision of at least Rs. 100 crore for development of 12 new National Highways/extension of existing highways covering a total length of 1,962 km.	Rs. 100 crore (Central Plan).	For upgradation of 12 new National Highways/extension of existing highways covering a total length of 1,962 Kms in the North East, Rs. 54 crore is expected to be spent by 31.3.2001.
24.	Programmes to establish computer information centre in all the 446 blocks in the seven North Eastern States and 40 blocks in Sikkim and completion of project in the next two years at a minimum cost of Rs. 100 crore.	Rs. 220 crore (Central Plan)	So far, 26 blocks have been provided Computer Information Centres in the North East. Project Report costing Rs. 220 crore to connect all remaining 461 blocks has been prepared. It is expected that all blocks will be covered in two years under two phases.
25.	Extension the excise concession under the new industrial policy to the Numaligarh Refinery in Assam.	Rs. 200 crore (Central Non-Plan)	On 9.2.2000, the Ministry of Finance Department of Revenue has issued notification extending full excise benefit to goods cleared from Numaligarh Refinery which will give annual benefits of Rs. 200 crore to the Refinery.

1	2	3	4
26.	To reform the Brahmaputra Board and to make its functioning more effective and implementation of flood management schemes.	—Nil—	<p>All vacant posts of Brahmaputra Board is expected to be filled up by December, 2000. Board is taking action on the following:—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Preparation of Master Plan. (b) Investigation and preparation of DPR of identified drainage schemes (c) Investigation and preparation of DPR for multi-purpose Dam Project. (d) Execution of drainage schemes (e) Implementation of Pagladiya Project (Rs. 548 crore). <p>PIB clearance for Pagladiya Dam Project has been obtained subject to certain conditions.</p>
27.	Sanction of Technology Mission for Horticulture in the current financial year with a total outlay of Rs. 262.50 crore over the next 3 years.	Rs. 262.50 crore (Central Plan)	<p>Ministry of Agriculture has prepared a project on Technology Mission on Horticulture for North East at a cost of Rs. 262.50 crore. Planning Commission as decided to treat the scheme as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for which full Planning Commission's approval would be required.</p>
28.	Sanction of special programmes for development of infrastructure and other facilities in the Bodo Autonomous Council (BAC) Areas with a total outlay of Rs. 30 crore per annum for three years.	Rs. 30 crore (Central Plan).	<p>A number of proposals (projects/schemes) have been received from Bodo Autonomous Council (BAC) as well as from the Government of Assam for support from the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources. DPRs received from the BAC/Govt. of Assam were taken up for deliberation in the Meeting of the Committee (Constituted to administer the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources) on 5.09.2000. Further follow-up action has since been initiated.</p>

Additional Agenda Items relating to Ministry of Science & Technology:

During the year 1999-2000, a support of Rs. 105 lakh has been extended for manpower for core secretariat and modern office-cum-communication equipment, in order to strengthen S&T council secretaries in NE States. 6 Rural Technology Parks have been approved in 2/2000 in NE States (Tripura-2, Meghalaya-3 and Assam-1). For setting up of Micro-Hydel demonstration plants, one plant each in Manipur, Nagaland and Sikkim has been sanctioned. For upgradation of the Institute of Advanced Study in Science & Technology (IASST) in Guwahati, out of total grant of Rs. 9.55 crore for infrastructure like buildings, laboratories, manpower, equipment, etc. so far, Rs. 3.20 crore has been released.

Agro and Rural Industries Development Scheme

1543. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the agro and rural industries development schemes under implementation in the Union Territory of Daman and Diu;

(b) the increase in production and employment registered in these industries as a result thereof; and

(c) the details of the funds released by the Union Government for this purpose during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) under which the assistance is provided by the KVIC to set up Khadi or industrial units in rural areas is being implemented throughout the country including Union Territory of Daman and Diu. No such agro and rural industry has yet been set up in the Union Territory of Daman & Diu under the REGP.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Bringing Back Mortal Remains

1544. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the arrangements made by the Ministry to bring the mortal remains of Indians dying abroad; and

(b) the number of cases during 2000-2001 in which the last rites of such persons were performed abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) In the event of death of an Indian national, our Missions abroad render the necessary consular assistance including issuance of death certificate and no objection certificate for transportation of the mortal remains to India. They also inform the next of kin in India and liaise with the

local authorities for facilitating the transportation of the mortal remains to India or local burial/cremation.

(b) As per available information, last rites of 193 such persons were performed abroad during the current year till 23.11.2000.

[*English*]

Ban on Indian Labour

1545. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have imposed ban on Indian Workers for going to Kuwait;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which this ban is likely to be lifted; and

(d) the terms and conditions of the MoU signed between Government of India and Government of Kuwait?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) The ban on deployment of housemaids and male domestics in Kuwait was imposed by the Government in view of the complaints relating to harassment, non-payment/delayed payment of wages etc. The ban on deployment of male domestics has since been lifted. The question of lifting the ban or otherwise on deployment of housemaids in Kuwait can be considered only after Government is assured that such deployment would be as per the terms and conditions of employment. No MoU has been signed between the Government of India and Government of Kuwait in the matter.

Visit of Foreign Dignitaries

1546. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foreign dignitaries who visited India during the current year; and

(b) the agreements signed with each of them during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]***Funds for Bihar**

1547. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of funds sanctioned for Bihar during 1999-2000 and the amount released during the current financial year;

(b) whether there is any disparity in the funds sanctioned and released;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the preventive steps being taken to check the recurrence of financial crisis during the next year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) The Central assistance allocated to Bihar (before the separation of Jharkhand) during 1999-2000 is Rs. 2390.27 crore and for year 2000-01, Rs. 2161.75 crores respectively. The funds released by Ministry of Finance during the year 1999-2000 is Rs. 2216.82 crore and during 2000-2001 so far is Rs. 1165.63 crores. Central Assistance as allocated to States is available for release during year. However, since funds released under Head like AIBP, EAP are based on utilisation/submission of reimbursement claim by the State Government and in some schemes, on the provision of counterpart funds by the State, Central Assistance allocated to the State may not be fully absorbed by the State.

(d) States are autonomous under the Constitution and are expected to take measures for improving their financial condition. Since the financial management of the State is primarily the responsibility of the State Government, it is for the State Government to initiate remedial action.

*[English]***Computers to Panchayat**

1548. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to supply computers at subsidised rates to all Panchayats in the country;

(b) if so, whether any scheme has been worked out to bring down the costs of computers;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by which such a scheme for supplying subsidised computers will come into force;

(e) whether Government has undertaken a pilot project in Maharashtra in this matter; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) No such proposal is under consideration.

(b) and (c) Government has no specific scheme to reduce the cost of computers. The prices of personal computer have however been falling due to factors relating to technology, fiscal benefits and competition.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Gas Based Industries

1549. SHRI BHUPENDRA SINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are several gas based industries in the Northern Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether these industries are not getting adequate gas for running them smoothly;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS

WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some units in this region are facing shortage of gas.

(c) and (d) The current availability of natural gas from the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) fields is less than the allocation made to consumers in North Gujarat. ONGC under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has taken various steps to augment the production of gas by way of development of the existing and new fields and containing the flaring of gas.

Revamping Functioning of ICCR

1550. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the performance of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations pertaining to the last three years in terms of ongoing projects and targets set and achieved has been recently reviewed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the problems being faced by ICCR's regional offices and the steps taken/proposed to be taken to tide over the same; and

(d) the details of steps proposed to be taken to make the functioning of ICCR more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) ICCR's activities are constantly reviewed by its Statutory Bodies, Expert Committees, the Ministry of External Affairs and Heads of Missions abroad for more effective functioning. Besides the work of the ICCR is also regularly reviewed by the Standing Committee of Parliament on External Affairs.

(c) ICCR's Regional Offices are functioning normally with no major problems.

(d) All recommendations to make the functioning of ICCR more Effectively made by its Governing Body and General Assembly, as well as the Standing Committee of Parliament on External Affairs, are being implemented.

Increase in EPF

1551. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to increase the percentage of contributions to provident fund deposited by employees in industrial establishments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) Minimum rate of PF contribution under the EPF Scheme was enhanced from 8.33% to 10% and the maximum from 10% to 12% w.e.f. 22.9.1997. As these rates of PF are considered adequate, at present there is no proposal to increase the rate of EPF payable under the scheme.

[*Translation*]

Amenities to Indoor Patients in Safdarjung Hospital

1552. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:

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

(a) whether basic amenities are not available for the indoor patients in Safdarjung Hospital and other Government Hospitals, New Delhi;

(b) whether the general cleanliness in the new OPD is far from worst and the floors are dusty and uncleaned;

(c) whether there are no proper facilities for drinking water, benches and fans in the old OPDs and long queues can be seen at the registration counters and in front of the rooms, cabins of the doctors;

(d) whether there are no proper arrangements for the availability of medicines to the patients in the Safdarjung Hospital as the only counter of Super Bazar is devoid of medicines;

(e) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(f) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(g) the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (g) Basic amenities like toilets, drinking water, telephone booths are available for the indoor-patients in the Central Government. NDMC and MCD Hospitals.

The new OPD premises of Safdarjung Hospital including the floors are clean. The cleanliness of the hospital premises is given top priority and regular rounds are also undertaken by the appropriate earmarked officers. Similarly cleanliness is maintained in other Central Government NDMC, MCD Hospitals.

Facilities for drinking water, benches and fans are available in the old OPDs of Safdarjung Hospital and in other Central Government, NDMC, MCD Hospitals.

Medicines as per the hospital formulary are generally provided to the patients in Safdarjung Hospital.

Information in respect of Hospital under Government of NCT of Delhi is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Nuclear Threat by Pak

1553. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the military ruler of Pakistan has threatened to use nuclear weapons against India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the way the Government propose to counter the threat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) In an interview last month the "Chief Executive" of the current military regime General Pervez Musharraf said that Pakistan could use its nuclear weapons against India if its security is jeopardised.

(c) In our interaction with other countries, Government continues to highlight Pakistan's lack of restraint on nuclear issues, which was also reflected in certain irresponsible statements made by Pakistan during the Kargil conflict. This is in contrast with India's stand of commitment to 'no-first-use' and 'minimum deterrence'.

Government remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to effectively safeguard India's security and national interest in accordance with its own assessment of threats to our security.

Amendment in Passport Act

1554. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government contemplate to amend the Indian Passport Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the amended Act is likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Keeping in view the prevailing security environment a need has been felt to amend the Passport Act, 1967 to safeguard our national interests.

(c) It is not possible to give a definitive time-frame as the matter is under detailed examination of the Government.

[English]

Additional Pension

1555. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Government pensioners as on date;

(b) the reasons for not granting one percent additional pension for every year of service after 33 years to pensioners as recommended by the Fifth Pay Commission;

(c) the reasons for not setting up of a pension fund; and

(d) the time by which this fund is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS

WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) There is an estimated number of about 38 lakh Central Government Pensioners belonging to Defence services, Railways, P&T and other Central Government Departments.

(b) In view of the administrative, financial and legal difficulties, the Government has not accepted the recommendation relating to grant of additional pension for additional service beyond 33 years.

(c) and (d) The Fifth Pay Commission has recommended that a National Pension Fund may be created with the Government setting apart 17.73% of the salary of every new entrant in service from the year 1997-98 so that their pension liability is wholly met out of the proposed Pension Fund. No final decision has yet been taken in this regard.

Consultant Arthur Andersen

1556. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Consultant-Arthur Andersen, was hired by the Government for restructuring the Khadi and Village Industries Commission;

(b) if so, whether any report has been submitted to Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Report submitted by the Consultant is under consideration of the Government.

Integrated Infrastructure Development Works

1557. SHRI ARUN KUMAR:
SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of integrated infrastructure development works for small scale industries in rural and backward districts of Bihar so far; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to improve their condition further?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The integrated infrastructural development centres for small scale industries under the Integrated Infrastructural Development (IID) Scheme of the Central Government are sanctioned on the basis of the proposals received from State Governments/Union Territories. No proposal has so far been received from the State of Bihar for setting up an IID Centre.

[*Translation*]

Integrated Industrial Development Scheme

1558. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some areas of Madhya Pradesh have been included under the Integrated Industrial Development Scheme of Centre under which development of small industrial sector is done through instructions of Government and loan from SIDBI;

(b) if so, the details of such schemes;

(c) whether SIDBI denied the loan for the scheme for development of Mandol Industrial Area in Sivani district even after approval from the Government;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the manner in which the schemes are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Integrated Infrastructural Development (IID) Scheme was launched in 1994 to provide basic infrastructural facilities in the rural/backward areas. Under the scheme a Central Grant up to Rs. 2.00 crore and a loan from the Small Industries Development Bank of India, (SIDBI) up to Rs. 3.00 crore is available for each Centre. The State Governments are required to select an appropriate site, firm up the proposals, get these appraised from SIDBI for techno-economic viability and also appoint an Implementing Agency. SIDBI is authorised to release a central grant matching with the term loan. The Implementing Agency may obtain advance towards Central Grant by depositing, in a bank exclusively in the name of the project matching share from its own resources or the central grant is released on reimbursement basis against the expenditure incurred by it. Four IID Centres have been sanctioned in the State of Madhya Pradesh one at Nadantola in District Satna, second at Bandol in District Seoni, third at Jaggakhedi in District Mandsaur and fourth at Village Nimrani in District Khargone. A Central Grant of Rs. 89.00 lakhs has already been released for an IID Centre at Nadantola, District Satna. For projects which have been recently sanctioned at Jaggakhedi in District Mandsaur and Nimrani in District Khargone, the State Government of Madhya Pradesh has abandoned the project sanctioned for Bandol in District Seoni.

(c) to (e) Under the Scheme, the State Government is required to appoint an Implementing Agency which has a good track record and sound financial position. The financial position of Madhya Pradesh Audyogik Kendra Vikas Nigam, Jabalpur, the proposed Implementing Agency in respect of IID Centre at Bandol was not found satisfactory. The agency is in default to the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) and has accumulated losses. SIDBI is hence not willing to sanction a loan. The State Government was given the option to invest its own funds in lieu of SIDBI loan or to change the Implementing Agency. The State Government has expressed its inability to invest its own funds and intimated that they have abandoned implementation of the IID Centre at Bandol, District Seoni.

[English]

Water Resource Policy

1559. SHRI ANADI SAHU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Orissa has formed its Water Resource Policy on the line of National Water Policy;

(b) if so, whether the State Government of Orissa and the Union Government have drawn up a Master Plan, as a part of the National Water Policy, for control and management of the flood prone rivers viz. Mahanadi, Bramhani, Baitarani and Rusikulya in Orissa; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government for effective implementation of the plan and funds allocated for the purpose during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI (BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Orissa has drawn up a State Water Policy on the line of National Water Policy, 1987.

(b) Government of Orissa has prepared Delta Development Plan of Mahanadi Delta Command Area in October 1989 which also includes Drainage Development Plan of Mahanadi Delta Area. The Plan inter-alia envisages raising & strengthening of embankments, river training works; construction and improvement of link, secondary and outfall drains; tidal/flood regulation facilities and embanking of drains where necessary.

However, State Government has not submitted any Master Plan to Ministry of Water Resources in respect of Bramhani, Baitarani and Rusikulya.

(c) Water resources development and flood management schemes are investigated, planned and executed by the State Governments as per their priority and availability of funds.

Repatriation of Myanmarese Nationals

1560. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 58 Myanmarese prisoners booked under Foreigners Act and later acquitted by Indian Courts in September, 1999 have been denied entry into Myanmar by the authorities over there;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have contacted Myanmar Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) The Union Government has been informed by the State Government of West Bengal of the 58 persons reported to be Myanmar nationals who have completed their sentence in jail in West Bengal. The matter of their repatriation has been taken up with Myanmar Government through their Embassy in New Delhi.

Formation of Maha-Sangh

1561. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand for the formation of a Maha-Sangh comprising of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Basic Minimum Services

1562. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Basic Minimum Services (BMS) programme;

(b) the details of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) under the BMS Programme;

(c) the funds allocated to the States, particularly Gujarat under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the last two years;

(d) the funds released and utilized by each State under CSS for Family Welfare during the above period, particularly Gujarat; and

(e) the funds released and spend by Gujarat under the CSS of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) during 1998-99 and 1999-2000, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Basic Minimums Services (BMS), Programme was launched in pursuance of the recommendations of the Chief Ministers Conference held in July, 1996. The broad objective of the programme was to ensure that people have access to basic services in order to improve their quality of life.

The seven Basic Services identified for priority attention were:

- (a) 100 per cent coverage of provision of safe drinking water in rural and urban areas.
- (b) 100 per cent coverage of primary health service facilities in rural and urban areas.
- (c) Universalisation of primary education.
- (d) Provision of Public Housing Assistance to all shelterless poor families.
- (e) Supplementary Nutrition via Extension of Mid-Day Meal Programme in primary schools to all rural blocks and urban slums and disadvantaged sections and supplementary nutrition programme implemented as part of ICDS.
- (f) Provision of connectivity to all unconnected villages and habitations.
- (g) Streamlining of the Public Distribution System with a focus on the poor.

(b) The BMS programme has been discontinued from the year 2000-2001. In its place, Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) has been launched from the current year. The PMGY envisages additional Central assistance for selected services. These are education, health, shelter, drinking water and nutrition. In addition rural roads have been given priority under the scheme for which a separate provision of Rs. 2500 crores has been made in the current year.

(c) Many Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being operated by the Government of India to provide services to the people which were covered under BMS. In addition States implement schemes in the State sector as well. CSSs which address the issues for which the BMS programme was designed are listed below:

Safe Drinking Water Supply	Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP)
Primary Education:	Operation Blackboard, Teacher Education District Primary Education Programme, Non Formal Education and Mid-day Meal
Health	Different Schemes for family welfare and health
Housing	Indira Awas Yojana for Rural Housing
Nutrition	Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme

(d) Allocations/releases under Centrally Sponsored Schemes mentioned in part (b) of the reply during last two years to the State of Gujarat are as under:

Central Allocation/Release

(Rs. crores)		
Name of the Scheme	1998-98	1999-2000
Primary Education	122.63	112.06
Health & Family Welfare	142.13	201.43
Housing (IAY)	39.38	51.64
Nutrition (ICDS)	47.88	53.70
Water Supply	64.66	67.63

The Central allocation/releases to Government of Gujarat and expenditure under the Schemes of Family Welfare and Health Programmes (for control of AIDS, eradication of Malaria, Leprosy, tuberculosis and blindness for the last two years is as under:

	1998-1999		1999-2000	
	Allocation/ Releases	Expenditure	Allocation/ Releases	Expenditure
Family Welfare	126.11	110.16	172.13	111.30
Health	16.02	14.09	29.30	16.39
Total	142.13	124.25	201.43	127.69

(e) The State-wise allocation, release and expenditure under CSS of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) during 1998-99 & 1999-2000 is given in statement I & II.

Statement I

Allocation, Release and Expenditure Under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) during 1998-1999

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	ARWSP (including DDP)		
		Allocation	Release	Expend.
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10131.61	10033.44	10086.96
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3623.00	2163.82	1408.12

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	6120.00	6417.00	3222.87
4.	Bihar	11768.50	0.00	850.24
5.	Goa	283.75	0.00	14.83
6.	Gujarat	6260.51	7151.35	7015.84
7.	Haryana	3643.34	3477.47	3248.56
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2008.15	2939.59	2010.81
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	5567.40	4659.41	2735.37
10.	Karnataka	10134.98	10549.42	9472.45
11.	Kerala	4673.49	4673.49	3158.62
12.	Madhya Pradesh	11063.07	11061.14	10488.04
13.	Maharashtra	13301.46	16384.68	41891.94
14.	Manipur	1330.00	666.74	357.07
15.	Meghalaya	1425.00	1709.00	1157.05
16.	Mizoram	1018.00	1017.66	1200.40
17.	Nagaland	1058.00	796.90	755.34
18.	Orissa	5236.47	4793.75	4352.52
19.	Punjab	1668.62	2205.28	1102.62
20.	Rajasthan	15519.38	16506.47	14419.55
21.	Sikkim	434.00	1401.12	725.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	7922.54	10527.51	13151.14
23.	Tripura	1262.00	2128.95	2128.95
24.	Uttar Pradesh	18537.93	16297.06	18605.18
25.	West Bengal	7169.63	6426.91	5852.13
26.	A&N Islands	12.50	0.00	0.00
27.	D&N Haveli	12.50	0.00	0.00
28.	Daman & Diu	12.50	0.00	0.00
29.	Delhi	5.00	0.00	0.00
30.	Lakshadweep	12.50	0.00	0.00
31.	Pondicherry	5.00	0.00	1.79
Total		151220.83	143988.16	159413.39

*Allocation, Release and Expenditure Under Accelerated Rural Water Supply
Programme (ARWSP) During 1999-2000.*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	ARWSP (including DDP)		
		Allocation	Release	Expend.
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9283.51	12534.37	12576.45
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2476.00	1980.80	2979.46
3.	Assam	4180.00	2090.00	5564.58
4.	Bihar	9380.00	4690.00	869.99
5.	Goa	352.92	0.00	490.36
6.	Gujarat	6428.52	7842.20	19936.65
7.	Haryana	3334.34	3857.67	3813.44
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2316.85	3107.95	4127.36
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	6434.26	3190.72	2337.25
10.	Karnataka	9359.83	11409.40	10272.65
11.	Kerala	4307.88	3446.30	4227.56
12.	Madhya Pradesh	9444.68	12330.44	12338.77
13.	Maharashtra	13614.41	17302.37	18846.54
14.	Manipur	907.00	0.00	88.89
15.	Meghalaya	974.00	779.20	1045.76
16.	Mizoram	696.00	696.00	548.82
17.	Nagaland	724.00	579.20	765.08
18.	Orissa	4847.93	4847.93	3407.73
19.	Punjab	1720.64	2320.64	1245.98
20.	Rajasthan	17241.06	15654.37	11881.50
21.	Sikkim	460.83	1045.59	418.94
22.	Tamil Nadu	6534.66	8958.28	18095.73
23.	Tripura	862.00	1662.00	1662.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	14775.00	14825.12	16084.02
25.	West Bengal	7008.15	5606.45	7337.74
26.	A&N Islands	12.50	0.00	0.00
27.	D&N Haveli	12.50	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
28.	Daman & Diu	12.50	0.00	0.00
29.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	Lakshadweep	12.50	0.00	0.00
31.	Pondicherry	5.00	0.00	10.13
Total		137719.47	140757.00	160973.38

Statement II*Ministry of Urban Development**Central Sponsored Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP)*

Status : 11.11.2000
(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	State	Annual Allocation 1998-1999	Annual allocation 1999-2000	Released Amount		Cumulative Expdr. reported (including State Share)
				during 1998-1999	during 1999-2000	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	125.36	203.71	—	—	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	30.2	49.08	0.00	149.08	733.59
3.	Assam	199.55	324.26	198.87	324.26	503.05
4.	Bihar	192.75	313.21	192.75	319.47	112.21@
5.	Goa	23.72	38.54	0.00	0.00	51.41
6.	Gujarat	205.92	334.62	0.00	347.25	958.09
7.	Haryana	80.19	130.3	130.19	259.56	713.63
8.	Himachal Pradesh	30.12	48.94	58.95	156.50	872.91
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	18.44	29.97	20.75	183.90	122.97@
10.	Karnataka	248.08	403.13	298.08	465.91	1649.59
11.	Kerala	88.84	144.37	85.50	67.69	272.38@
12.	Madhya Pradesh	576.72	936.56	626.72	936.56	3202.35
13.	Maharashtra	243.94	396.4	393.94	369.01	2286.33
14.	Manipur	63.16	102.63	63.16	160.51	456.32
15.	Meghalaya	11.9	19.34	0.00	0.00	183.10
16.	Mizoram	32.95	53.54	76.95	63.42	415.88

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
17.	Nagaland	15.56	25.29	17.51	175.80	555.08
18.	Orissa	153.96	251.42	258.00	258.62	1209.06
19.	Punjab	84.33	137.03	0.00	105.48	140.94@
20.	Rajasthan	236.41	384.17	324.81	0.00	2635.61
21.	Sikkim	4.58	7.44	0.00	28.92	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	234.91	381.72	234.91	521.36	1536.03
23.	Tripura	42.11	68.42	42.11	91.44	90.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	932.83	1515.26	932.83	1515.26	6496.44
25.	West Bengal	123.47	200.65	43.97	0.00	333.00
Total		4000.00	6500.00	4000.00	6500.00	25529.97

@ Reported expenditure is less than 50% of the releases made by both State and Central Government.

Source: M/o Urban Development & PA.

Basic Minimum Services

1563. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified the top priority basic minimum services to be provided to the public;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated for this purpose during the current financial year, State-wise;

(d) whether any complaint has been received regarding the misutilisation of this amount;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have given priority to provision of basic

services to the people residing both in rural and urban areas. Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) launched in the Fifth Five Year Plan was a coordinated attempt in this regard. The Basic Minimum Service (BMS) Programme taken up in pursuance of the Chief Minister's Conference recommendations held in July, 1996 gave further impetus to the programme of providing basic services to people. The broad objective of the programme was to ensure that people have access to basic services in order to improve their quality of life.

The seven Basic Services identified for priority attention were:

1. 100 per cent coverage of provision of safe drinking water in rural and urban areas.
2. 100 per cent coverage of primary health services facilities in rural and urban areas.
3. Universalisation of primary education.
4. Provision of Public Housing Assistance to all shelterless poor families.
5. Supplementary Nutrition via Extension of Mid-Day Meal Programme in primary schools to all rural blocks and urban slums and disadvantaged sections and supplementary nutrition programme implemented as part of ICDS.

6. Provision of conductivity to all unconnected villages and habitations.
7. Streamlining of the Public Distribution System with a focus on the poor.

The BMS programme has been discontinued from the year 2000-01. In its place, Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) has been launched from the current year. The PMGY envisages additional Central assistance for selected services. These are education, health, shelter, drinking water and nutrition. In addition rural roads have been given priority under the scheme for which a separate provision of Rs. 2500 crores has been made in the current year.

(c) Statewise allocation of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for PMGY programme for the current year except the rural road component is given in enclosed statement.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Does not arise in view of the above.

Statement

Allocation of ACA for PMGY-2000-2001

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of State/UTs Non Special Category States	ACA 2000-2001
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14206.00
2.	Bihar	28725.00
3.	Goa	78.00
4.	Gujarat	6479.00
5.	Haryana	1678.00
6.	Karnataka	7513.00
7.	Kerala	6908.00
8.	Madhya Pradesh	11377.00
9.	Maharashtra	9913.00

1	2	3
10.	Orissa	9855.00
11.	Punjab	4040.00
12.	Rajasthan	9640.00
13.	Tamil Nadu	10479.00
14.	Uttar Pradesh	34891.00
15.	West Bengal	16782.00
Sub Total		172564.00

Spl. Category

1.	Arunachal Pradesh	6817.00
2.	Assam	17957.00
3.	Himachal Pradesh	7061.00
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	17158.00
5.	Manipur	4856.00
6.	Meghalaya	4059.00
7.	Mizoram	4041.00
8.	Nagaland	4113.00
9.	Sikkim	2811.00
10.	Tripura	5083.00
Sub Total		73956.00

Union Territories

1.	NCT of Delhi	1105.00
2.	Pondicherry	477.00
3.	A&N Island	1027.00
4.	Chandigarh	456.00
5.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	132.00
6.	Lakshadweep	177.00
7.	Daman & Diu	106.00
Sub Total		3480.00
Grand Total		250000.00

[illegible]

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Maharashtra	16	—	16	—	—	—	—	—	2	34
Manipur	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Orissa	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Pondicherry	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Punjab	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	6
Rajasthan	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Tamil Nadu	10	—	4	—	—	—	2	—	1	17
Uttar Pradesh	7	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	11
West Bengal	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Total	104	3	40	1	—	2	6	—	17	173
Grand Total		147			3			23		173

Statement II

(PUBLISHED IN PART III, SECTION 4 OF THE
GAZETTE OF INDIA DATED 17TH MAY 1997*)

Medical Council of India

The 4th March 1997

Notification

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 33 of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 (102 of 1956) the Medical Council of India with the previous sanction of the Central Government hereby makes the following regulations, namely:—

(1) Short title and commencement : (1) These regulations may be called the "Regulations on Graduate Medical Education, 1997".

(2) They shall come in to force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

*Pages 1701 to 1726

CHAPTER II

ADMISSION, SELECTION, MIGRATION AND
TRAINING:—

4. Admission to the Medical Course — 'Eligibility Criteria': No Candidate shall be allowed to be admitted

to the Medical Curriculum of first Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) Course until:

(1) He/she has completed the age of 17 years on or before first day of July of the year commencing the prescribed academic session of the said course:

(2) He/she has passed qualifying examination as under:

(a) the higher secondary examination or the Indian School Certificate Examination which is equivalent to 10+2 Higher Secondary Examination after a period of 12 years study, the last two years of study comprising of Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics or any other elective subject with English at a level not less than the core course for English as prescribed by the National Council for Educational Research and Training after the introduction of the 10+2+3 years educational structure as recommended by the National Committee on Education;

Note: Where the course content is not as prescribed for 10+2 education structure of the National Committee, the candidates will have to undergo a period of one year pre-professional training before admission to the Medical colleges;

or

(b) The Intermediate examination in science of an Indian University/Board or other recognized examining

body with Physics, Chemistry and Biology which shall include a practical test in these subjects and also English as a compulsory subject.

or

(c) The pre-professional/pre-medical examination with Physics, Chemistry and Biology, after passing either the higher secondary school examination, or the pre-university or an equivalent examination. The pre-professional/pre-medical examination shall include a practical test in Physics, Chemistry and Biology and also English as a compulsory subject:

or

(d) The first year of the three years degree course of a recognized university, with Physics, Chemistry and Biology including a practical test in these subjects provided the examination is a "University Examination" and candidate has passed 10+2 with English at a level not less than a core course.

or

(e) B.Sc examination of an Indian University, provided that he/she has passed the B.Sc examination with not less than two of the following subjects—Physics, Chemistry, Biology (Botany, Zoology) and further that he/she has passed the earlier qualifying examination with the following subjects—Physics, Chemistry, Biology and English.

or

(f) Any other examination which, in scope and standard is found to be equivalent to the intermediate science examination of an Indian University/Board, taking Physics, Chemistry and Biology including a practical test in each of these subjects and English.

Note:—

The pre-medical course may be conducted either at Medical College or a Science College.

Marks obtained in Mathematics are not to be considered for admission to MBBS Course.

After the 10+2 course is introduced, the integrated courses should be abolished.

5. Selection of Students: The selection of students to medical college shall be based solely on merit of the

candidate and for determination of merit, the following criteria be adopted uniformly throughout the country:

(1) In States, having only one Medical College and one university/board/examining body conducting the qualifying examination, the marks obtained at such qualifying examination may be taken into consideration;

(2) In States, having more than one university/boards/examining body conducting the qualifying examination (or where there is more than one medical college under the administrative control of one authority) a competitive entrance examination should be held so as to achieve a uniform evaluation as there may be variation of standard at qualifying examination conducted by different agencies;

(3) Where there are more than one college in a State and only one university/board conducting the qualifying examination, then a joint selection board be constituted for all the colleges;

(4) A competitive entrance examination is absolutely necessary in the cases of Institutions of All India character;

(5) To be eligible for competitive entrance examination, the candidate must have passed any of the qualifying examinations as enumerated under the head note "Eligibility Criteria";

Provided also that—

(i) in case of admission on the basis of qualifying examination, a candidate for admission to medical course must have obtained not less than 50% marks in English and 50% marks in Physics, Chemistry and Biology taken together at the qualifying examination;

(ii) In case of admission on the basis of a competitive entrance examination, a candidate for admission to medical course must have obtained not less than 50% marks in English and 50% marks in Physics, Chemistry and Biology taken together, both at qualifying and competitive examinations;

Provided further that in respect of candidates belonging to

Scheduled Caste/Schedule Tribes and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) the marks obtained be read as 40% instead of 50%.

**1706 The Gazette of India, May 29, 1999
(JYAISTHA-8, 1921)**

**Medical Council of India
New Delhi, the 10th May 1999**

S.O. In Exercises of the powers conferred by section 33 of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1936 (102 of 1956), the Medical Council of India with the previous sanction of the Council Government hereby makes the following regulations to amend the Resolutions on Graduate Medical Education 1997, namely :—

(i) Short title and Commencement:—(i) These regulations may be called the Regulations on Graduate Medical Education (Amendment), 1999.

(ii) These regulations shall come into effect on the date of their publication in the official Gazette.

2. In the Regulations on Graduate Medical Education, 1997:—

(a) In regulation 4 for clause (I), the following shall be substituted, namely:—

“(I) He/She shall complete the age of 17 years on or before 31st December of the year of admission to the M.B.B.S. course”;

(b) in the regulation 5, for clause (5), the following be substituted namely:—

“(5) Procedure for selection to M.B.B.S. course shall be as follows:—

- (i) In case of admission on the basis of qualifying examination under clause (i) based on merit, a candidate for admission to M.B.B.S. course must have passed in the subjects of Physics, Chemistry, Biology & English individually and must have obtained a minimum of 50% marks taken together in Physics, Chemistry and Biology at the qualifying examination as mentioned in clause (2) of regulation 4. In respect of candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes or Other Backward Classes, the marks obtained in Physics, Chemistry and Biology taken together in qualifying examination be 40% instead of 50% as above.
- (ii) In case of admission the basis of competitive entrance examination under clause (2) to (4) of this regulation a candidate must have passed in the subjects of Physics, Chemistry, Biology

and English individually and must have obtained a minimum of 50% marks taken together in Physics, Chemistry and Biology at the qualifying examination as mentioned in clause (2) of regulation 4 and in addition must have come in the merit list prepared as a result of such competitive entrance examination by securing not less than 50% marks in Physics, Chemistry and Biology taken together in the competitive examination. In respect to candidates belonging to Schedule Castes, Scheduled Tribes or Other Backward Classes the marks obtained in Physics, Chemistry and Biology taken together in qualifying examination and competitive entrance examination by 40% instead of 50% as stated above.

Provided that a candidate who has appeared in the qualifying examination the result of which has not been declared, he may be provisionally permitted to take up the competitive entrance examination and in case of selection for admission to the M.B.B.S. course, he shall not be admitted to that course until he fulfil the eligibility criteria under regulation 4.

Dr. M. Sachdeva
Secy.
Medical Council of India

Footnote: The Principal regulations namely, “Regulation on Graduate Medical Education was published in Part III Section 4 of the Gazette of India on 17th May 97.

Schemes for Scavengers

1565. SHRI A. NARENDRA:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have chalked out fresh schemes namely “Sanitary Mart and Swachkar Vimukti Yojana” for relieving scavengers from their traditional occupation and to rehabilitate them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated for each Scheme during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the number of scavengers benefited under each scheme during the last three years and as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) The Ministry has a National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents (NSLRS) which is implemented by the State Scheduled Castes Development Corporations or the States where the Corporations have not been constituted. The objective of the Scheme is to provide adequate training and financially assist the target groups for taking up alternate occupations. The scheme provides for 100% Central assistance to State Scheduled Castes Development Corporations for training of scavengers. For rehabilitation, Central assistance is provided as subsidy and part of the Margin Money Loan. The details of the scheme are given in the statement I.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister in his inaugural address in Convention of Members of Parliament belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, held in December 1999, underlined the urgent need to abolish the inhuman practice of carrying night soil as head load. Accordingly this Ministry suggested to States/UTs in January 2000 to consider setting up of sanitary Marts under NSLRS, for Effective and sustainable rehabilitation of scavengers in alternate occupations. Sanitary Mart is

a cooperative of around 20-25 scavengers that stocks sanitary related items besides taking up production of sanitary items like water borne flush latrines. These marts also serve as a service centres where scavengers could take up the construction of latrines. The Sanitary Marts may subsequently also take up solid waste disposal of hospitals, restaurants etc. on agency basis and the female members of Marts may also take up stitching of uniforms of safai karamcharis and students. The Sanitary Marts, therefore, aim at not only providing suitable alternate occupations to scavengers on sustainable basis but also generate demand of wet latrines especially in areas serviced by scavengers.

(c) The year-wise Central assistance released to States during last three years under the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents (NSLRS) is given in statement II.

(d) The number of scavengers financially assisted for training as well as rehabilitation under NSLRS during last three years and the number of scavengers so far proposed to be covered during 2000-2001, is given below:

Year	Number of scavengers assisted under NSLRS for	
	Training	Rehabilitation
1997-1998	15493	30626
1998-1999	8010	35476
1999-2000	86316 (anticipated)	106456 (anticipated)
*2001-2001	23935 (proposed)	29875 (proposed)
*(as on 27.11.2000)		

Statement I

National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of scavengers and their Dependents

The National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents, which was started in March, 1992, provides for financial assistance for training and rehabilitation of scavengers in alternate occupations. The details of financial assistance provided under the scheme are mentioned below:

Assistance for Training: – The Scheme provides for training of scavengers in the age group of 15-50 years in the training institutes of Central Government,

State Governments, Local Bodies and Non-Governmental Organisations as per TRYSEM norms. The training period should, however, not exceed a duration of 6 months. The stipend provided to a scavenger during training period is upto Rs. 500/- per month. Besides this, the training fee per scavenger payable to the training institutes is upto Rs. 300/- per month, honorarium to craftsman upto Rs. 100 per month per scavenger and one time tool kit allowance upto Rs. 2000/- per scavenger. 100% Central assistance is accordingly provided.

Assistance for Rehabilitation - Towards rehabilitation of scavengers, projects costing upto Rs. 50,000/- per beneficiary are financed by way of a prescribed financial package comprising of 50% subsidy subject to a ceiling

of Rs. 10,000/- per project, 15% of project cost as Margin Money Loan (MML) which is shared between the Central

Government and State Governments in the ratio 49:51 and the rest through bank loan.

Statement II

National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their Dependents

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3.69	Nil	10.41
2.	Bihar	4.64	Nil	Nil
3.	Gujarat	8.90	Nil	11.61
4.	Madhya Pradesh	24.51	Nil	8.83
5.	Orissa	1.07	5.90	Nil
6.	Rajasthan	2.73	Nil	16.62
7.	Tamil Nadu	Nil	Nil	22.53
8.	Uttar Pradesh	44.46	Nil	Nil
Total		90.000	5.900	70.000

Online Registration System

1566. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various Regional Passport Offices have introduced on-line registration;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of RPOs which had introduced the same; and

(d) the number of RPOs which proposes to do so?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a), (b) and (d) A channel for on-line registration of passport applications has been introduced on an experimental basis at passport office, Bangalore on September 15, 2000. Its extension to other passport offices would depend on the experience of this experiment.

(c) One at present.

Agreements to Combat Terrorism

1567. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries with which India have signed treaty/agreement to combat terrorism and the number of treaties out of them ratified so far; and

(b) the time by which the remaining treaties are likely to be ratified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir. India has signed bilateral agreements to combat organized crime and international terrorism, etc. with a number of countries in the recent past. These countries are Bulgaria, China, Egypt, Italy, Oman, Romania and Russia. Out of these, only the treaty with China is yet to be ratified.

In addition to the above specific agreements, treaties on extradition and mutual assistance in criminal matters, may also be used in the extradition of persons accused

of committing terrorist offences and for their prosecution in India.

Mutual legal assistance treaties have been signed with Canada, France, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Switzerland, Turkey, UAE, UK, Uzbekistan. Out of these the treaties with France, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan are yet to be ratified.

Extradition treaties have been signed with Belgium, Bhutan, Canada, Hong Kong, Nepal, Netherlands, Russia, Switzerland, Tunisia, UAE, UK and USA. Out of them, the treaties with Russia and Tunisia have not been ratified yet. In addition to these bilateral extradition treaties, extradition arrangements exist with Australia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tanzania, Thailand which are presently in force.

(b) Yes, Sir. Every effort is being made to ratify the treaties which have not yet been ratified.

[Translation]

Pending Irrigation Projects

1568. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:
DR. BALIRAM:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:
COL. (RETD). SONA RAM CHOUDHRY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals of major and medium irrigation projects cleared by the Union Government during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of proposals still pending with the Union Government for clearance, State-wise particularly those related to Rajasthan;

(c) whether there is any inordinate delay in clearing such proposals;

(d) if so, the stage at which these proposals stand;

(e) the funds allocated by the Union Government under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) and utilised by each State and the total irrigation capacity created through these projects during the period till date; and

(f) the time by which these projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (f) Statewise number of projects received in the Central Water Commission from the State Government including Rajasthan for techno-economic appraisal alongwith their present status of appraisal is given in Statement I. The clearance of these projects is linked with the promptness with which the State complies with the observations of the various central appraising agencies.

Details of funds provided by the Government under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) launched in 1996-97 is given in Statement II.

Additional irrigation potential created under AIBP during 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is 80.033 Thousand Hectares (Th. Ha.), 217.188 Th. Ha., 282.683 Th. Ha. and 208.116 Th. Ha. respectively.

Statement I

S.No.	States	Number of Major/Medium Projects cleared by Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) subject to certain observations and /or clearance from Ministry of Environment & Forests	No. of Major/Medium Projects cleared during each of the 3-years			Number of major/medium projects under examination/ compliance awaited from State Governments
			1998	1999	2000	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17	2	2	4	2
2.	Assam	2	1	1	—	2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Bihar	5	—	7	1	6
4.	Gujarat	1	—	—	—	1
5.	Haryana	2	—	—	—	1
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1	1	3	—	1
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	15
8.	Karnataka	2	—	—	1	4
9.	Kerala	1	—	—	—	2
10.	Madhya Pradesh	8	—	—	—	3
11.	Maharashtra	19	2	2	—	21
12.	Manipur	2	—	1	—	—
13.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—
14.	Nagaland	1	1	—	—	—
15.	Orissa	14	2	4	7	6
16.	Punjab	5	—	2	—	5
17.	Rajasthan	3	—	2	3	4
18.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—
19.	Tamil Nadu	1	—	—	—	2
20.	Tripura	—	—	—	—	—
21.	Uttar Pradesh	8	1	2	—	4
22.	West Bengal	—	—	—	—	1
23.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—
24.	Goa, Daman, Diu	—	—	—	—	—
Grand Total		92	10	26	17	80

Statement II

Statement II Referred to in Reply to Parts (a) to (f) of Unstarred question No. 1568 Regarding Pending irrigation Projects for Answer in the Lok Sabha on 29.11.2000

Central Loan Assistance (CLA) released for Major & Medium Projects under AIBP

(Rs. in crore)

Name of State	CLA released During				
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	35.250	74.000	79.670	65.015	66.780

1	2	3	4	5	6
Assam	5.230	12.400	13.950	13.020	9.450
Bihar	13.500	14.040	47.825	144.040	50.295
Goa	0.000	5.250	0.000	3.500	15.350
Gujarat	74.773	196.900	423.820	272.700	391.100
Haryana	32.500	12.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Himachal Pradesh	0.000	6.500	5.000	14.455	—
Jammu & Kashmir	1.300	0.000	0.00	4.680	0.00
Karnataka	61.250	90.500	94.500	157.140	76.000
Kerala	3.750	15.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Madhya Pradesh	63.250	114.500	90.750	105.845	109.393
Maharashtra	14.000	55.000	50.860	49.875	59.425
Manipur	4.300	26.000	10.780	20.310	—
Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	1.280
Orissa	48.450	85.000	71.500	81.350	38.000
Punjab	67.500	100.000	0.000	42.000	0.000
Rajasthan	2.675	42.000	140.050	106.665	11.402
Tripura	3.773	5.100	3.975	6.300	4.845
Tamil Nadu	20.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Uttar Pradesh	43.500	78.000	76.500	286.000	136.610
West Bengal	5.000	20.000	10.000	25.000	1.225
Total for M&M Projects	500.001	952.190	1119.180	1397.895	901.155

*[English]***Overseas Tours**

1569. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA:
SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the foreign tours undertaken by Prime Minister and him after the present Government came into power till date along with the names of the countries visited by them;

(b) the details of agreements signed/achievements made as a result thereof, country-wise; and

(c) the issues discussed by them separately and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Popularisation of Ayrvedic System

1570. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:
MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE:

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

(a) the steps taken by the Government for popularization of Ayurvedic system of medicine in the country;

(b) if so, incentive provided to the Ayurvedic medicine producers in the country; and

(c) the details of Ayurvedic medicine purchased by the Government *viz-a-viz* the allopathic medicines during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) In order to develop and propagate, the Indian System of Medicine & Homoeopathy including Ayurvedic system, the Government in 1995 established an independent Department of ISM&H in the the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The Department of ISM&H has already implemented schemes for the development & cultivation of medicinal plants, preparation of agro-techniques, upgradation of undergraduate/postgraduate institutions, standardization of drugs, encouraging intra-mural & extra mural research and dissemination of information through information, education and communication (IEC).

(b) Availability of good quality raw materials in adequate quantity would be facilitated after the Medicinal Plants Board becomes functional. Laboratory facilities are sought to be expanded to help industry to get their products tested and analysed which will enhance the acceptability and credibility of their products. The Industry has been facilitated to participate in international events which will help them create a market for their products. Labelling provisions under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 have been relaxed as per the requirement of importing countries.

(c) The detail of Ayurvedic and allopathic medicines procured by CGHS, Delhi during each of the last three years is as under:

(in Rs.)

Year	Allopathic	Ayurvedic
1997-1998	39,45,73,476.00	1,70,00,000.00
1998-1999	41,37,40,813.00	1,99,03,536.00
1999-2000	49,28,88,754.00	1,75,66,420.00

Software Parks

1571. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:
SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA:
SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN:
SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the States where Software Technoligical Parks have been set up;

(b) whether any scheme is being launched by the Union Government to set up Software Technology Parks in each State during 2000-2001;

(c) if so, the names of the States and places identified therefor, State-wise;

(d) whether Union Government have approved any scheme to establish Software Technology Parks in Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) the fund proposed to be borne or already provided by Central Government for the establishment of Software Technology Parks in different districts in 2000-2001 and in the remaining years of the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(g) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) has set-up Software Technology Parks in the following States:

State	Location
1	2
1. Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad, Vizag
2. Assam	Guwahati
3. Gujarat	Gandhinagar
4. Karnataka	Bangalore, Manipal and Mysore
5. Kerala	Thiruvanthapuram

1	2
6. Maharashtra	Pune and Mumbai
7. Madhya Pradesh	Indore
8. Orissa	Bhubaneswar
9. Punjab	Mohali
10. Rajasthan	Jaipur
11. Tamil nadu	Chennai & Coimbatore
12. Uttar Pradesh	Noida

The Government of West Bengal and Goa have also set up STPs in their States. In the case of STP at Goa, the Central Government has provided part financial support.

(b) to (e) Software Technology Parks have already been established in the States of Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh. Additionally, part Central assistance is being provided to set STPs in the following States:

States	Location
Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar
Karnataka	Hubli
Pondicherry	Pondicherry
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla

Currently there is no proposal to set up Software Technology Park in the State of Chhatisgarh. However, it is proposed to extend Software Technology Park facility to all the States in the country subject to technical, administrative and financial constraints.

(f) and (g) An amount of Rs. 2 crores has been released during 2000-2001. Additional Rs. 2 crores (approximately) is available during the Ninth Five Year Plan in allocation of the Ministry of Information Technology.

[Translation]

Inter-State Water Dispute

1572. SHRI RAMESHWAR DUDI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the Punjab is using large scale water from the canals of Rajasthan without a legal entitlement;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government are contemplating to intervene in the matter; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Union Government has been informed by the Government of Rajasthan that although in terms of volume of water, Rajasthan is receiving water as per the shares envisaged in the 31-12-1981 Ravi-Beas Agreement and the Bhakra Nangal Agreement 1959, but in terms of flow, the supplies to Rajasthan are not in accordance to the regulation pattern fixed by the Bhakra Beas Management Board and the indents placed with Punjab.

(c) and (d) Chief Minister of Punjab has been requested to look into the issues and take appropriate action. It has also been suggested to the Government of Rajasthan that the issue could be discussed in the inter-State meeting of the Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan.

Outstees of Subernarekha Irrigation Project

1573. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the area of land acquired for the construction of Subernarekha multipurpose irrigation project, Bihar and the number of families displaced as a result thereof;

(b) whether all displaced families have been rehabilitated and compensated adequately for acquiring of their land;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which all the outstees are likely to be rehabilitated/compensated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (e) The number of families affected due to Subernarekha Multi-Purpose Project is 14,164 (as per 1981 census) and area of land under acquisition is 36721 Ha. Being a State subject, planning, funding and execution of irrigation project including land

acquisition and rehabilitation of displaced families is the responsibility of the State Government.

[English]

Post Based Rosters

1574. SHRI RAMESH C. JIGAJINAGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DOPT has introduced 'Post Based Rosters' in place of 'Vacancy Based Rosters' for implementing reserving system w.e.f. 2.7.1997;

(b) if so, reasons for the same;

(c) whether while introducing "Post Based Rosters" in place of "Vacancy Based Rosters" the process of identifying excesses/shortages if any in Class I, II, III and IV category of services under the Ministry of Health and all the Autonomous/Statutory Organizations, Attached/Subordinate Offices and Public Sector Undertakings was undertaken as prescribed under para (5) of the DOPT C.M. No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dt. 2.7.1997;

(d) if so, details of excesses/shortages found in all the above category of services as on 2.7.1997; and

(e) the reasons of 'Post Based Rosters' introduced in place of 'Vacancy Based Rosters' without completing the process of identifying excesses/shortages, if any, as prescribed under the above referred O.M.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The earlier 'Vacancy Based Rosters' were replaced by 'Post Based Rosters' w.e.f. 2.7.1997 in pursuance of the Supreme Court Judgement in the R.K. Sabharwal Vs. State of Punjab read with the judgement in the case of J.C. Mallick Vs. Union of India.

(c) to (e) The requisite information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

National Water Policy

1575. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:
SHRI SAHIB SINGH:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:
SHRI DINSHA PATEL:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a revised National Water Policy;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the views of all State Governments have been obtained while formulating the new water policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient features of the Draft Revised National Water Policy are as follows:

- (1) Laying greater emphasis on the improvement of the performance of the existing water resources facilities.
- (2) Formulation of guidelines for water allocation amongst the basin States keeping in view the national perspective on the water resources availability.
- (3) Review and amendment of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act of 1956 for timely adjudication for Water Dispute referred to the Tribunal.
- (4) Establishment of appropriate River Basin Organisations with statutory powers for the planning, development and management for a river basin as a whole or sub-basins, where necessary.
- (5) Development of a standardized national information system for promoting free exchange of data among the various agencies through a suitable legislation.
- (6) Formulation of a national policy on resettlement and rehabilitation so that the project-affected persons share the benefits through proper rehabilitation.
- (7) Enactment of a dam safety legislation to ensure proper inspection, maintenance and surveillance of existing dams.
- (8) Ensuring institutional arrangements for maintenance of water resources schemes and involving Water Users Associations in the operation, maintenance and the management of water infrastructures.

- (9) Fixing of Water charges for various uses in such a way that they cover at least the operation and maintenance costs with well targeted subsidy.
- (10) Maintaining minimum flows in the perennial streams and treatment of effluents to acceptable levels and standards before discharging into rivers for maintaining ecology.
- (11) Encouraging Non-conventional methods for utilisation of water such as through inter-basin transfers, artificial recharge of ground water, desalination of brackish or seawater, rain water harvesting and watershed management.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The draft revised National Water Policy was finalized by National Water Board on 29.10.98 after protracted deliberation. Chief Secretaries of all the States/UT's are members of the board.

(e) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme

1576. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are contemplating to give special consideration to some States including Madhya Pradesh under 'Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme' for the development of water resources on the lines of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and north-eastern States;

(b) if so, whether any scheme has been formulated by the Union Government for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Children Affected by Malnutrition

1577. SHRI PUSP JAIN:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

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

(a) whether forty percent of the Children affected by the malnutrition in the world are living in India only;

(b) if so, the total percentage of children affected by malnutrition in each State particularly in Rajasthan;

(c) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to curb malnutrition among children;

(d) whether it is fact that children below the age of three years are suffering from anaemia and other diseases due to malnutrition in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) India accounts for 40 per cent of the world's malnourished children, as per the World Bank Report "Wasting Away-the Crisis in India." To address the problem of malnutrition of Government of India adopted the National Nutrition Policy in 1993. The Policy advocates a multi-sectoral approach for controlling the problem of malnutrition and improving nutrition of the people. The National Nutrition Policy contains short-term direct interventions as well as long-term indirect interventions.

(b) The nutritional status of children in India and Rajasthan as reported by the National Family Health Survey (II), 1998-99 is given in statement-I.

(c) Various measures adopted by the Government to improve the nutritional status of the population including the child population, *inter-alia* include, increase in agricultural production; improvement of purchasing power of the people through income generation schemes; making available essential food items at subsidized costs through public distribution system; nutrition education to increase awareness and affecting behaviour change in feeding practices, including exclusive Breast feeding and appropriate complementary feeding practices in infants and young children. Supplementary feeding programmes including the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme, Special Nutrition Programme, Balwadi Nutrition Programme and Mid-day Meal Programme are under implementation.

A programme for prevention of specific micronutrient deficiency of iodine, and prophylaxis programmes for preventing blindness due to Vitamin A deficiency and nutritional anaemia due to deficiency of iron and folic acid are being implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. A pilot project for control of micronutrient malnutrition is also under implementation.

(d) The National Family Health Survey II, 1998-99 reported that 74.3 percent of children under three years had anaemia.

(e) The State-wise prevalence of anaemia in children under the age of 3 years is given in statement-II. Under

the Reproductive and Child Health Programme Iron and folic acid tablets are provided for treatment and prophylaxis of nutritional anaemia. In addition, exclusive breast-feeding and appropriate complementary feeding practices are being promoted.

Statement I

Nutritional Status of Children in India and Rajasthan

Percent of children under three years classified as undernourished on their anthropometrical indices of nutritional status.

	Weight for Age		Height for Age		Weight for Height	
	Percent below -3SD	Percent below -2SD	Percent below -3SD	Percent below -2SD	Percent below -3SD	Percent below -2SD@
India	18.0	47.0	23.0	45.5	2.8	15.5
Rajasthan	20.8	50.6	29.0	52.0	1.9	11.7

Note: Each index is expressed in standard deviation units (SD) from the median of the International Reference Population.

@ Includes children who are below -3 SD from the International Reference Population median.

Statement II

Percent of children Age Under 3 Years with any Anaemia

National Family Health Survey-2

1	India	74.3
	Urban	70.8
	Rural	75.3
2	NORTH	
	Delhi	69
	Haryana	83.9
	Himachal Pradesh	69.9
	Jammu & Kashmir	71.1
	Punjab	80
	Rajasthan	82.3
3	CENTRAL	
	Madhya Pradesh	75
	Uttar Pradesh	73.9

4. EAST

Bihar	81.3
Orissa	72.3
West Bengal	78.3

5. NORTH EAST

Arunachal Pradesh	54.4
Assam	63.2
Manipur	45.2
Meghalaya	67.6
Mizoram	57.2
Nagaland	43.7
Sikkim	76.5

6. WEST

Goa	53.4
Gujarat	74.5
Maharashtra	76

7 SOUTH

Andhra Pradesh	72.3
Karnataka	70.6
Kerala	43.9
Tamil Nadu	69

Open General Licence List

1578. SHRI AKHILESH YADAV: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the items reserved for small scale industries have been included in OGL list under export-import policy, 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the details of the items included in OGL; and

(c) the extent to which the employment is likely to be affected as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 58 such items were placed under OGL in the Exim Policy 2000-2001. A list of these items is enclosed as statement. These items have been placed under OGL as part of India's commitment to remove quantitative restrictions (QRs) on imports as per World Trade Organisation (WTO)'s obligations.

(c) Placement of products reserved for exclusive manufacture in the SSI sector on OGL will imply greater competition. However, the small scale sector in India has enough resilience to withstand the impact of phasing out of Quantitative Restrictions, as is evident from their recent track record.

Statement

List of 58 items of interest to SSI where Import Restrictions have been removed with effect from 31.3.2000 (At 8 Digit level)

S.No.	Exim Code	Item description
1	2	3
1.	Ex 400591.09	Other plates, sheets and strips of compounded rubber.
2.	Ex 401610.00	Other articles of cellular rubber.
3.	401699.06	Rubber cushion.
4.	482090.06	Other articles of stationery of paper or paper board.
5.	482360.00	Trays, dishes, plates, cups and the like, of paper or paper board.
6.	Ex 482370.09	Other moulded or pressed articles of paper pulp.
7.	640319.01	Other sports footwear with outer soles of leather and uppers of leather.
8.	640319.02	Other sports footwear with outer soles of rubber and uppers of leather.
9.	640319.09	Other sports footwear with outer soles of plastics or composition leather and uppers of leather.
10.	640320.01	All leather closed toe footwear.
11.	640320.02	All leather open toe footwear.
12.	640320.03	Footwear with leather soles and embroidered uppers.
13.	640320.09	Other footwear with outer soles of leather and uppers which consist of leather straps across the instep and around the big toe.

1	2	3
14.	640340.00	Other footwear with outer sole of rubber, plastics, leather or composition leather and uppers of leather, incorporating a protective metal toe-cup.
15.	640351.01	All leather shoes, covering the ankle.
16.	640351.09	Other footwear with outer soles of leather, covering the ankle.
17.	640359.00	Other footwear with outer soles of leather and uppers of leather.
18.	640399.01	Leather sandals with rubber soles.
19.	640399.02	Leather sandals with plastic and synthetic sole.
20.	640411.01	Sports footwear, tennis shoes, basketball shoes, gym shoes, training shoes and the like, rubber sole with canvas upper.
21.	640411.02	Sports footwear, tennis shoes, basketball shoes, gym shoes training shoes and the like, rubber sole with leather cloth uppers.
22.	640411.09	Sports footwear, tennis shoes, basketball shoes, gym shoes, training shoes and the like others.
23.	640419.01	Other sports footwear, rubber sole with canvas uppers.
24.	640419.02	Other sports footwear, rubber sole with leather cloth uppers.
25.	640419.09	Other sports footwear, other.
26.	640420.00	Footwear with outer soles of leather or composition leather.

1	2	3
27.	680221.01	Marble blocks or tiles, polished.
28.	680223.01	Granite blockes or tiles, polished.
29.	681019.01	Cement tiles for mosaic.
30.	681130.01	Asbestos-cement pipes.
31.	690490.00	Ceramic flooring blocks support or filler tiles, and the like.
32.	690510.00	Ceramic roofing tiles.
33.	690790.00	Unglazed ceramic flags and paving, earth or wall tiles, unglazed ceramic mosaic cubes and the like.
34.	690810.01	Ceramic mosaic cubes the largest surface area of which is capable of being enclosed in a square the side of which is less than 7 cm.
35.	690810.02	Ceramic mosaic tiles, the largest surface area of which is capable of being enclosed in a square the side of which is less than 7 cm.
36.	690810.09	Other glazed ceramic tiles, clubs and similar articles, the largest surface area of which is capable of being enclosed in a square the side of which is less than 7 cm.
37.	690890.01	Ceramic mosaic, cubes, other.
38.	690890.02	Ceramic mosaic tiles, other.
39.	690990.00	Ceramic roughs, tubs and cellular receptacles of a kind used in agriculture, ceramic pots, jars and similar articles of a kind used for the conveyance or packing of goods.

1	2	3
40.	691010.00	Ceramic sinks, wash basins, wash basin pedestals, baths, bidets, water closet plans, flushing cisterns and similar sanitary fixtures of porcelain or china.
41.	691090.00	Ceramic sanitary fixtures, other.
42.	691190.00	Tableware, kitchenware, other household articles and toilet articles, of other ceramics.
43.	691200.03	Clay articles as tableware, kitchenware and other household articles.
44.	691200.09	Other ceramic household articles, other than of porcelain or china.
45.	691310.00	Statuettes and other ornamental articles, of porcelain or china.
46.	691390.00	Statuettes and other ornamental ceramic articles.
47.	700910.00	Rear view mirrors for vehicles.
48.	701321.00	Drinking glasses of lead crystal.
49.	701339.00	Other glassware of a kind used for table or kitchen purposes.
50.	701399.00	Glassware of a kind used for toilet, office, indoor decoration or similar purposes other.
51.	701810.02	Glass beads, imitation pearls, imitation precious and semi precious stones.
52.	701810.09	Other similar glass small wares.

1	2	3
53.	Ex 702000.00	Other articles of glass.
54.	841451.02	Ceiling fans, with a self-contained electric motor or an output not exceeding 125 W.
55.	841451.03	Pedestal fans, with a self-contained electric motor of an output not exceeding 125 W.
56.	Ex 850410.00	Ballasts for discharge lamps or tubes, other than for compact fluorescent lamps.
57.	851679.09	Other electrothermic appliances.
58.	853110.00	Burglar or fire alarms and similar apparatus.

[English]

Birupa-Genguti Irrigation Project

1579. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction work of Birupa-Genguti major irrigation project in Orissa has been discontinued;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the estimated cost of the project and the fund sanctioned by the Union Government for the project, so far; and

(d) the efforts being made by the Union Government to re-start the construction work of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) The reference is presumably to Birupa-Ganguti Island project. As per Draft Annual Plan 2000-2001 document of Orissa the status of the project is as under:—

1.	Started in Plan	VII Plan
2.	Approval Status	Approved by Planning Commission (PC) in March, 1990 with an estimated cost of Rs. 4.63 crore.
3.	Revised estimated cost	Rs. 11.464 crore as approved by P.C.
4.	Expenditure incurred upto 3/2000	Rs. 14.24 crore
5.	Outlay proposed by State Govt. during 2000-2001	Rs. 0.20 crore

Being a State subject, irrigation projects are investigated, planned, executed and funded by the State Governments themselves out of their own resources and as per their priorities.

Rehabilitation Centres

1580. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:
SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH:
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:
SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU:
SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE:
SHRI PUSP JAIN:
DR. SANJAY PASWAN:
SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Rehabilitation Centres for handicapped persons functioning and new such centres viz. District Rehabilitation Centres Vocational Centres Integrated Rehabilitation Centres likely to be opened in the country, State-wise;

(b) the steps being initiated to bring rationale between the number of handicapped and rehabilitation centres;

(c) whether the Government propose to introduce new rehabilitation and self employment schemes in the country funded by various external sources like WHO, UNICEF, UNDP etc.;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have been monitoring the various rehabilitation projects at present in progress in India and the role of the Rehabilitation Council of India; and

(f) if so, the details of the rehabilitation projects, funds released utilized and the number of beneficiaries during the last three years, Year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) A number of programmes are being implemented by Central Government, State Governments and NGOs through Centres including 6 National Institutes, 11 District Rehabilitation Centres, 4 Regional Rehabilitation Training Centres, 17 Vocational Rehabilitation Centres, established in different States for the purpose. To reduce/eliminate the gap between available rehabilitation services and the requirement; Government has approved a number of new programmes including establishing more than 100 District Rehabilitation Centres selected from 31 different States/UTs of the country to provide rehabilitation services esp. to rural persons with disabilities; Regional Composite Resource Centres to provide rehabilitation services and manpower development; Regional Rehabilitation Centres for Persons with spinal injuries and other orthopaedic disabilities to provide rehabilitation services; National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disability. To create service delivery system at State, District, block and gram panchayat levels, National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities has been launched as a State Sector Scheme from 1999-2000. Rs. 5 crore was devolved to the States/UTs. in 1999-2000. In 2000-2001, financial resources for covering 74 districts in 32 States/UTs has been approved under the Scheme. The National Finance & Development Corporation Provides soft loans to disabled persons for self employment ventures.

(c) and (d) Financial and Technical Support by multi-lateral and bi-lateral external agencies is received from time to time for providing different rehabilitation services. UNDP is funding from 2000-2001 a project for support to children with disabilities for providing education & related rehabilitation services. The Government proposes to continue interacting with external agencies for future funding of rehabilitation projects.

(e) The Government itself and through various institutions continuously monitor rehabilitation projects. The

RCI regulates and monitors training of rehabilitation professionals/personnel and maintenance of Central Rehabilitation Register for Professionals/personnel.

(f) The budget provision in the Disability Sector in the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has gone up from Rs. 64.89 crores in 1996-97 to Rs. 140.63 crores in 1998-99 and Rs. 177.33 crores in 1999-2000. However, as rehabilitation is a multi activity and long drawn process-the exact number of beneficiaries is difficult to estimate. Some details of rehabilitation services provided in recent years including institutes and allocation made under the 'Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities' (amount exceeding Rs. 1 lakh) and 'Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids & Appliances' for 1999-2000 (upto 11.2.2000) are available in Annual Report of 1999-2000 of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

[Translation]

Construction of Dams

1581. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to extend financial assistance to Tamil Nadu for the construction of dams in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof location-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The Union Government has launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97 for providing Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to the State Governments for completion of those irrigation projects which are in advance stages of completion or mega projects which are beyond their resources capability. The Government of Tamil Nadu has not posed any irrigation projects envisaging construction of dams for CLA under the AIBP during 2000-2001.

[English]

Flood Control

1582. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNI:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether West Bengal is affected by the flood and heavy rains recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several schemes are being implemented for making river beds deeper and construction/repairing river embankment to control the floods;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government have received any specific report from the Government of West Bengal that several districts viz. Uttar and South Dinajpur, Malda, Murshidabad face regular flood fury; and

(f) if so, whether the Union Government have prepared any comprehensive Master Plan to control the flood menace in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) West Bengal faced a very grim flood situation in the districts of Birbhum, Murshidabad, Nadia and 24 Parganas (North) in September, 2000. This was due to very heavy rainfall both in quantity and intensity never recorded before. Between 18th to 23rd September, 2000, the total rainfall in Ajoy Basin was 1040 mm, in Mayurakshi Catchment was 1224 mm and in the Damodar Basin 529 mm. The Bhagirathi basin was overflowed as it received discharges from its tributaries many times more than its carrying capacity. The embankment of all rivers breached by over-topping. The details of devastation were as under:

(i)	Total area affected	23971 sq. km.
(ii)	Crop area affected	19200 sq. km.
(iii)	Population affected	218 lakhs
(iv)	Loss of human lives	1320 nos.
(v)	No. of missing persons	154 nos.
(vi)	No. of houses damaged	21.94 lakhs
(vii)	No. of blocks affected	117 nos.
(viii)	No. of Municipality affected	68

(c) Number of schemes are being taken up by the State Government of West Bengal for construction/repairing of embankments, drainage schemes, resectioning of channels, bank protection works and anti erosion works.

(d) More than 200 nos. of schemes have been undertaken by the State Government pertaining to town protection, construction and maintenance of embankments, anti-erosion works and drainage schemes which are at various stages of completion.

(e) The Union Government have not received any specific report from the State Government of West Bengal regarding regular flood fury in the districts of Uttar and South Dinajpur, Malda and Murshidabad.

However, State Government of West Bengal has informed that the districts of Malda and Murshidabad are frequently ravaged by the floods of the river Ganga and also suffer from severe erosion. The floods in Uttar Dinajpur and Dakshin Dinajpur are caused by river Mahananda and its tributaries.

(f) Ganga Flood Control Commission has prepared a comprehensive plan for flood control for the following river basins of West Bengal for evolving a long term strategy to solve the flood problem in the State.

1. Main Ganga.
2. Damodar.
3. Ajoy
4. Rupnarayan
5. Mahananda.
6. Mayurakshi

UN Millennium Summit

1583. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SMT. RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the declarations adopted at the three-day UN Millennium Summit held in New York in September, 2000;

(b) the details of the steps, if any envisaged to ensure democratic regime in countries which are still under military or other non-democratic regime; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in pursuit of these declarations within the country and outside, especially with respect of neighbouring countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The declaration adopted at the UN Millennium Summit has eight sections covering values and principles; peace, security and disarmament; development and poverty eradication; protecting our common environment; human rights, democracy and good governance; protecting the vulnerable; meeting the special needs of Africa; and, strengthening the United Nations.

(b) The Declaration resolves to promote democracy and to strengthen the capacity of all countries to implement democratic principles and practices.

(c) Within the country, the policies and programmes being implemented by the Government are in conformity with the spirit of the Declaration. Government's interaction with other nations including neighbouring States is aimed inter-alia at promoting democracy, peace and security; and is in accordance with the avowed objectives of the Declaration.

[Translation]

Infant Mortality Rate

1584. SHRI ADITYA NATH YOGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether infant mortality rate in our country is higher in comparison to that of other countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the infant mortality rate as on date in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The infant mortality rate in the country is higher than that of some other countries. Acute respiratory infections, diarrhoeal diseases and deaths during the neonatal period and in some areas vaccine preventable diseases are responsible for infant mortality in the country. High prevalence of malnutrition contributes to the infant mortality. The infant mortality rate in the country and the major States for the year 1999 is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement*[English]**Provisional Estimate of Infant Mortality Rate, 1999*

	IMR
India*	70
Bigger States	
Andhra Pradesh	66
Assam	76
Bihar	66
Gujarat	63
Haryana	68
Karnataka	58
Kerala	14
Madhya Pradesh	91
Maharashtra	48
Orissa	97
Punjab	53
Rajasthan	81
Tamil Nadu	52
Uttar Pradesh	84
West Bengal	52
Smaller States	
Arunachal Pradesh	43
Goa	21
Himachal Pradesh	62
Manipur	25
Meghalaya	56
Mizoram	19
Nagaland	NA
Sikkim	49
Tripura	42

*: Excludes Nagaland (Rural) and Jammu & Kashmir due to part-receipt of returns.

NA : Not available due to part-receipt of returns.

Note: Infant mortality rates for smaller States are for the period 1997-99.

Source: Sample Registration System.

INSAT-2B

1585. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether INSAT-2B, space satellite has developed snag and has lost its 'earth lock';

(b) if so, the steps taken by the scientists at ISRO to rectify the snag;

(c) whether some channels of Doordarshan have been affected as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, the alternative arrangements made by DoT, ISRO and other connected organisations in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) yes, Sir. INSAT-2B launched in July 1993 has already completed its design life of seven years by mid 2000. On November 3, 2000 the satellite lost earth lock due to the depletion of the oxidiser on-board which is normal towards the end of its life. Due to the depletion of the oxidiser, the recovery efforts took longer than normal and the satellite was reacquired on November 5, 2000.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Gnyan Darshan, a Doordarshan channel operating through INSAT-2B satellite was affected due to this loss of lock. It was restored on the November 7, 2000.

Voluntary Organisations

1586. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of voluntary Organisations operating in different parts of the country specially in the tribal areas of Gujarat, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh and being funded by the Union Government to launch Child Labour Welfare Projects under projects grant-in-aid scheme during the last three years;

(b) the details of achievements made by these organisations during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have received complaints regarding heavy misuse of Central financial assistance by these Voluntary organisations particularly those which are operating in tribal areas; and

(d) if so, the number of complaints received so far and the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) and (d) Certain complaints have been received regarding misutilisation of funds by Voluntary Organisations, but no specific complaint has been received against organisation operating in Tribal Areas. Action has already been initiated against the concerned Organisations as per the terms and conditions of the Grants-in-aid scheme.

Statement

Name of the State	Name of the Voluntary organisation	No. of children benefited	Status of the project
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	Rural Social Welfare Association, Mahabubnagar	150	On going
	Vijayapuram Praja Seva Samithi, Chittoor	100	On going
	Rural Development Organisation, Mahabubnagar	200	On going
	Youth Association for Rural Education & Dev., Khammam	200	On going
	Sri Triveni Education Academy, Nandigama, Khammam	200	On going
	Zilla Vikalangula Sangam, Vinakonda, Guntur	200	On going
Bihar	Shrimati Manorama Mahila Mandal, Hajipur	100	Closed in Jan, 2000
	Sudha Mahila Samaj Pratishthan, Hilsa	50	Closed in Feb. 2000
	Darogo Pd. Ray Mahila Prashikshan Avam Audyogik Kendra, Navada	100	Closed in Jan. 2000
	Gramin Sansadhan Vikas Parishad, Budhanpur	50	Closed in Aug. 1999
	Mahua Mahila Vikas Sansthan, Mahua.	100	Closed in March 2000
	Jayaprabha Academy, Chitbohra	100	Closed in April 2000
	Bhartiya Jan Manch, Dharhara	100	Closed in April 2000
	Lord Budha Mission, Hajipur	100	Closed in March, 2000
	Chandrika Seva Sadan, Hakimpur	100	Closed in March 2000
	Samta Gram Seva Sansthan, Patna	100	Closed in March 2000
	Alpsankhyak Mahila Prashikshan Sansthan, Patna	100	On going

1	2	3	4
	Vidya Shri Niketan, Pakur	150	On going
	Pragati Foundation, Dist. Vaishali	100	On going
	Chandrashekhar Yuva Kendra, Kathsarganj	100	On going
	Subidha International, Bagha	100	On going
	Bhartiya Gramin Seva Sanshtan, Thakariya	100	On going
	Vaishali Kala Kunj, Vaishali	200	On going
	Asha Foundation, Patna	150	On going
	Helping India Dudhaila Gachhi, Sonepur	200	On going
Gujarat	Gujarat Kelavani Trust, Ahmedabad	200	Closed
Haryana	Modern Education Society, Sonipat	100	On going
	Amar Jyoti Shiksha Samiti, Jind	100	On going
	Haryana Lok Kalyan Shuksha Samithi, Panipat	100	On going
Jammu & Kashmir	Social Welfare of India, Rajouri	100	Closed in April, 2000
Kerala	Tagore Memorial Charitable Society, Thiruvananthapuram	200	On going
Manipur	Social Environment & Rural Technology Council, Pallel	50	Closed in March, 2000
	Manipur Women Coordinating Council, Imphal	25	Closed in March, 1998
	Rural Health Organisation, West Senapati	50	Closed in March, 2000
	Manipur Rural Institute, Imphal	200	Closed in June, 1998
	United Rural Development Service, Thoubal	50	On going
Madhya Pradesh	Shri Nav Niketan Shiksha Samiti, Bhopal	100	On going
	Rafi Ahmed Qidwai Education Society, Bhopal	100	Closed in March 1999
	Dr. Ambedkar Memorial Education Society, Bhopal	100	Closed in Jan. 2000
Maharashtra	Ahilyadevi Mahila Mandal, Nagpur	100	Closed in April, 2000
New Delhi	Dr. A.V. Baliga Memorial Trust, Bahadurshah Zafar Marg.	200	Closed in April, 2000
	PRAYAS, Vasant Kunj.	150	On going
	Namrata Education Trust, Munirika.	150	On going

1	2	3	4
Orissa	Jan Jagruthi Education, Mangol Puri	100	On going
	Mobile Creches, Gole Market	200	On going
	Manab Seva Sadan, Dhenkanal.	100	Closed in January 2000
	Project Swarajya, Cuttack	150	Closed in March, 1998
	NYSADRI, Dhekanal	100	Closed in March, 2000
	Sri Ramakrishna Ashram, Angul	150	Closed in March, 2000
	PRRIYA, Balasore	100	On going
	Neelanchal Seva Pratishthan, Puri.	100	Closed in July, 2000
	Orissa Multipurpose Dev. Centre, Chandrasekharpur	100	On going
	Institute for Communication & Development Action, Bhadrak.	100	On going
Tamil Nadu	Ruchika Social Service Wing, Bhubaneswar	400	On going
	Village Reconstruction & Development Project, Salem	180	Closed in Oct. 1999
	Organisation for Rural Development, Madurai	200	On going
Uttar Pradesh	TN Village Consumers Protection Council, New	150	On going
	Ambika Devi High School Kanya Vidyalaya, Mirzapur	250	Closed in May, 2000
	Sanskrit Bhasa Vikas Parishad, Sewapuri, Deoria	100	Closed in March, 2000
	Project Mala, Mirzapur	150	On going
	Gram Sewa Sansthan, Deoria	100	On going
	Children Emancipation Society, 'Project Mala", Mirzapur.	150	On going
	Akhil Bhartiya Samaj Kalyan Parishad, Deoria.	100	Closed in March, 2000
	Bijnor Seva Sansthan, Bijnor	100	Closed in March, 2000
	Jan Seva Samithi, Allahabad	100	On going
	Bal Vikas Avam Mahila Parishad, Gonda	100	On going
	Vaishanavi Shiksha Samiti, Allahabad	200	On going
	Kapil Bal Avam Seva Samithi, Basti	100	On going
	Avadh Mahila Avam Bal Kalyan Samithi	100	On going
	Shikha Mahila Samiti, Basti	50	On going

1	2	3	4
	Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar, Mehrajganj	50	On going
	Jan Jivan Madhyamik Shiksha Samiti	100	On going
	All India Women's Studies & Dev. Org., Kanpur	100	On going
	All India Women's Conference, Kanpur	150	On going
	Swami Vivekananda Shiksha Samiti, Mirjapur	100	On going
	Harijan Nirbal Shiksha Vikas Samiti, Allahabad	250	On going
	Bhartiya Jan Kalyan Avam Mahila Sewa Sansthan	100	On going
	Krishak Vikash Samiti, Ghazipur	100	On going
	Purvanchal Manav Kalyan Sansthan, Maharajganj.	200	On going
	PARAKH, Allahabad	100	On going
	Bhartiya Samajothan Sewa Sansthan, Deoria	100	On going
	Gram Vikas Sewa Samiti, Allahabad	100	On going
West Bengal	Bagmari Youth Progressive Association, Calcutta.	100	Closed in Jan. 2000
	Bhagra Diamond Club, Burdwan.	100	Closed in Janaury 2000
	Ikhupatrika Social Welfare Organisation, Midnapore.	100	Closed in January 2000
	Keorakhali Jan Sewashram, South 24 Parganas	100	On going
	Jan Siksha Prachar Kendra, Calcutta	100	On going
	Karimpur Social Welfare Society	250	Closed in February 1999
	Unemployed Young Workers Society, Burdwan	100	Closed
	SEED, Howrah	100	On going
	Centre for Social Development, North-24 Parganas.	100	On going
	Tafa Palli Milani Sangha, South 24 Parganas.	200	On going
	Indian Rural Medical Association, Calcutta	250	On going
	Village Welfare Society, Calcutta	250	On going

[Translation]

Voluntary Retirement Scheme

1587. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Central Government employees/officers who opted for voluntary retirement under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme as on date;

(b) the details of the retirement and other benefits given to these Central Government employees/officers

(c) whether the female employees and officers have opted more for voluntary retirement in comparison to their male counter-parts;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the year-wise and Grade-wise details of the last three years;

(e) the total number of pending cases pertaining to payment to these employees and officers have been settled so far and the total number of cases pending as on date;

(f) whether the employees and officers opting for voluntary retirement are entitled to all the pensionary benefits on priority basis; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Central Govt. servants can seek retirement on completion of 20 years qualifying service under Rule 48-A of the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972. The powers under this rule vest with the appointing authority and hence no data about the number of Government servants allowed to retire under this rule is centrally available. The retirement benefits are granted to them as per the scales laid down in the said Rules.

(c) and (d) Since the powers under Rules 48-A of the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972 vest with the appointing authority, no data about the number of female and male Government servants allowed to retire under this rule is centrally available.

(e) Sanction and disbursement of pension has been decentralized to the respective Ministries/Departments and therefore, the information is not centrally maintained.

(f) and (g) All the retirement benefits are granted as per the scales laid down in Rules 49 and 50 of the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972. Processing of pension papers in respect of Government servants who opt for Voluntary Retirement under Rule 48-A of the said Rules will be initiated only after the retirement of the Government servant, as the rule provides for withdrawal of notice of retirement also with the specific approval of the Competent Authority.

[English]

Contaminated Ground Water

1588. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:
SHRI S.P. LEPCHA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that three lakhs people are affected by arsenic poisoning of ground water in nine districts of West Bengal and about four crore people are at risk;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to control the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per information received from the Public Health Engineering Department of Government of West Bengal, 57.81 lakh people are at risk zone in 67 blocks of 8 arsenic affected districts of the State. Data regarding population affected by arsenic poisoning is not available with the State Government.

(c) Action taken to contain the problem of arsenic contamination include the following:

(1) The State Government of West Bengal in collaboration with and financial support from the Government of India has sanctioned the following schemes;

(i) A First Phase Action Plan at a cost of Rs. 858.33 lakh under which replacement of arsenic affected spot sources and big diameter tubewells have been completed and four water supply schemes commissioned.

- (ii) A surface water based piped water supply scheme has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 8848 lakh for Malda district.
- (iii) A surface water based piped water supply scheme for arsenic affected areas of South 24 Parganas district has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 232.84 crore.
- (iv) Preparation of a perspective plan at a total cost of Rs. 750.00 crore including long term and short term measures to tackle arsenic contamination. Some of the salient features of the plan are—replacement of tubewells by deeper ones, construction of new piped water supply schemes, sanitary protected rig wells and rain water harvesting structures for immediate relief, establishment of surface water based piped water supply schemes and establishing new spot sources.

(2) The All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health under the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has undertaken epidemiological study in arsenic affected areas.

(3) Several Research and Development projects have been sanctioned under the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission of the Ministry of Rural Development as indicated below:

- (i) Sub-Mission Project on arsenic pollution in ground water in West Bengal at a project cost of Rs. 10.82 lakh by the School of Tropical Medicines and All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health.
- (ii) Study of arsenic contamination in six districts of West Bengal at a project cost of Rs. 4.13 lakh.
- (iii) R&D project on epidemiological study for assessing toxicity in chronic arsenic affected areas at a project cost of Rs. 4.93 lakh. The study has been carried out by the Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research, Calcutta.
- (iv) RD projects on control of arsenic and other chemical pollutants approved at a project cost of Rs. 74.00 lakh. The study has been entrusted to the Presidency College, Calcutta.
- (v) Development of low cost filtering medium for removal of arsenic from ground water approved

by the Government of India at a project cost of Rs. 3.30 lakh. The study has been entrusted to the National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur.

- (vi) Study of geology and geo-chemistry of arsenic occurrences in ground water of six districts in West Bengal approved by the Government of India at the project cost of Rs. 4.78 lakh. The study has been entrusted to the Centre for Study of Man and Environment, Calcutta for arsenic related diseases.

Small Family Norms

1589. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a package of incentives/disincentives for all sections of the public to encourage small family norms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The Government pursues the policy of voluntary and informed choice and consent of citizens, while availing of reproductive health services and continuation of target free approach in administering family planning services.

Pension of SC/ST List

1590. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:
SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE:
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of proposals have been received from various States for inclusion of certain castes and tribes in the list of scheduled castes/tribes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government are aware that several anomalies have surfaced in the facilities available to

carpenters, Gaddis and Gujjars in the old and new areas of Himachal Pradesh owing to non-inclusion of carpenters in Scheduled Castes and Gaddis and Gujjars in the Scheduled Tribes of the new areas after reorganization of the State:

(d) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(e) the time by which this anomaly is likely to be removed and the time since when these facilities are likely to be made available to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details are given in enclosed statement. These proposals received from various States/Union Territory Administrations for inclusion, in exclusion from the other modifications in the SC/ST lists have been processed as per approved modalities. Cases recommended by the State Government are sent to Registrar General of India (RGI) and National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (NCSCST) for their comments/advice. After getting the comments/advice of RGI and NCSCST, action is taken as per the approved modalities.

(c) to (e) Regarding inclusion of Carpenters (Tarkhan), Gaddi and Gujjar communities in SC & ST lists, matter as been examined has per the approved modalities. Government of Himachal Pradesh has been requested to furnish ethnographic particulars justifying the criteria of eligibility for inclusion of these communities in SC/ST lists. No time frame can be assigned, as it requires consultation with several agencies.

Statement

Proposals Received for Inclusion in, Exclusion from and other Modifications in Scheduled Castes/Tribes List as on 27.11.2000

Sl.No.	State/UT	Total proposals received
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	145
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	40
3.	Assam	132
4.	A&N Islands	8
5.	Bihar	74

1	2	3
6.	Chandigarh	25
7.	Delhi	21
8.	D&N Haveli	11
9.	Daman & Diu	3
10.	Goa	17
11.	Gujarat	43
12.	Haryana	25
13.	Himachal Pradesh	44
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	18
15.	Karnataka	110
16.	Kerala	119
17.	Lakshadweep	0
18.	Madhya Pradesh	72
19.	Manipur	30
20.	Meghalaya	26
21.	Maharashtra	123
22.	Mizoram	11
23.	Nagaland	24
24.	Orissa	134
25.	Pondicherry	26
26.	Punjab	28
27.	Rajasthan	47
28.	Sikkim	10
29.	Tamil Nadu	129
30.	Tripura	29
31.	Uttar Pradesh	128
32.	West Bengal	43
Total:		1695

[Translation]

Damages to Dams

1591. SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of dams and Lakes have been damaged in Bihar and Bengal due to heavy rain and flood during the month of September this year and the quantum of loss incurred as a result thereof; and

(b) if so, the details thereof district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No dams and lakes have been reported to be damaged in Bihar and West Bengal due to heavy rains and flood during the month of September 2000. The quantum of loss as a result of damage to dams and lakes have also not been reported.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Medical Store Depot

1592. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2991 on March 14, 2000 and state:

(a) the details of those administrative exigencies due to which the LDCs, UDCs, Depot Managers and Assistance Depot Managers and Pharmacists have not been transferred from Medical Store Depot and what are those specific circumstances under which these officials are continuing for the last about ten years to twenty years even;

(b) the names of those specifically, who are in the same Medical Store Depot since the date of their appointment; and

(c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The administrative exigencies are applied wherever it is considered to be essential for the smooth functioning of the organisation. Generally, posting and transfers are done in accordance with the transfer policy. As the nature of work of CGHS Medical Store Depot is different compared to the work in dispensaries. The staff posted at CGHS MSD have to be acquainted with the working of the stores and therefore their transfer and postings are done in a phased manner. However, the CGHS has already issued transfer orders in respect of Shri Mahinder Bukralia, LDC; Shri Azad Singh, LDC; and Shri Rattan Singh, LDC.

The post of Depot Manager is at present lying vacant. The officer working against the posting of Asst. Depot Manager is not continuing for the last 10 years.

(b) The following officials of the CGHS Medical Store Depot, New Delhi had on their appointment been given the first posting in the said Depot:—

1. Shri Dharmender Kumar, LDC.
2. Shrimati Indira Kumar, Pharmacist
3. Shri Vinay Kumar, Pharmacist
4. Shri Yug Dutt, Pharmacist
5. Shri Jai Bhagwan, Pharmacist
6. Shri Nagender Dhawan, Pharmacist
7. Shri P.P. Srivastava, Assistant Depot Manager.

(c) Periodic review of transfers is done and officials are transferred from time to time.

Upgradation of Government Hospitals

1593. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN:
SHRI RAMESHWAR DUDI:

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

(a) whether the Government have any plans to upgrade the Government hospitals in the country particularly in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the details of the funds allocated for the various health projects during each of the last three years and upto now, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government have taken any steps for the improvement in the medical services, provision of drugs and medicines and also for the high standard medical equipments in Government Hospitals; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) 'Health' is a State subject under the Constitution of India and it is the responsibility of the State Government to upgrade the Government Hospitals in their State keeping in view their priorities and resources available with them.

However, for upgrading secondary health care systems, the following seven States have been provided with World Bank Assistance under the State Health Systems Projects:

<i>State</i>	<i>Project Outlay</i>
Andhra Pradesh	Rs. 608.00 crores
West Bengal	Rs. 698.00 crores
Karnataka	Rs. 546.00 crores
Punjab	Rs. 425.00 crores
Orissa	Rs. 415.57 crores
Maharashtra	Rs. 727.00 crores
Uttar Pradesh	US\$ 110 Million

Assistances are also provided under certain other Programmes, some of which are as follows:—

Under the National AIDS Control Programme following activities are being taken up in Government Hospitals:—

- (i) Modernization of Blood Banks
- (ii) Strengthening of STD Clinics.

The Statewise allocation of funds for 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 is given in Statement.

Apart from providing modern equipment to blood banks and STD clinics, special provision has been made for provision of drugs for treatment of opportunistic infections among HIV infective persons & HIV/AIDS patients in Government Hospitals.

Besides, the above, the State Governments/UTs have been provided Grants-in-aid (Cash and kind) under Family Welfare Programmes as at statement II.

In the Central Government Hospitals, i.e. Dr. R.M.L. Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and LHMC and Associated Hospitals, Life saving and essential drugs are provided free of cost to the patients. Besides these general medicines as contained in the hospital formulary of the respective hospital are also provided free of cost. Hi-tech medical equipments are equipped depending on the needs *vis-a-vis* the budget allocation for the benefits of the patients.

Under the National Programme for Control of Blindness, the following assistance is provided as commodity assistance through State Governments:—

1. Ophthalmic equipment, sutures, intracular lenses and drugs as commodity assistance;
2. Funds to the State Governments for construction of new Eye Wards and Eye Operations Theatres or renovation and furnishing of existing Eye Wards and Eye Operation Theatre; and
3. Training of Eye Surgeons and Paramedical Staff.

The Statewise allocation of funds during the year 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 as at statement III & IV.

Assistances are also being provided under various other Programmes.

Statement I

National AIDS Control Programme

Utilisation of funds by SACS/MCACS

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Utilisation 1997-1998	Utilisation 1998-1999	Utilisation 1999-2000	Utilisation 2000-2001 (Upto Nov., 00)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	425.00	650.00	1219.67	223.50
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	25.00	30.00	159.00	19.00
3.	Assam	100.00	100.00	322.00	194.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Bihar	50.00	110.00	55.00	96.00
5.	Goa	50.00	35.00	98.00	16.50
6.	Gujarat	250.00	230.00	721.00	97.00
7.	Haryana	75.00	160.00	270.00	124.50
8.	Himachal Pradesh	225.00	115.00	318.00	108.50
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	25.00	25.00	25.00	50.00
10.	Karnataka	175.00	335.00	801.67	203.00
11.	Kerala	100.00	65.00	280.00	193.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	150.00	315.00	352.31	310.00
13.	Maharashtra	950.00	800.00	998.35	302.00
14.	Manipur	150.00	245.00	352.38	205.00
15.	Meghalaya	25.00	30.00	70.14	17.50
16.	Mizoram	100.00	100.00	168.00	65.00
17.	Nagaland	155.00	227.00	380.00	113.50
18.	Orissa	75.00	100.00	200.00	118.50
19.	Punjab	75.00	150.00	312.39	101.50
20.	Rajasthan	225.00	100.00	150.00	210.00
21.	Sikkim	50.00	50.00	25.00	23.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	2000.00	800.00	883.09	367.00
23.	Tripura	50.00	20.00	50.00	40.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	495.00	200.00	851.00	450.00
25.	West Bengal	100.00	350.00	425.00	292.50
26.	Pondicherry	0.00	40.00	25.00	21.50
27.	A&N Islands	31.09	20.00	50.00	42.50
28.	Chandigarh	28.00	60.00	115.00	63.00
29.	D&N Haveli	16.00	—	25.00	9.00
30.	Daman & Diu	24.22	15.00	95.00	9.00
31.	Delhi	25.00	110.00	283.00	150.00
32.	Lakshadweep	15.42	—	25.00	8.50
33.	MDACS, Mumbai	—	350.00	670.00	297.00
34.	Ahemdabad MC	—	5.00	75.00	28.50
35.	Chennai MC	—	—	125.00	39.50
Total		6239.73	5942.00	10975.00	4609.00

Statement II**Grants in Aid (Cash and Kind) Including Arrears under F.W. Programme**

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	1997-98			1998-99			1999-2000		
		In Cash	In Kind	Total	In Cash	In Kind	Total	In Cash	In Kind	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8838.71	2387.25	11225.96	11652.79	2961.41	14614.20	16609.39	3023.31	19632.70
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	147.73	89.65	237.38	144.06	75.75	219.81	231.20	103.35	334.55
3.	Assam	3284.70	1165.61	4450.31	3260.45	1177.35	4437.80	7071.23	1421.68	8492.91
4.	Bihar	9894.51	2727.31	12621.82	8792.62	4025.28	12817.90	28435.89	4868.39	33304.28
5.	Goa	168.13	38.70	206.83	184.83	58.94	243.77	243.44	82.50	325.94
6.	Gujarat	9446.00	1877.12	11323.12	10503.85	2108.13	12611.98	14612.87	2600.21	17213.08
7.	Haryana	3521.84	722.46	4244.30	2746.01	906.66	3652.67	3388.16	1019.59	4407.75
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1123.72	307.30	1431.02	1973.97	399.57	2373.54	2069.01	338.33	2407.34
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1873.62	264.16	2137.78	1600.73	455.77	2056.50	1803.64	458.21	2261.85
10.	Karnataka	5185.49	1275.84	6461.33	7681.02	2111.95	9792.97	16978.35	2107.70	19086.05
11.	Kerala	2981.46	973.70	3955.16	4190.43	1313.51	5503.94	5487.87	1376.24	6864.11
12.	Madhya Pradesh	6765.52	3227.78	9993.30	8566.08	4587.46	13153.54	11373.95	4988.02	16361.97
13.	Maharashtra	8289.64	2388.04	10677.68	11164.04	3872.20	15036.24	11971.24	3924.85	15896.00
14.	Manipur	452.95	132.90	585.85	622.26	108.80	731.06	907.39	147.96	1055.35
15.	Meghalaya	300.91	96.13	397.04	328.75	140.78	469.53	598.21	152.50	750.71
16.	Mizoram	221.36	74.68	296.04	239.11	68.77	307.88	368.47	75.80	444.27
17.	Nagaland	209.05	59.19	268.24	247.96	90.31	338.27	402.78	97.73	500.51
18.	Orissa	4821.63	1337.46	6159.09	4710.89	1773.73	6484.62	6053.65	1765.56	7819.21
19.	Punjab	2451.93	1117.79	3569.72	2558.65	1125.51	3684.16	2941.14	1246.95	4188.09
20.	Rajasthan	7299.73	2176.96	9476.69	8492.29	2688.55	11180.84	14307.20	3238.37	17545.57
21.	Sikkim	218.87	46.00	264.87	307.72	41.68	349.40	416.73	68.33	485.06
22.	Tamil Nadu	10835.89	1924.08	12759.97	9197.30	2582.39	11779.69	21270.03	1833.16	23103.19
23.	Tripura	411.50	161.28	572.78	1781.61	193.98	1975.59	823.48	177.00	1000.48
24.	Uttar Pradesh	19276.48	5797.10	25073.58	42482.52	8773.56	51256.08	26295.63	10356.72	36652.35
25.	West Bengal	5201.99	2505.16	7707.15	11122.85	3172.95	14295.80	9003.46	2944.78	11948.24
Total (States)		113223.36	32873.65	146097.01	154552.79	44814.99	199367.78	203664.41	48417.24	252081.65
<i>UTs with Legislature</i>										
1.	Pondicherry	138.53	35.49	174.02	137.85	54.55	91.2.40	148.13	38.19	186.32
2.	Delhi	719.82	435.59	1155.41	1012.59	473.35	1485.94	2092.19	698.88	2791.07

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<i>Outlays for UTs without Legislature</i>										
1.	A&N Island	100.34	22.06	122.40	104.60	19.00	123.60	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	D&N Haveli	34.41	5.55	39.96	59.31	9.98	69.29	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Chandigarh	96.25	17.08	113.33	131.33	57.72	189.05	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Lakshdweep	13.25	5.91	19.16	30.05	5.01	35.06	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Daman & Diu	32.25	12.15	44.40	43.50	8.55	52.05	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total (UTs)		1134.85	533.83	1668.68	1519.23	628.16	2147.39	2240.32	737.07	2977.39
Grand Total		114358.21	33407.48	147765.69	156072.02	45443.15	201515.17	205904.73	49154.31	255059.04

Statement III

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sates	IX Plan								
	Cash Grants	Expenditure	Unspent	Cash	Expenditure	Unspent	Cash	Expenditure	Unspent
	(1997-1998)	(1997-1998)		(1998-1999)	(1998-1999)		(1999-2000)	(1999-2000)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<i>World Bank Project</i>									
Andhra Pradesh	204.34	277.63	-73.29	88.50	259.30	-170.80	159.25	297.79	-138.54
Madhya Pradesh	138.40	429.09	-290.69	568.67	162.84	405.83	223.50	579.23	-355.73
Maharashtra	99.27	164.35	-65.08	87.00	357.21	-270.21	352.75	844.74	-491.99
Orissa	312.20	59.26	252.94	331.08	137.07	194.01	129.25	577.83	-448.58
Rajasthan	46.60	18.37	28.23	35.00	312.25	-276.75	122.50	26.97	95.53
Tamil Nadu	444.47	496.07	-51.60	551.00	705.92	-154.92	462.18	190.30	271.88
Uttar Pradesh	138.28	226.35	-88.07	207.25	91.41	115.84	318.32	323.69	-5.37
Sub Total	1383.56	1671.12	-287.56	1869.00	2026.00	-157.00	1767.75	2840.55	-1072.80
<i>Rest of the States</i>									
Arunachal Pradesh	4.04	1.41	2.63	4.50	2.50	2.00	6.00	2.66	3.34
Assam	4.54	3.19	1.35	49.65	—	49.65	30.50	—	30.50
Bihar	7.44	58.33	-50.89	19.50	56.94	-37.44	18.00	—	18.00
Delhi	1.25	0.18	1.07	11.20	6.08	5.12	12.52	11.50	1.02
Goa	5.25	7.34	-2.09	63.00	7.16	55.84	11.50	8.88	2.62
Gujarat	4.01	13.89	-9.88	39.99	32.58	7.41	268.52	275.06	243.03
Haryana	2.97	0.00	2.97	37.50	14.66	22.84	115.27	—	115.27

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Himachal Pradesh	2.97	20.14	-17.17	34.03	15.41	18.62	55.25	25.47	29.78
Jammu & Kashmir	20.66	0.00	20.66	52.50	—	52.50	22.75	—	22.75
Karnataka	11.78	11.96	-0.18	62.01	23.08	38.93	175.25	58.70	116.55
Kerala	6.84	97.69	-90.85	16.07	38.17	-22.10	149.49	152.54	-3.05
Manipur	1.77	6.31	-4.54	16.76	6.31	10.45	9.00	9.69	-0.69
Meghalaya	4.56	1.43	3.13	11.60	7.66	3.94	9.00	8.96	0.04
Mizoram	1.54	4.96	-3.42	16.60	10.71	5.89	9.50	12.54	-3.04
Nagaland	3.85	10.25	-6.40	56.95	10.72	46.23	11.00	—	11.00
Punjab	4.15	3.00	1.15	5.10	0.00	5.10	121.61	0.00	121.61
Sikkim	7.92	11.61	-3.69	26.30	4.82	21.48	6.25	6.35	-0.10
Tripura	7.77	10.47	-2.70	37.74	19.50	18.24	17.39	22.00	4.58
West Bengal	3.25	36.41	-33.16	6.20	37.90	-31.70	77.10	—	77.10
A & Nicobar	4.00	1.50	2.50	3.80	2.32	1.48	10.67	7.23	10.17
Chandigarh	4.00	0.49	3.51	3.60	0.62	2.98	10.24	1.57	8.67
D & N Haveli	4.00	1.14	2.86	3.70	0.91	2.79	2.50	0.50	2.00
Daman & Diu	4.00	4.00	0.00	3.70	5.55	-1.85	9.40	5.09	4.31
Lakshadweep	7.04	1.17	5.87	17.70	0.18	17.52	2.72	3.03	2.72
Pondicherry	4.00	0.95	3.05	2.30	0.55	1.75	20.82	14.39	6.43
Sub Total	133.60	307.82	-174.22	602.00	304.33	297.67	1182.25	357.64	824.61
Grand Total	1517.16	1978.94	-461.78	2471.00	2330.33	140.67	2950.00	3198.19	-248.19

Statement IV

Budget Allocated & Funds released to States upto 2nd Quarter for the year 2000-2001 including C.W., Fur. & Ren. and Procurement

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	Allo.	Rel. I	Rel. II	Rel. III	Fur. & Ren.	CW	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Arunachal Pradesh	28.50	1.63	1.63	1.63	2.00	20.00	26.89
Assam	107.50	9.38	9.38	9.38	10.00	60.00	98.14
Bihar	132.50	10.63	10.63	10.63	15.00	75.00	121.89
Goa	38.20	2.55	2.55	2.55	3.00	25.00	35.65

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Gujarat	199.00	13.74	13.74	13.74	24.00	120.00	185.22
Haryana	112.00	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.00	60.00	101.50
Himachal Pradesh	91.00	6.50	6.50	6.50	10.00	55.00	84.50
Jammu & Kashmir	88.50	5.88	5.88	5.88	10.00	55.00	82.64
Karnataka	103.20	23.30	23.30	23.30	10.00	0.00	79.90
Kerala	131.50	16.60	16.60	16.60	10.00	55.00	114.80
Manipur	38.60	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.00	20.00	34.70
Meghalaya	39.10	4.03	4.03	4.03	3.00	20.00	35.09
Mizoram	33.60	2.65	2.65	2.65	3.00	20.00	30.95
Nagaland	38.60	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.00	20.00	34.70
Punjab	74.80	14.20	14.20	14.20	3.00	15.00	60.60
Sikkim	21.10	1.03	1.03	1.03	2.00	15.00	20.09
Tripura	52.30	5.58	5.58	5.58	5.00	25.00	46.74
West Bengal	135.00	12.75	12.75	12.75	14.00	70.00	122.25
Andaman & Nicobar	3.75	3.25	—	—	0.50	0.00	3.75
Chandigarh	5.00	4.00	—	—	1.00	0.00	5.00
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3.75	3.25	—	—	0.50	0.00	3.75
Daman & Diu	3.75	3.25	—	—	0.50	0.00	3.75
Lakshadweep	3.75	3.25	—	—	0.50	0.00	3.75
Delhi	11.50	1.88	1.88	1.88	4.00	0.00	9.64
Pondicherry	8.50	1.43	1.43	1.43	2.80	0.00	7.09
Sub Total (A)	1505.00	169.06	152.06	152.06	149.80	730.00	1352.98
Andhra Pradesh	205.00	33.75	33.75	33.75	70.00	0.00	171.25
Madhya Pradesh	192.00	38.00	38.00	38.00	40.00	0.00	154.00
Maharashtra	363.00	32.00	32.00	32.00	70.00	165.00	331.00
Orissa	680.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	100.00	500.00	660.00
Rajasthan	673.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	100.00	485.00	651.00
Tamil Nadu	195.00	33.75	33.75	33.75	60.00	0.00	161.25
Uttar Pradesh	227.00	35.50	35.50	35.50	85.00	0.00	191.50
Sub Total (B)	2535.00	215.00	215.00	215.00	525.00	1150.00	2320.00
Grand Total	4040.00	384.06	367.06	367.06	674.80	1880.00	3672.98

[Translation]

Israel Assistance for Fighting Terrorism

1594. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
DR. ASHOK PATEL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to take the assistance from Israel to combat the cross border terrorism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Israel Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Israel and India have agreed to establish a dialogue on counter-terrorism. Details are being worked out by the concerned authorities in the two countries.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Expenditure on Health Service

1595. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of expenditure being made by the Government on health;

(b) whether there is continuous decline in the ratio of expenditure on health;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government propose to increase the outlay on health to provide adequate and improved health service to the public; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the measures being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) A Statement showing pattern of Plan investment on Health and Family Welfare during different Plan periods in Centre, States and UTs is enclosed.

The percentage of outlays/expenditure on health and family welfare has remained more or less same over the various previous plan periods. It has been the highest during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

Government has been making every effort to augment the resources for the health and Family Welfare sectors by mobilising external assistance from various bilateral and multilateral agencies for implementing the National programmes for AIDS, Malaria, TB, Leprosy, Blindness, Reproductive Child Health Programme. Besides, for upgrading the rural hospitals in selected States, World Bank assistance has been availed of, which would further improve delivery of health services.

Statement

*Pattern of Investment of Health & Family Welfare for Different Plan Periods
in the Public Sector (Centre, States & UTs)*

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Period	Total Plan Investment (All Heads of Development)	Health		Family Welfare		Total (Health and Family Welfare)	
			Outlay/Expd.	% of 3	Outlay/Expd.	% of 3	Outlay/Expd.	% of 3
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	1st Plan (Actuals) (1951-56)	1960.00	65.20	3.33	0.10	0.01	65.30	3.33

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2.	2nd Plan (Actuals) (1560-61)	4672.00	140.80	3.01	5.00	0.11	145.80	3.12
3.	3rd Plan (Actuals) (1961-66)	8576.50	225.90	2.63	24.90	0.29	250.80	2.92
4.	Annual Plan (Actuals) (1966-69)	6625.40	140.20	2.12	70.40	1.06	210.60	3.18
5.	4th Plan (Actuals) 1969-74	15778.80	335.50	2.13	278.00	1.76	613.50	3.89
6.	5th Plan (Actuals) (1974-79)	39426.20	760.80	1.93	491.80	1.25	1252.60	3.18
7.	(1979-80) (Actuals)	12176.50	223.10	1.83	118.50	0.97	341.60	2.81
8.	6th Plan (Outlay) 1980-85)	97500.00	1821.00	1.87	1010.00	1.04	2831.00	2.90
	6th Plan (Actuals) (1980-85)	109291.7	2025.20	1.85	1387.00	1.27	3412.20	3.12
9.	7th Plan (Outlay) (1985-90)	180000.00	3392.90	1.88	3256.30	1.81	6649.20	3.69
	7th Plan (Actuals)	218729.60	3688.60	1.69	3120.80	1.43	6809.40	3.11
10.	(1990-91) - Actual	61518.10	960.90	1.56	784.90	1.28	1745.80	2.84
11.	(1991-92) - Actual	65855.80	1042.20	1.58	856.60	1.30	1898.80	2.88
12.	8th Plan Outlay (1992-97)	434100.00	7582.20	1.75	6500.00	1.50	14082.20	3.24
13.	9th Plan Outlay (1997-2002)	859200.00	19374.11	2.25	15120.20	1.76	34494.31	4.01

Source F.R. Division, Planning Commission.

'Hepatitis-B Vaccination Programme

1596 SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2408 on August 7, 2000 and state:

(a) whether the introduction of pilot project Hepatitis 'B' Vaccination is finalized;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any further request from Government of Maharashtra or other State Governments regarding Hepatitis 'B' Vaccination;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether various countries in the world, WHO and UNICEF are recommending Hepatitis 'B' Vaccination;

(f) if so, whether some foreign organizations have offered themselves to support and given grant to Hepatitis 'B' Vaccination Programme in the country;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a)

and (b) A proposal for a Pilot Project for introduction of Hepatitis 'B' in selected districts and cities is still under consideration.

(c) and (d) Apart from the requests for introduction of Hepatitis 'B', received earlier from the State of Maharashtra, Kerala, and Haryana, a new request has also been received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) to (h) Yes, Sir. The Department has initiated a dialogue with the Global Alliance for Vaccine and Immunization for support for the Pilot Project referred to in the answers to (a) and (b) above. Separately, a proposal for a grant from the Children Vaccine Programme, an international Non Governmental Organisation for Hepatitis B vaccination and other immunization activities in Andhra Pradesh is also under consideration.

Facilities in Dr. R.M.L. Hospital and Other Hospitals

1597. DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of patients registered for treatment in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and other Government hospitals during the last three years, month-wise and department-wise;

(b) the doctor patient ratio in Dr. R.M.L. Hospital and other Central Hospitals in Delhi;

(c) whether the Government are aware that there are no adequate public convenience facilities in the Government Hospitals; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for providing more facilities to patients in these hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

[Translation]

Collection of Blood by Private Blood Banks

1598. DR. SANJAY PASWAN:
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the practice of illegal collection of blood by certain private blood banks over-looking Supreme Court's orders and the instructions of State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There have been isolated reports from some parts of the country about this illegal practice of collecting blood from Professional Blood Donors. The practice of Professional Blood Donation has been banned since 1st January, 1998, and since then the regulatory authority (the Central & State Drugs Control Authorities) has taken steps to curtail such practices in the country. These authorities are being further strengthened to monitor such practices and impose strict penalties.

[English]

Voluntary Associations/Non-Governmental Organisations

1599. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY:
SHRI DINSHA PATEL:

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

(a) whether voluntary associations and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) have received foreign contribution under Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 for various projects under Health care and Family Planning during each of the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected from the Ministry of Home Affairs, who are the concerned authorities for FCRA cases. and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Unemployed Youth

1600. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:
SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAKIP:
SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether that due to increase of two years in retirement age of Government employees, number of unemployed youths have increased alarmingly;

(b) if so, the number of unemployed youths in the country as on October 1, 1997 and October 1, 2000;

(c) whether the Union Government had promised to provide 10 million jobs every year;

(d) if so, the number of jobs offered to unemployed youths during each of the last three years; and

(e) if so, the efforts made/proposed to be made to provide jobs to the unemployed youths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Even if the increase in employment opportunities for youth in private sector is ignored, an alarming increase in youth unemployment due to postponement of retirement of Central Government employees by two years is ruled out because magnitude of Central Government Employees retirement is of the order of 0.09 million in an average year (for the groups A,B, & C, for which retirement age was raised to 60 years in May, 1998), whereas the level of unemployment of youth is around 8 to 9 million.

(c) to (e) Government has set up a "Task Force on Employment Opportunities" with the following terms of reference.

- (i) To examine the existing employment and unemployment situation in the country.
- (ii) To suggest strategies of employment generation for achieving the target of providing employment opportunities to 10 crore people over the next 10 years. This implies strategies for providing employment opportunities to one crore people per year on an average.
- (iii) To consider any other matter related with or incidental to the above terms of reference.

The Task Force is finalising its Report.

Model Legislation on Diagnostic Centres and Labs

1601. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to draft a model legislation for effective control over diagnostic centres and labs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Health being a State subject, it is the responsibility of every State Government to bring in necessary legislation/take necessary steps to establish effective authority to regulate the functioning of various diagnostic centres/labs. However, the Government is in the process of issuing notification for ensuring minimum standards of physical infrastructure & manpower in all Hospitals, Nursing Homes and Diagnostic Centres offering Medical Services.

[Translation]

Medicines from Panchgavya

1602. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about various "Gou Samvardhan Sansthan" producing variety of medicine made by panchgavya (milk, curd, ghee, urine and cow dung) in the country which are very effective in the treatment of a number of diseases;

(b) if so, the efforts being made by the Government to promote this system;

(c) whether the Government have provided any financial aid for research work in this field;

(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 (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) As per the information received from Central Council for Research in Ayurveda & Siddha, "Gou Seva Sangh" has a number of branches in Rajasthan.

A Research Centre titled Baba Balvant Singh Panchgavya Anusandhan Kendra, Durgapura—Jaipur is functioning under Gou Seva Sangh. This centre has prepared about 32 Ayurvedic formulations. According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) an organisation called "Gau Samvardhan Sansthan" is also working in the area of pharmaceutical research in the by-products of Panchgavya.

(b) The ingredients of Panchgavya are already included in the formulations described in the classical texts of Ayurveda, which are scheduled in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940. The Ayurvedic Formularies of India mention various formulations containing ingredients of Panchgavya. A number of Pharmacies are preparing and marketing these preparations.

(c) to (e) No proposal for conducting research in this area has been received by Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha.

Indo-Russia Joint Task Force

1603. SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia and India have constituted any joint task force on Afghanistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the objectives and characteristics of the said task force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) India and Russia had decided to set up a Joint Working Group on Afghanistan during the visit of His

Excellency Mr. Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation of India on October 2-5, 2000. The first meeting of the Indo-Russian Joint Working Group on Afghanistan was held in New Delhi on November 20-21, 2000 in which both sides reviewed the situation prevailing in Afghanistan in all its dimensions and agreed to continue their cooperation at the bilateral level as well as multilaterally in this respect.

[English]

SC/ST Assistant Professors

1604. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Assistant Professors working in All India Institute of Medical Sciences and Dr. R.P. Centre alongwith the number of Assistant Professors belonging to SCs/STs among them as on date;

(b) whether this number is as per the quota fixed for reservation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the criteria fixed for the selection of *ad-hoc* Assistant Professors in the said organisations; and

(f) the steps taken or likely to be taken by the Government to fill up the posts of Assistant Professors particularly in Department of Ophthalmology in AIIMS and Dr. R.P. Centre as per the reservation quota fixed in this regard during the last three years, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) At present 110 (including 104 *ad-hoc*) Assistant Professors are working in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. Of these, 7 are working in Dr. R.P. Centre out of which two belong to Scheduled Castes category. Of the remaining 103 working in the Institute, 9 belong to Scheduled Castes category and one belongs to Scheduled Tribe category. No regular appointment to the post of Assistant Professors is being made since November, 1994 due to a pending Court Case in the High Court of Delhi and the matter is sub-judice.

(e) The *ad-hoc* appointments at the level of Assistant Professors are being made at the Institute on the request of the Head of the Department concerned in order to ensure that the teaching, research and patient care

activities in the Institute may not suffer. The vacancies for making *ad-hoc* appointment are notified to all Medical College & Hospital all over India. The applications received against the notification are being considered by a Selection Committee consisting of the Director, Dean, Dy. Director (Admn.), Sub-Dean, one faculty member representing minority community, one faculty member representing Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes communities and the Head of the concerned Department. The Director, AIIMS is empowered to make *ad-hoc* appointments at the level of Assistant Professor for a period of one year.

(f) Steps were taken to fill up vacant posts of Assistant Professor in various disciplines at the Institute including that of the posts of Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Dr. R.P. Centre. An advertisement was also issued during the month of September, 1999 for making regular appointments. However, since the matter is sub-judice it was decided not to fill up posts of Assistant Professor on regular basis.

Bill on Reservation

1605. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether at present the reservation of appointment and posts for the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes is restricted to the lowest rung of the Class 1 services only;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) since when and under what circumstances this restriction was imposed and the practice before imposition of this restriction;

(d) the reasons for not implementing the mandate of extending reservation policy to the higher rungs of services and appointments as provided under Art. 16 (4A) incorporated to the Constitution through the 77th Amendment Act making provisions for reservation in matters of promotion to any class or classes of services and posts;

(e) whether the Government propose to bring out an Act of Parliament for effective implementation of the provisions of Articles 15(4), 16(4) and 16(4A) of the Constitution; and

(f) if so, the progress achieved in this regard since 1993 and the status of Bill on reservation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Reservation for SCs and STs is available in all Groups of posts which are filled up by direct recruitment and by non-selection method of promotion. Keeping in view the provisions of Article 335 of the Constitution, reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the posts filled by selection method of promotion is available upto lowest rung of Group 'A' posts.

(d) Article 16 (4A) was incorporated with the objective of continuing the Policy of reservation in promotion existing prior to the incorporation of this Article.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Epidemic Diseases

1606. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that there is a sharp increase in the cases of Malaria, Filariasis, brain-fever, Jaundice and diarrhoea in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to send Central team to Orissa to assess the number of persons affected due to these ailments;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action plan formulated by the Union Government to control such diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Number of cases of Malaria, Filariasis, Brain Fever (Japanese Encephalitis), Jaundice and Diarrhoeal diseases in the country as reported by the State health authorities during the last 3 years have been as under:—

Name of Diseases	Year		
	1997	1998	1999
Malaria	2660057	2222748	2284713
Filaria	21269	26142	16643
Brain Fever (JE)	2516	2120	3428
Jaundice	133594	113257	130153
Diarrhoea	8065688	9634787	8053896

(b) and (c) Teams from Directorate of National Anti Malaria Programme (NAMP) have been periodically visiting Orissa to assess the Malaria situation and provide on the spot technical guidance, training etc. During the current year so far 14 visits to Orissa have been undertaken by the Officers of the Directorate of NAMP. The State is endemic to Malaria and Filaria. Japanese Encephalitis is not a problem in Orissa. During the current year, 15 districts of the State have shown increase in Malaria incidence. Further teams from the Directorate of NAMP and National Institute of Communicable Diseases visited Orissa during May-June, 2000 for assessment of the Malaria situation in KBK districts. The reports of the teams, *inter-alia*, suggested strengthening of process of early case detection and prompt treatment of Malaria cases in these districts, arrangements for training for the Medical Officers and Pharmacists and introduction of Vector Control measures including bio-environmental measures, inter-sectoral co-ordination and intensification of IEC activities.

(d) For prevention and control of Malaria, Filaria, Brain Fever (Japanese Encephalitis) and Diarrhoeal disease, steps taken include:—

Malaria:

- Intensification of early detection and prompt treatment of Malaria including treatment of complicated cases by newer drugs.
- Intensification of vector control measures through prioritization of areas for selective spray with appropriate insecticides and alternative and integrated vector control methods.
- Introduction of newer insecticides like Synthetic Pyrethroids for selective use as per technical requirements.
- Intensification of Information Education and Communication (IEC) activities for public awareness and community participation.

- Institutional and management capacity building, manpower development through intensive re-orientation training programmes at all levels and efficient Management Information System (MIS).
- Implementation of an Enhanced Malaria Control Project (EMCP) with World Bank support under the National Anti Malaria Programme (NAMP) since September, 1997, covering 1045 Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in 100 predominantly tribal highly Malaria-endemic districts of 7 peninsular States namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and 19 cities/towns having high endemicity of malaria in these States and the States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal for intensification of Malaria control activities by way of additional inputs through a mix of interventions.
- Providing 100% Central Assistance to the 7 North Eastern States since December, 1994 under NMEP.

Filaria:

- Recurrent anti-larval measures.
- Biological control of mosquito breeding with larvivorous fishes.
- Anti-parasitic measures by detecting micro-filaria carriers and treatment with Diethyl-carbamazine (DEC).
- Referral of acute and chronic filaria cases to Hospitals for effective management.
- IEC activities to increase public awareness.
- Pilot Project to study the feasibility and impact of single dose annual mass DEC therapy in 13 districts.
- Training of Medical and Para-Medical Staff in 3 Training Institutions under NICD.

Community-based clinical trial has been taken up to study the impact of co-administration of tablet Albendazole with DEC on human health.

Brain Fever (Japanese Encephalitis):

Prevention and control of Brain Fever (Japanese Encephalitis) are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, Directorate of National Anti Malaria Programme (NAMP) closely monitors incidence

of J.E. and also provides material assistance (essentially insecticides) as per need to manage and control JE outbreaks. Besides, technical guidance is also provided to the States by the Dte. of NAMP and National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) for preventing incidence of JE and managing outbreaks. Further, orientation training on clinical management of JE for Primary Health Centres (PHC)/District Medical Officers is conducted with the objective of early case detection and prevention of mortality. Government of India also facilitates supply of JE vaccine from its Central Research Institute, Kasauli to States which are in need of such vaccine.

Diarrhoeal Diseases:

- Lifting of water samples for testing
- Intensification of surveillance activities
- Distribution of Chlorine Tablets
- Distribution of ORS packets.
- Imparting of Health Education to the community through Hand-bills, posters, group discussion, Media etc.
- Mobile clinics to treat the poor in under-served areas.

In addition, a National Surveillance Programme for Communicable Diseases has been undertaken in 45 districts in the country on pilot basis.

[Translation]

Employment to Rural People

1607. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide employment to the rural people in the country particularly of Uttar Pradesh through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission;

(b) if so, the names of the villages where employment has been provided to the people during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the people are underpaid for their work; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps being taken by the Government to benefit villagers properly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Government is promoting various programmes for the development of Khadi and Village Industries. It provides financial assistance to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) which in turn provides financial assistance to the Khadi institutions in the form of Rebate and Interest Subsidy.

For the development of village industries, Margin Money Scheme is being implemented. Under the scheme 25% of project cost is provided as margin money. For project cost above Rs. 10 lakhs and upto Rs. 25 lakhs, the rate of margin money is 25% of Rs. 10 lakhs plus 10% of the balance cost of the project. For the weaker sections, the margin money is given at the rate of 30% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs and for the balance amount (upto Rs. 25 lakhs) it is 10%. The Khadi and Village Industries programmes are being implemented in all the States of the country including Uttar Pradesh.

(b) Such information is not being maintained centrally.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Reconstitution of KVIC

1608. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to reconstitute the Khadi and Village Industries Commission in order to make its planning and performance effective and to make it a viable organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to appoint new committees in the above reconstitution;

(d) if so, the time by which these committees are likely to be constituted; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES. MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (e) The reconstitution of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission is under consideration of the Government.

[English]

Cardio Vascular Disease

1609. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that according to a research conducted by Saffola Healthy Heart Foundation, Indians are becoming increasingly susceptible to heart diseases and the cardio vascular diseases are expected to replace infectious diseases as the killer diseases in India by 2015;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide medical facilities to meet the above in hospitals in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The World Bank Health Sectoral Priorities Review has projected that the number of deaths will double due to Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) between 1985 and 2015 and CVD will take over infectious diseases in India by 2015.

(c) Cardio Vascular Diseases are managed at various levels in the Urban Health Care Institutions and Rural Health Care Delivery System in the country both in the public and private sectors. Besides, several district level hospitals which provide secondary level health care facilities, premier Government and autonomous Institutions

like All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi and Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research ((PGIMER) Chandigarh provide specialised tertiary care facilities in this field.

[Translation]

Promotion of Hindi/Indian Culture

1610. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries where large number of people of Indian Origin are living and the arrangements made to teach their children Hindi and also make them familiar with Indian culture; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The names of the countries where large number of people of Indian Origin are living is given in the statement.

Ministry has a well formulated scheme of propagation of Hindi abroad. In addition to local Hindi Teachers, Ministry deputed Hindi Teachers to the countries where relatively significant number of people of Indian origin are living and Hindi classes are conducted. Hindi Professors are also deputed to various foreign Universities. Indian Missions abroad promote and assist in learning of Hindi through correspondence courses conducted by Central Hindi Directorate.

Ministry also supplies books in Hindi on various subjects such as Indian culture, Art, Literature, Language, History and Philosophy to Indian Missions for their libraries as also for donating to Educational Institutions and Voluntary Organisations engaged in promotion of Hindi. Teaching material including text books, dictionaries, audio-visual cassettes, Computer software, CD-ROMs etc. are also being sent. The Missions on their part maintain close contacts with local organisations and Indian community and fulfil their Hindi language related requirements. Some of our Missions have been organizing Hindi Conferences, literary events, Hindi Essay Competitions etc. to promote Hindi in the countries of their accreditation. Liberal financial assistance is given to the organisations engaged in teaching and promotion of Hindi as well as Indian culture abroad.

Statement

List of countries where large number of people of Indian origin are living

Australia

Austria

Bahrain

Canada

China (Hong Kong)

Fiji

France

Germany

Guyana

Indonesia

Israel

Italy

Jamaica

Kenya

Kuwait

Lebanon

Libya

Madagascar

Malaysia

Mauritius

Mozambique

Myanmar

Netherlands

New Zealand

Nigeria

Oman

Panama

Philippines

Portugal

Qatar

Russia

Reunion Islands

Saudi Arabia

Singapore

South Africa

Spain

Sri Lanka

Suriname

Sweden

Switzerland

Tanzania

Thailand

Trinidad & Tobago

Uganda

United Arab Emirates

United Kingdom

United States of America

Yemen

Zambia

Zimbabwe

Promotion of Agro and Rural Industries

1611. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL:

SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched special programmes/projects for development and promotion of Agro and Rural Industries in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, under various schemes/package of incentives provided thereunder;

(c) the details of progress achieved in development and promotion of agro based rural industries in Maharashtra in particular during the last five years;

(d) details of allocations made and funds released out of the allocations during the last two years and the

current year for promotion and development of agro based industry in Maharashtra;

(e) whether the Union Government have asked for the progress report regarding the district-wise utilisation of the amount; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) and the National Programme for Rural Industrialisation (NPRI). Under the REGP the assistance is provided to set up Khadi and village industries units. For the promotion of khadi, assistance is provided in the form of rebate and interest subsidy. For the promotion of village industries, 25% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs and additional 10% of the cost of the project above Rs. 10 lakhs but upto Rs. 25 lakhs is provided as margin money. This programme is being implemented in all the States of the country. Under the NPRI, the KVIC has identified 50 Rural Clusters in the States of Rajasthan, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Tripura and Manipur for developing common facilities.

(c) The performance of Khadi and Village Industries in Maharashtra during the last five years is as under:—

Year	Production (in lakhs Rupees)	Employment (in lakh persons)
1995-1996	71667.56	4.74
1996-1997	75647.07	4.76
1997-1998	69104.77	4.00
1998-1999	93089.16	4.65
1999-2000 (Provisional)	102679.71	5.04

(d) The details of allocation made and funds released during the last two years and the current year for promotion and development of agro-based industries in Maharashtra are as under:—

Year	Allocation (Rupees in lakhs)	Releases (Rupees in lakhs)
1998-1999	4045.15	1271.74
1999-2000 (Provisional)	6518.53	1304.75
2000-2001 (Provisional)	3051.42	

(e) No, Sir. The Government does not monitor the progress district wise.

(f) Does not arise.

Amount Allocated for Training

1612. SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state the details of total amount allocated during each of the last three years to provide training in respect of small scale industries in the rural areas of Eastern Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): The Government of Uttar Pradesh has informed that the amount allocated during each of the last three years to provide training in respect of small scale industries (SSI) in the rural areas of Eastern Uttar Pradesh is as under:—

Year	Amount allocated (Rs. in lakhs)
1997-1998	13.30
1998-1999	13.20
1999-2000	12.79

In addition, Small Industries Service Institute, Allahabad, which primarily looks after the SSI Entrepreneurs of Eastern Uttar Pradesh, was allocated funds during each of the last three years, to provide training in respect of Small Scale Industries, as under:

Year	Amount allocated (Rs. in lakhs)
1997-1998	2.20
1998-1999	2.57
1999-2000	2.83

[English]

National Polio Eradication Programme

1613. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAKIP:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Dead Polio Vaccine given to 35 lakh" appearing in *Times of India* dated November 9, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts reported therein and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to conduct an enquiry into the entire episode of polio vaccination programme in the country during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, State-wise;

(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 (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) A Statement is attached.

Statement

A Press Report had appeared in the Delhi Edition of 'Times of India' on 9th November 2000 about alleged lack of potency of polio vaccine supplied to Uttar Pradesh.

All vaccines supplied under the Immunization Programme throughout the country are tested at the National Control Laboratory, Central Research Institute, Kasauli and released for use under the Programme only if these are found satisfactory at the test. The vaccine batches that have been quoted in the Newspapers were also duly tested before release to Uttar Pradesh.

It has also been ascertained that vaccines with Vaccine Vial Monitors (VVM) in Grade I stage only were sent to Uttar Pradesh. The VVM is a sure indicator of the potency of the vaccines. Experts from WHO have advised that once the use of VVM has been made universal, it is not really necessary to continue the previous practice of collecting and analyzing field samples. However, the Government is continuing the field sample testing as a measure of abundant caution.

The vaccine batches in question were actually supplied to Uttar Pradesh on 1-2 November 1999 for use during the Pulse Polio Immunization Day to be conducted on 21st November 1999. However, some unused quantity of this vaccine was stored at Moradabad. It has also been ascertained that no such vaccine has been sent to Meerut as indicated in the news-item.

Before September 2000, field samples from Uttar Pradesh including Moradabad were collected and tested by the apex Government Laboratory, National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD), Delhi and reports from NICD indicated that a high percentage of the field samples were found satisfactory. Recently, the National Institute of Biologicals (NIB), NOIDA was entrusted with the job of analyzing the field samples from UP. 23% of the samples from the field tested in this institute have revealed low potency.

The State Government of U.P. has been advised to collect samples again from Moradabad, preferably from the same batches, if these are still available, and get them tested again in another laboratory.

Rat Fever (Leptospirosis)

1614. DR. C. KRISHNAN:
SHRI VAIKO:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

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

(a) the number of deaths occurred due to Leptospirosis (Rat Fever) during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government have deputed any medical/research team to study this problem;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/propose to be taken to eradicate this disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Being a non-reportable disease, the States do not report data on leptospirosis to Central Bureau of Health Intelligence. However, the current epidemiological data on leptospirosis available with the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) is given in the statement.

(b) to (d) National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi and Indian Council of Medical Research,

New Delhi have been sending teams to investigate outbreaks of leptospirosis in different parts of the country. Such teams were sent to Gujarat and Karnataka in 1997 and to Maharashtra and Kerala in 2000. Steps taken to tackle the disease are (i) a guidelines indicating the nature of disease, its prevention and control has been circulated to all the States; (ii) a meeting was held under the chairmanship of Director General of Health Services where medical and health professionals from various hospitals at Delhi, New Delhi Municipal Council, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Government of NCT of Delhi, NICD and Directorate General of Health Services participated to sensitize all concerned about leptospirosis, its prevention and control. All the hospitals in the capital were told to hold similar meetings to sensitize doctors to maintain high degree of alertness and send clinical material for laboratory confirmation; and (iii) microbiologists from major Delhi hospitals were updated on early diagnostic procedures at NICD.

Statement

Name of the State/UT	No. of deaths due to Leptospirosis		
	1998	1999	2000
Gujarat	42	31	16 (upto 18th October)
Kerala	64	80	13 (upto 7th July)
Maharashtra	NA	NA	12 (upto 16th August)
A&N Islands	NA	3	NA

SSC Examination Centres

1615. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some instructions exist for providing allotment of Examination Centres by Staff Selection Commission and other Recruitment Commissions/Boards upto 6 kilometres for girl candidates from their residences;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether SSC allocated Examination Centres to girl students up to radius of 30 Kilometres during Examination for the posts of Investigators conducted on November 12, 2000; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS

WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Union Public Service Commission and Staff Selection Commission open Centres for conduct of examinations keeping in view the availability of infrastructural facilities and assurance from the State Government/UT Administration regarding smooth conduct of the examination and safety and security of question papers. The Centres are allotted in a manner as to ensure fair selection, impartiality and objectivity in the selection process. It is not possible to distinguish between male and female candidates for the purpose of allotment of Centres.

Free Travel Facility to Pensioners

1616. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision has been taken/being taken to allow pensioner's for travelling free of cost in Indian

Railways, State owned Transport Buses etc. as being enjoyed by ex. employees of Indian Railways and Indian Airlines/Air India Employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Non-Railway Central Government employees are not entitled to the facility of free Railway pass, nor are they entitled to free travel by State owned Transport buses etc., even when they are in service. The question of extending the facility to them after retirement, therefore, does not arise.

Substitute of Viagra

1617. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether substitute of 'Viagra' has been launched in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is harmful for certain people;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed by the Government to contain the harmful effect of the drug?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No Sir. Even the drug Sildenafil Citrate of which the brand name used by M/s. Pfizer is 'Viagra' has not yet been approved for marketing in the country.

(b) to (e) Does not arise in view of 'a' above.

Kottakkal Ayurveda Hospital

1618. SHRI A.P. ABDULLA KUTTY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to make Kottakkal Ayurveda Hospital in Kerala as Ayurveda University; and

(b) if so, the decision of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The need for making Kottakkal Ayurveda Hospital in Kerala as Ayurveda University has been mentioned.

No proposal has however been received.

[Translation]

Problems of CGHS Beneficiaries

1619. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that school going children are not able to avail the CGHS facilities as the timings of the CGHS dispensaries clashes with their school time and the dispensary timings also clash with the office timings due to which Government servants reach office late;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any representation from the CGHS beneficiaries for opening the dispensaries both in the morning and evening; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the time by which instructions are likely to be issued to open the dispensaries in the morning and evening shift?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The normal working hours of CGHS dispensaries are from 7.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. After the normal working hours, the medical facilities are also available round the clock for all the beneficiaries in multi-shift CGHS dispensaries.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In view of (a) above, there is no such proposal at present.

*[English]***Officers on Deputation**

1620. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the maximum period of deputation of any employee cannot exceed five years under any circumstances and the borrowing department has to take steps to borrow another deputationists well before the term of the official going to expire;

(b) if so, the reasons for instructions not being followed by borrowing departments and the lending departments not taking steps to get back his employee from deputation;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure strict compliance of the rules, regulations and instructions; and

(d) the number of senior officers on deputation over five years, four years and three years as on date, Ministry-wise, and the steps taken to repatriate them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The conditions governing the extension of tenure of deputation are contained in the O.M. No. 2/29/91-Estt. (Pay. II) dated 5.1.94. Normal tenure of deputation is prescribed in Recruitment Rules of ex-cadre posts. Any Government official/officer can go on deputation/foreign service from parent department to borrowing department for a maximum of 3 years in all cases except for those posts where a longer period of tenure is prescribed in Recruitment Rules. The extension of deputation/foreign service beyond 3 years and upto one year or for the first year in excess of the normal tenure is allowed by the borrowing Ministry/organisation after obtaining orders of their Secretary (in the Central Government) and Chief Secretary (in the State Government) and equivalent level officer in other cases where such extension is considered

necessary in public interest. The borrowing Ministries/ Departments/Organisations are competent to extend the period of deputation for the fifth year or for the second year in excess of the period prescribed in the Recruitment Rules where absolutely necessary in rare and exceptional circumstances and in public interest and with the specific prior approval of the concerned Minister of the borrowing organisation Ministry/Department and in respect of other organisation with the approval of the Minister of Ministry/ Department with which they are administratively attached. Such relaxation is with the prior approval of the lending organisation, the UPSC/State Public Service Commission and Appointment of the Cabinet Committee (ACC) wherever necessary. In cases where extension is beyond the fifth year or second year in excess of the period prescribed in the Recruitment Rules, the same can be allowed only after obtaining the prior approval of the Department of Personnel & Training.

(d) Information regarding officers on deputation for over 3 years is not being maintained centrally.

Post Based Rosters

1621. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI:
SHRI ASHOK ARGAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 3584 answered on August 16, 2000 and state:

(a) whether the requisite information relating to Central Passport Organisation referred to in parts (c), (d) and (e) of reply has been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the same is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes Sir, the requisite information relating to Central Passport Organisation has been collected.

(b) The details thereof are enclosed as statement.

(c) Does not apply.

Statement**Central Passport Organisation****Excesses/shortages in reservations as on 02.07.97**

Class	SC		ST		OBC	
	Excess	Shortage	Excess	Shortage	Excess	Shortage
Class I	04	Nil	Nil	03	Nil	Nil
Class II	12	Nil	04	Nil	Nil	Nil
Class III	Nil	12	Nil	67	Nil	33
Class IV	30	Nil	Nil	05	Nil	33

*[Translation]***Assistance for Hospital Projects**

1622. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance provided by the Union Government for hospital projects in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government are contemplating to reserve beds for the poor in private hospitals; and

(c) if so, the details of the percentage thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) 'Health' is a State subject under the Constitution of India. It is the responsibility of the respective State Government to provide financial assistance for hospital projects keeping in view their priorities and availability of resources. However, for upgrading secondary health care systems, the following seven States have been provided with World Bank Assistance under the State Health System Projects:—

State	Project Outlay
Andhra Pradesh	Rs. 698.00 crores
West Bengal	Rs. 698.00 crores
Karnataka	Rs. 546.00 crores
Punjab	Rs. 425.00 crores
Orissa	Rs. 415.57 crores
Maharashtra	Rs. 727.00 cores
Uttar Pradesh	US\$ 110 Million

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

*[English]***Export of Hardware Products**

1623. SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to promote hardware products:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have prepared any plan in collaboration with Japan and other countries for export of these products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of steps taken by the Government to promote electronics hardware sector are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) No specific plans have been prepared. However, to bring the IT industry on both sides together, the Government of Japan and the Government of India have agreed to encourage exchange of business delegations and to organise trade seminars for promoting various sectors of Information Technology.

Statement*Steps taken by the Government to promote Electronics Hardware Sector*

1. Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme (EPCG) has been rationalised and extended uniformly to all sectors without any threshold limit on payment of 5% duty.
2. Foreign investment of upto 100% is permitted in units set up solely for export of Electronics Hardware on automatic route.
3. Powers of approval of the Designated Officers of MIT for implementation of EHTP scheme have further enhanced upto US\$ 20 million.
4. Accelerated depreciation norms for computers and computer peripherals for electronic units under Export Oriented schemes (EOU/EPZ/STP/EHTP) have been enhanced. These shall stand depreciated to overall limit of 90% over a period of 3 years instead of around 5 years earlier.
5. DTA access upto 50% of the FOB value of export is permitted for electronics hardware units under EOU/EPZ/ EHTP schemes. Broadbanding is permitted in the DTA sales of Hardware units for items covered in the Letter of Permission.
6. Value addition norms of Rupee exports to Russia reduced from 100% to 33% under Advance Licensing Scheme.
7. The Depreciation on Computers has been allowed @ 60%.
8. In the 2000-01 Budget, Customs duty on computers and Peripherals has been reduced from 20% to 15%. The Customs duty on all storage devices, integrated circuits, microprocessors, Data display tubes and Deflection components of colour monitors has been reduced to NIL rate.
9. Information Technology Software is exempted from Customs and Excise Duty.
10. EOU/EPZ/EHTP units are exempted from payment of Income Tax or export profits, upto 2010, in terms of Section 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act.
11. Exemption of withholding tax on interest on External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) has been extended to the IT sector.

12. To induce more investment for R&D activities, a weighted deduction of 125% on the sums paid to any university, college or an institution or a Scientific research association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research has been provided.
13. Information Technology Act 2000 has been enacted. This act deals with Cyber Security, Cyber Crime and other information security related legal aspects. This will encourage expansion of e-commerce through internet.
14. Approvals for all foreign direct investment proposals relating to the Information Technology sector, with the exception of Business-to-consumer (B2C) e-commerce are under the automatic route.

Indo-Russian Agreement In IT Sector

1624. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia have agreed to identify areas to promote strategic partnership in information technology sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed between the two countries in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which it is likely to boost the trade in knowledge based industries?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) In order to promote bilateral cooperation as well as bilateral trade, in the area of Information Technology and related sectors, between both the countries, in Indo-Russian Working Group on Information Technology has been set up. This Working Group has, so far, met 7 times, the last meeting was held in September, 2000. During the 7th meeting of the Working Group, both the sides have agreed to cooperate in the following areas:

- Cooperation in Certification of Electronics and IT products
- Cooperation in Communication and Network Technologies
- Software
- High Performance Computing System and their applications
- High Technologies and Electronic Materials
- Application of Information Technology in Education
- Bilateral trade

It is expected that these measures would facilitate in promoting business-to-business collaborations in both the countries.

Indo-US Agreement on Cyber Cafe

1625. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S.A. has agreed to assist India for the development of cyber cafe and other Information Technology developmental works in India; and

(b) if so, the details of the agreements signed by the two countries in this regard during the recent visit of our Prime Minister to USA?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) There is no such agreement between India and U.S.A.

IT Programme

1626. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to raise number of IT programmes to two lakhs; and

(b) if so, the manner in which the Government are going to achieve the targets?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has set up a Task Force on HRD to prepare a long term strategy for Human Resource Development in IT. The first term of reference of the Task Force is to double the intake in engineering colleges in IT related disciplines from the academic year 2001-2002 and triple it from the academic year 2003-2004. This is expected to raise the output of IT professionals to over 2,00,000 by the year 2007.

[Translation]

Protect Indian Ayurvedic and other Medical Systems

1627. DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated to protect Indian Ayurvedic and other medical systems under Intellectual Property Rights (patent law); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Traditional knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) is being developed to bring the knowledge about the medicinal use of plants already in the public domain in easily accessible and retrievable form to prevent patenting by others. Similar TKDL will be developed for knowledge available in Siddha and Unani Systems. Certain protections are already available under Patent Act.

Delayed Projects

1628. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of major projects under construction at present in the country;

(b) the number of projects out of those lagging behind the schedule, State-wise;

(c) the details of the cost escalation as a result of non-completion of these projects within the stipulated time, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for early completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE

IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) As on 1.11.2000, 197 Central Sector major projects costing Rs. 100 crores and above were under implementation. Of these, 98 projects are lagging behind with respect to their approved schedules. The details of the number of projects lagging behind and of cost overrun State-wise is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) The steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government varies from project to project. However, in general, the following steps have been taken by the Government for early completion of these projects.

- (i) Monthly as well as Quarterly monitoring by the Government. This enables the monitoring

agencies to identify constraints and help the management in taking remedial measures;

- (ii) In-depth critical reviews of the progress by the Project Authorities and Administrative Ministries, coordination with the respective State Governments, equipment suppliers, contractors, consultants and concerned agencies;
- (iii) Reviewing the status of fabrication of equipment with suppliers as well as turnkey contractors;
- (iv) Inter-ministerial coordination and holding of facilitation meetings of concerned parties;
- (v) Setting up of Empowered Committees for speedy finalisation of contract packages, solving of land acquisition and other problems; and
- (vi) Making funds available to complete the projects on schedule.

Statement

Extent of Time/cost overrun in Projects with Respect to Latest Schedule

Sl No.	Sector	No. of Proj- ects	Total cost (Rs. CRS)			Proj. with cost over run				Proj. with time over run			
			Latest Approved	Antic- ipated cost	cost over- Run (%)	No.	Latest Approved	antic- ipated cost	%INCR base	No.	Latest Approved	Antic- ipated	Range (MO)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13	7974.4	8301.0	4.1	4	4387.4	5041.2	14.9	5	2513.6	2732.7	15- 57
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	831.7	1635.6	96.7	1	675.7	1479.6	119.0	1	675.7	1479.6	50- 50
3.	Assam	9	6337.5	8555.2	35.0	6	4270.5	6488.2	51.9	2	2068.9	3141.2	12- 32
4.	Bihar	13	5298.9	6590.2	24.4	4	1774.6	3088.5	74.0	6	1187.3	1402.9	6- 66
5.	Goa	1	250.0	250.0	0.00	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0- 0
6.	Gujarat	7	5656.9	6255.5	10.6	5	903.6	1502.1	66.2	3	466.6	879.1	34- 120
7.	Haryana	4	9043.2	8964.6	-0.9	1	287.2	379.1	32.0	1	287.2	379.1	27 27
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2	9350.3	9350.3	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1	7666.3	7666.3	39- 39
9.	J & K	3	6467.5	7167.5	10.8	1	2500.0	3200.0	28.0	2	6059.8	6759.8	33- 84
10.	Karnataka	7	3350.6	5075.9	51.5	6	3114.1	4839.4	55.4	1	2275.0	2896.0	22- 22
11.	Kerala	3	1128.8	1199.2	6.2	1	45.8	116.2	153.8	1	852.0	852.0	13- 13
12.	Madhya Pradesh	9	4778.5	5113.4	7.0	5	1777.2	2112.0	18.8	5	2034.7	2310.8	8- 48
13.	Maharashtra	20	10617.2	14008.5	31.9	11	8162.4	11568.9	41.7	11	2245.0	2929.0	6- 69

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14.	Manipur	1	578.6	578.6	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0- 0
15.	Meghalaya	1	71.2	422.6	493.7	1	71.2	422.6	493.7	1	71.2	422.6	72- 72
16.	Mizoram	1	368.7	368.7	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0- 0
17.	Nagaland	1	331.6	758.7	128.8	1	331.6	758.7	128.8	1	331.6	758.7	35- 35
18.	Orissa	10	12450.2	14019.4	12.6	6	8054.6	9623.8	19.5	3	1207.4	1729.5	26- 72
19.	Punjab	3	649.2	826.4	27.3	2	514.1	691.3	34.5	2	514.1	691.3	21- 132
20.	Rajasthan	4	2760.8	3419.0	23.8	4	2760.8	3419.0	23.8	1	2107.0	2511.0	42- 42
21.	Sikkim	1	2198.0	2198.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0- 0
22.	Tamil Nadu	11	6762.1	7802.4	15.4	8	4494.3	5624.0	25.1	6	5372.1	6623.6	5- 73
23.	Tripura	1	575.0	825.0	43.5	1	575.0	825.0	43.5	0	0.0	0.0	0- 0
24.	Uttar Pradesh	8	5654.5	9095.5	60.9	7	5498.9	8939.9	62.6	5	4803.9	8075.9	7- 77
25.	West Bengal	14	2934.6	3652.4	24.5	10	1129.6	1847.5	63.5	9	1846.8	2335.4	1- 96
26.	A&N Islands	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0- 0
27.	Delhi	3	5100.2	5469.8	7.2	3	5100.2	5469.8	7.2	2	240.2	258.8	36- 46
28.	Multi State	45	18060.2	22381.8	23.9	29	10622.1	15157.7	42.7	29	9851.0	12994.8	4- 177
Total		197	129580.6	154285.2	19.1	117	67051.1	92594.5	38.1	98	54677.2	69229.9	

[English]

Lifting the Ban on the Sale of American Satellite Photographs

1629. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have lifted the ban on the sale of high definition American Satellite photographs whose distribution had earlier been prohibited in the country on national security considerations;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) the satellite called Ikonos can take pictures of objects as small as a bicycle tyre from a height of 700 kilometres and the Defence Ministry had objected to its distribution fearing they might compromise national security by revealing secret defence installations;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the extent to which National security could be secured by lifting the ban?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) IKONOS has a nominal resolution of 1m. Such an imaging resolution would make detection of buildings and other features easy. This aspect and its impact on national security will be taken into consideration while finalising the Remote Sensing Data Policy.

Linking of Indian Missions through Radio Communications

1630. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the total amount spent on linking the Ministry of External Affairs with its Missions abroad through a High Frequency Radio Communication Network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): A total of Rs. 29.16 crores was spent on installing the network.

Bhima Lift Irrigation Scheme

1631 SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has submitted the Bhima Lift Irrigation Scheme to the Union Government for early clearance;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have cleared only two aspects of the projects so far; and

(c) the latest position of other aspects of the projects and time by which final clearance is likely to be given to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Bhima Lift Irrigation Scheme in Karnataka was received in the Central Water Commission (CWC) for appraisal in December, 1985. The scheme was returned to the State Government in November, 1988 due to non compliance of observations of the CWC for more than one year. The clearance of the scheme depends on the compliance of observations of various central appraising agencies by the State Government.

[*Translation*]

Direct Aid to Beneficiaries

1632. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the Government to check the irregularities being committed in the welfare programmes meant for the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in each State;

(b) whether Government propose to formulate any programme to provide assistance to these beneficiaries directly;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Schemes and programmes for the welfare and upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are reviewed regularly by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, for removal of bottlenecks and deficiencies, if any, that may be noticed during the course of the implementation of the schemes/programmes. Further, in order to ensure proper and timely implementation of the schemes and programmes and the intended benefits reach the target groups, and effective system of monitoring has been put in place, as indicated below:

- (I) Release of funds to States/UTs is made on the basis of a detailed examination of the proposals received,
- (II) Utilisation Certificates are insisted upon in respect of past releases before fresh releases are made,
- (III) Periodic progress reports are obtained from the States/UTs, showing the progress of implementation of schemes, the beneficiaries covered and other relevant information/data,
- (IV) Senior officers from the Ministries visit the States/UT to assess the progress of implementation of schemes,
- (V) Meetings with State Secretaries in charge of the subject are convened to ascertain the progress of implementation of schemes,
- (VI) In the case of schemes implemented through Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), funds are released after obtaining the recommendations of the State Governments/UTs and after an assessment of the standing of the NGO, past performance, etc. Apart from period progress reports, the NGOs are required to furnish Annual accounts and audited reports and Utilisation Certificates on the basis of which further release of funds are made. Inspection of NGOs is also undertaken through State Government/UT officials, and other authorities and also by Central Government officers.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Question does not arise.

*[English]***Setting up of Nuclear Power Plants**

1633. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to set up nuclear power station at Nagarjunasagar has been under the consideration between the State Government of Andhra Pradesh and the Nuclear Power Corporation of India since 1968;

(b) if so, whether the proposal could not be materialized from environmental point of view;

(c) whether the Atomic Energy Commission has constituted a site selection Committee evaluating various sites in different regions of the country including those studied by the earlier Committees;

(d) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the time by which a Site Selection Committee is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir. Andhra Pradesh Government had proposed a site at Nagarjunasagar for setting up Nuclear Power Station to the previous Site Selection Committees constituted by the Department of Atomic Energy.

(b) Yes, Sir. There are difficulties in acceptance of this site from environmental considerations due to proximity of this site to the Tiger Sanctuary.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. As per the terms of reference of the Committee the time for submission of the final report is end December 2000.

(f) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Ambedkar National Public Library**

1634. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Ambedkar National Public Library in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the likely location thereof and present status of this project; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Centenary Celebrations Committee on Baba Saheb Dr. Ambedkar in the year 1993 under the Chairmanship of the then Prime Minister of India, decided to set up Dr. Ambedkar National Public Library in Delhi.

Scheme for Health Awareness

1635. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to formulate a scheme to increase the health awareness in the general public;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the details of the funds allocated for various health projects during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(d) whether the Government have taken any steps for the improvement in the role of NGOs and their active participation in these health projects and health awareness programme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) For increasing health awareness in the general public, the Central Health Education Bureau within the DGHS organises health promotion and education activities in the country by way of newspaper advertisements, public

awareness, lectures, health meals, exhibitions, production of video spots, telecast through Doordarshan etc. The various national health programmes separately provide for IEC activities for creating general awareness about the diseases, their prevention, diagnosis and treatment facilities.

IEC activities are an integral part of various disease control programmes taken up with Central and State Government funds as well as in the externally aided projects.

(c) Under the 9th Five Year Plan, the following financial outlays have been approved for the major National Disease Control Programmes:—

1. Malaria	Rs. 1030 Cr.
2. AIDS	Rs. 760 Cr.
3. T.B.	Rs. 426 Cr. (upto 2000-2001)
4. Leprosy	Rs. 337 Cr.
5. Blindness	Rs. 448 Cr.

(d) and (e) The involvement of NGOs in the National Health Programmes is of vital importance. Under National Leprosy Eradication Programme, grants are given to NGOs for undertaking surveys, IEC activities and treatment. Under the National T.B. Control programme, an NGO policy with five different schemes has been formulated and widely disseminated. Under the National AIDS Control programme, financial assistance for model/pilot projects is being provided to the NGOs. Under the National Blindness Control Programme, grants are released on decentralised basis for strengthening/monitoring for NGOs activities. Under World Bank assisted Enhanced Malaria Control Project, community education and awareness is being taken up in a big way.

[English]

Reimbursement of E.P.F.

1636. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of money deposited in provident fund are reimbursed to the workers employed in industries at the time of their retirement;

(b) whether it is proposed to make full deposit reimbursable; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) Under the Employment Provident Fund Scheme, provident fund accumulations remaining in balance in the account of the subscriber at the time of retirement, along with due interest, is paid in full to the beneficiaries. The provident fund money is often utilized by subscribers to meet certain social obligations like marriage, education of children, medical care etc. Therefore, it is not considered possible to make the full deposits in provident fund reimbursable.

National Transport Policy

1637. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to evolve a National Transport Policy to avoid stiff competition by Road Transport; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal under consideration and its present status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Transport Policy has to keep pace with changing needs, technology, and opportunities. The Transport Policy has been delineated in the Ninth Five Year Plan Document. The Government has constituted a Task Force on Infrastructure to attract investments to specific projects of national and regional importance and ensuring their timely completion. The Task Force also has to formulate an Integrated National Transport Policy to strengthen the transport infrastructure. The draft report is presently under discussion of the Task Force.

[Translation]

Infrastructural Development Fund

1638. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI:
SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:
SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV:
SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether economic and social structure of Bihar is constantly eroding;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government for infrastructural development thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to constitute a comprehensive infrastructural development funds for development of Jharkhand, Uttaranchal, Chhatisgarh and Bihar;

(d) if so, the details thereof and additional allocation likely to be made to each State; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Planning Commission has not done any study which has quantified the changes in economic and social structure of Bihar in terms of measurable indicators.

(b) it is for the State Government to prepare plans for infrastructural development, as the implementation of State Plans/Schemes is the primary responsibility of the States. It is well within the prerogative & purview of the State Government to prioritise sectors.

(c) No. Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) at present, there is no such proposal in this Commission for constituting comprehensive infrastructural development funds.

[English]

Contract Labour

1639. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received suggestion to allow contract labour in industrial unit;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The employers' associations have suggested that, in the wake of economic liberalisation, the Contract labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 should be suitably amended to provide for regulation of contract labour without exploitation rather than abolition. The changes or amendments to be made in the existing law, if any, after taking into consideration all view points, have not yet been finalised.

Action Plan for Highway Development Project

1640. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has criticised the Government for taking up highway development projects without adequate project preparation leading to delays and cost overruns;

(b) if so, whether the Government have prepared any action plan to ensure proper completion of road projects within the stipulated period; and

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Appraisal of a number of revised cost estimate proposals in respect of national highway projects indicated that inadequate pre-construction activities including weak project planning and formulation are amongst the main reasons for time and cost overruns.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways have taken a number of steps to ensure that projects are completed in stipulated period. These include project preparation of National Highway major works as per the detailed guidelines which have been revised and amplified.

engagement of experienced consultants to formulate the projects and holding regular review meetings with the officers of State Public Works Department with a view to ascertaining bottlenecks, if any, and to take remedial measures for removal of such bottlenecks. The regional officers of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways have also been directed to furnish monthly report to highlight the problems/bottlenecks in the execution of the works so that remedial measures could be taken.

National Population Policy

1641. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Population Policy has become "self-contradictory" and "profoundly anti-women";

(b) whether some disincentives have been introduced in several States including Maharashtra and Rajasthan to families with more than two children;

(c) if so, the details and justification thereof;

(d) whether several women organizations and health activities have demanded withdrawal of the said disincentives; and

(e) if so, reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

CBI Officers

1642 SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some officers of CBI have been detained by the intelligence agencies for having links with ISI of Pakistan recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Ongoing Irrigation Projects of Bihar

1643. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several irrigation projects are under construction in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details, alongwith the location thereof;

(c) whether these projects are taking much time than their stipulated time of completion; and

(d) if so, reasons therefor and the extra-time taken for their completion, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) There are 8 Major and 7 Medium projects in Bihar under construction, excluding Bansagar Dam Project in Madhya Pradesh for which only the cost of dam is being shared by Bihar Government. The details of these projects are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Being a State subject, the irrigation projects are planned, funded and implemented by the State Government from their own resources as per priority attached to it.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Ongoing Project	Location	Estimated cost (Rs. in crore)	Ultimate Potential in Th. Ha.	Target for completion (IX Plan or Beyond)
A. MAJOR PROJECTS					
1.	Upper Kiul	Jamui	109.93	27.67	IX
2.	Barnar	Jamui	230.43	24.94	Beyond IX
3.	Bateshwarashthan Pump Ph. I	Bhagalpur	175.85	24.40	Beyond IX
4.	Bagmati	Nepal	154.73	101.60	Beyond IX
5.	Durgawati	Kainur	266.97	51.83	IX
6.	Gandak Ph. II		578.27	236.00	Beyond IX
7.	Kosi Eastern Canal Ph. II	Purnia	156.32	0.00	Beyond IX
8.	Western Kosi Canal	Nepal	693.88	203.00	Beyond IX
B MEDIUM PROJECTS					
1.	Bilasi	Banka	19.61	4.05	IX
2.	Bateshwarashthan Pump Ph. II	Bhagalpur	37.87	6.50	Beyond IX
3.	Dhakranalla Pump Ph. I	Munger	173.60	6.05	Beyond IX
4.	Dhakranalla Pump Ph. II	Munger	11.48	4.02	Beyond IX
5.	Malai	Bhojpur	12.08	7.74	Beyond IX
6.	Orni		50.12	9.60	Beyond IX
7.	Sindhwarni	Munger	34.10	9.38	Beyond IX

Treatment to Road Victims

1644. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hospitals are legally bound to provide emergency medical treatment to the road victims that arrive at their doorsteps;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such victims are supposed to receive specialized medical care in the first 'golden hour' so as to save life;

(d) whether the Government are aware that almost all the big hospitals fail to treat head injuries in their emergency wards and refer to the patients to Sushrut Trauma Centre (STC) to shirk their responsibilities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and number of patients referred to STC during each of the last three years by AIIMS, Safdarjung Hospital, Deen Dayal Uppadhyay Hospital, Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Hindu Rao etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a)

and (b) Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in their judgement dated 6.5.1996 in SLP(C) No. 796/92-*Paschim Banga Khet Mazdoor Samity & Others Vs. State of West Bengal & Others* suggested remedial measures to ensure immediate medical attention and treatment to persons in real needs. Hon'ble Court had given directions that other States though not parties should also take necessary steps in the light of recommendations made by the Inquiry Committee which was set up by the State Government of West Bengal and further directions as given by the Court. The copies of the judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court were circulated on 12.12.1996 to all States/Union Territories with the suggestion to take appropriate action for carrying out orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. Suitable guidelines were also issued on 13.12.1996 to all Hospitals/Institutes under Central Government viz. All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, PGIMER, Chandigarh, JIPMER, Pondicherry, Safdarjung Hospital, Lady Hardinge Medical College & Associated Hospitals and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital. As per these guidelines all patients whose condition is morbid/serious should be admitted even if beds are not available and have to be paid all necessary attention. In no case the patient will be left unattended for want of vacant beds in the emergency/casualty department. Accordingly, the Central Government Hospitals are following the guidelines.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Proper medical care as per the need is provided to the patients attending the casualty department in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College & Associated Hospitals and no injury patient is referred to Sushruta Trauma Centre. The information in respect of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital and Hindu Rao Hospital is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Kaiga Atomic Power Project

1645. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:
SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of units of Kaiga Atomic Power Plant functioning at present;

(b) whether any proposal for the expansion of the plant is under the consideration of the Governments;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to clear the proposal;

(d) the estimated cost of construction and funds released for the purpose during the 2000-2001; and

(e) the date on which the expansion work of third and fourth units of the plant is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Units 1&2 of Kaiga Atomic Power Plant are functioning at present.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The proposal for setting up of third and fourth units (Kaiga 3&4 - 2x220 MWe) is under process for obtaining administrative/financial clearance of the Government.

(d) The estimated cost of Kaiga-3&4 at March 1999 price level is Rs. 2856 crore which includes interest during construction (IDC) of Rs. 456 crore. As on date Rs. 5 crore has been released towards advance procurement for Kaiga 3&4 during 2000-2001.

(e) The commencement of the construction work will be taken up after the clearance of the project by Government of India.

[Translation]

Setting up of Nuclear Power Plants

1646. SHRI RAMSHAKAL:
SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI:
SHRIMATI JAS KOUR MEENA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for setting up of new Atomic Power Plants in the country awaiting clearance from the Government at present;

(b) the number of Atomic Power Plants proposed to be set up in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) the number of Atomic Power Plants functioning at present in the country and the total power being generated by each of them;

(d) whether all Atomic Power Plans are utilising their full capacity; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC

GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) One i.e. Kaiga 3&4 (2x220 MWe) at Karnataka.

(b) During the 9th Five Year Plan, Kaiga 1&2 (2x220 MWe) at Karnataka and Rajasthan Atomic Power Project-3&4 (2x220 MWe) at Rajasthan were to be set up and all these units have been synchronised to the grid.

(c) Presently, fourteen units at seven atomic power stations are operating in the country with a total capacity of 2720 MWe. The details of capacity of each unit are given below:

	Units	Total Capacity	Location
1.	Tarapur Atomic Power Station-1&2 (2x160 MWe)	320 MWe	Tarapur, Maharashtra
2.	Rajasthan Atomic Power Station Unit -1 (1x100 MWe) Unit-2 (1x200 MWe)	100 MWe 200 MWe	Rawatbhata, Rajasthan —do—
3.	Rajasthan Atomic Power Station-3&4 (2x220 MWe)	440 MWe	—do—
4.	Madras Atomic Power Station-1&2 (2x170 MWe)	340 MWe	Kalpakam, Tamil Nadu
5.	Narora Atomic Power Station-1&2 (2x220 MWe)	440 MWe	Narora, Uttar Pradesh
6.	Kakrapar Atomic Power Station-1&2 (2x220 MWe)	440 MWe	Kakrapar, Gujarat
7.	Kaiga Atomic Power Station-1&2 (2x220 MWe)	440 MWe	Kaiga, Karnataka
	Total:	2720 MWe	

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Farakka Barrage

1647. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI G.S. BASAVA RAJ:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is losing vast area of land to Bangladesh every year due to Farakka Project and soil erosion caused by river Ganga;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government have discussed this matter with Bangladesh;

(d) if so, when and the results thereof; and

(e) the preventive measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) Being a meandering river, soil erosion and shoal formation due to silt deposition naturally takes place year to year along the banks of Ganga. It has been reported that shoal formation has taken place on Bangladesh side of the river in recent years. However this has nothing to do with Farakka Barrage and this issue has not been discussed with Bangladesh.

(e) State Government of West Bengal has undertaken preventive measures in critical reaches to hold the bank line from shifting. Government of India has also assisted the State Government in this regard from time to time.

[English]

Aid for Higher Education

1648. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance given by the National Backward Class Finance and Development Corporation to the backward castes in Gujarat for their higher education during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the number of persons benefited thereof so far, year-wise;

(c) the number of applications received/approved and the number of applications pending as on date and reasons therefor; and

(d) the criteria adopted for selection of persons for such assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) has been implementing the Education Loan Scheme. No financial assistance has been sanctioned to Gujarat under the scheme during the last 3 years and the current year, as the Gujarat State Channelising Agency has not submitted any proposal for sanction of financial assistance from the NBCFDC under the scheme.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) Under the Education Loan Scheme, the loan is granted through nominated State Channelising Agencies

to the students belonging to backward classes notified by the Central Govt. and State Govts., whose family income is below double the poverty line, i.e., Rs. 42,412/- p.a. The loan is provided to the students who have obtained admission in any of the professional courses, e.g. MBA, MCA, graduate courses in Engineering conducted by IIT/other institutions, Medical courses recognized by Medical Council of India and Diploma in Hospital Management Course as also distance education being offered by IGNOU and other recognized institutions. The assistance is provided through the institute/college concerned to meet the expenses on admission and tuition fee, books, stationery, etc., examination fee, boarding and lodging and insurance premium of policy of the students.

[Translation]

Retirement Age

1649. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK:
SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Central Government employees working in the Government Institutions in various States;

(b) whether various Government Deptt. and PSUs are over staffed and launched/announced Voluntary Retirement Scheme to do away with the excess staff;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to bring down the retirement age to 58 years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) A Statement indicating State-wise employment in Central Government as on 31.3.99 is enclosed.

(b) and (c) The level of overstaffing, if any, in Central Government Department is determined after work study

while in the Public Sector Undertakings the management of the PSUs is to decide and identify the number of surplus staff. Central Government have not introduced any Voluntary Retirement Scheme for its employees. However, the Central Government employees can seek Voluntary Retirement after Completing 20 years qualifying service under Rule 48-A of the Central Civil Scheme (Pension) Rules, 1972. In respect of Public Sector Undertakings, the Government have framed Voluntary Retirement Scheme to rationalize their surplus manpower vide Department of Public Enterprises Office Memorandum No. 2(32)/97- DPE (WC) GL-XXII dated the 5th May, 2000.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise in view of reply to (d) above.

Statement

*State-wise Employment in Central Government
as on 31.03.1999*

(in thousand)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Central Govt.
1	2	3
I.	North Zone	558.7
1.	Haryana	32.1
2.	Punjab	80.5
3.	Himachal Pradesh	16.5
4.	Chandigarh	16.4
5.	Delhi	218.8
6.	Rajasthan	166.4
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	28.0
II.	Central Zone	647.1
8.	Madhya Pradesh	212.4
9.	Uttar Pradesh	434.7
III.	North-Eastern Zone	112.4
10.	Assam	81.2
11.	Meghalaya	16.8

1	2	3
12.	Manipur	4.6
13.	Mizoram	0.8
14.	Nagaland	6.5
15.	Tripura	2.6
IV.	Eastern Zone	671.8
16.	Bihar	180.3
17.	Orissa	81.9
18.	West Bengal	409.6
V.	Western Zone	582.2
19.	Gujarat	148.7
20.	Maharashtra	427.4
21.	Goa	5.9
22.	Daman & Diu	0.4
VI.	Southern Zone	736.2
23.	Andhra Pradesh	260.2
24.	Karnataka	133.1
25.	Kerala	103.3
26.	Pondicherry	5.2
27.	Tamil Nadu	234.5
28.	Andaman & Nicobar	4.4
Total		3312.8

Note: This does not cover defence forces, para-military forces and floating population.

[English]

Visit of PM to USA

1650. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI R.L. BHATIA:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY:

SHRI INDERJIT GUPTA:
 SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:
 DR. ASHOK PATEL:
 SHRI SURESH KURUP:
 SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL:
 SHRI T. GOVINDAN:
 SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI:
 SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
 SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:
 SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
 SHRI TARUN GOGOI:
 YOGI ADITYA NATH:
 SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI:
 SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
 SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the issues discussed with the US President during the recent visit of our Prime Minister to that country;

(b) the outcome thereof including the Agreements signed;

(c) whether the issue of withdrawal of Sanctions also cropped during discussions;

(d) if so, the facts in this regard;

(e) whether any protest was lodged there on account of attacks on Christians in India;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the composition of Indian delegation which accompanied him; and

(h) the way the visit is likely to foster closer relations between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) During the visit of Prime Minister to the United States at the invitation of the US President, the two sides discussed a range of bilateral issues, including progress made in the implementation of the Vision of the New Relationship between India and the United States, and further expansion of mutually beneficial co-operation in areas such as trade and commerce, finance and investment, energy and environment, health, science and technology, and counter-terrorism. The two sides also discussed a range of regional and international issues of mutual concern.

(b) Prime Minister and President Clinton reaffirmed the vision they had outlined in March 2000 of the closer and qualitatively new relationship between India and the United States. In a Joint Statement concluded at the end of the visit, they agreed that Indo-US relations will be a vital factor for shaping a future of peace, prosperity, democracy, pluralism and freedom for this world. They expressed satisfaction with the progress made in the implementation of the Dialogue Architecture between the two sides. A Joint Working Group on UN Peacekeeping Operations and a framework of bilateral dialogue on Afghanistan have been added to the Dialogue Architecture.

The two sides made progress in intensifying commercial, economic, and scientific ties, including in civil aviation, biotechnology, health, textiles, energy, information technology, mutual taxation, and investments.

The two sides reiterated their belief that problems between countries in South Asia can only be resolved by the nations of South Asia and stressed the unacceptability of continued violence and bloodshed as a basis for solution of the problems of the region. They also expressed their determination to further reinforce cooperation to combat terrorism and called on the international community to intensify its efforts in combating international terrorism.

The discussions also reflected the growing dialogue, and desire for cooperation, between the two countries on international security issues, especially in the Asian context. The two sides also reiterated the intention of the two countries to continue their dialogue to narrow differences on non-proliferation issues.

(c) and (d) The US side is well aware of Government's view that all unilateral restrictions against India are unjustified and counter-productive and should be completely lifted. The US has lifted a number of unilateral restrictions it imposed on India after the nuclear tests of May 1998. The US has not indicated the time-frame for lifting the remaining restrictions.

(e) and (f) During the visit of Prime Minister to Washington, there was a thinly-attended demonstration by some private groups. The demonstrators were kept at a considerable distance from Prime Minister by the US Security.

(g) The official delegation that accompanied Prime Minister included: Shri Jaswant Singh, External Affairs Minister; Shri Yashwant Sinha, Finance Minister; Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptullah, Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha;

Shri Naresh Chandra, Ambassador of India to USA; Shri Brajesh Mishra, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister; Shri Lalit Mansingh, Foreign Secretary; Shri N.K. Singh, Secretary to PM; Shri Ashok Kumar Basu, Secretary, Ministry of Power; Shri Shyamal Ghosh, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications; Shri Prabir Sengupta, Commerce Secretary; Shri H.K. Dua, Press Advisor to PM; Shri Kamlesh Sharma, PR, PMI New York; Shri T.P. Sreenivasan, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, Washington; Shri T.K. Mitra, Director, SPG; Smt. Shashi U. Tripathi, Consul General, New York; Shri P.P. Shukla, Joint Secretary, Prime Minister's Office; Shri Alok Prasad, Joint Secretary, Ministry External Affairs; Shri R.S. Jassal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs; Shri P.S. Raghavan, Joint Secretary, Prime Minister's Office; Shri Ajay Bisaria, Private Secretary to PM; Prof. Anoop Misra, Personal Physician to PM.

(h) The visit helped in consolidating the new phase of friendship and cooperation with the United States and deepening understanding between the two sides. Both sides acknowledged that the visit helped to accelerate the upward path in bilateral relations and move the relationship to a higher plane, thus contributing to the process of building the new relationship, envisaged in the Vision Statement of March 2000. Prime Minister's interaction with the two presidential candidates and the US Congress is expected to further strengthen the broad-based and bipartisan support that exists for stronger relations with India. It would also contribute to maintaining continuity and momentum in Indo-US relations with the new Administration. The visit also enabled PM to directly address a wider audience in the United States, including the US Congress and the business community, on our social, political and economic progress, our foreign policy and security concerns, our vision of Indo-US relations and our perspective on international issues. He also had the opportunity to interact with the Indian-American community, which is playing an increasingly influential role in US politics.

[Translation]

Annual Plan for Maharashtra

1651. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Annual Plan outlay allocated by the Union Government for Maharashtra during the current year;

(b) whether the State Government has made any demand to increase the allocation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The Core Annual Plan of the Government of Maharashtra for the current year was fixed at Rs. 11,500 crores envisaging Rs. 1946.79 crores as Central Assistance and Rs. 9553.21 crores as the States Own Resources.

(b) The State Government, during the annual plan discussions between the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and the Chief Minister of Maharashtra proposed a plan size of Rs. 12,330 crores.

(c) and (d) It was clarified by the Planning Commission during the discussions that if the State Government was able to mobilise additional resources, it could have a larger plan.

[English]

Change in Contract Labour Act

1652. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received suggestions from major Trade Unions to change the existing Contract Labour Act, 1970;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Central Trade Union Organisations have, by and large, suggested that a provision for automatic absorption of contract labour in the establishment of the principal employer in the event of issuance of a prohibitory notification under section 10 of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 should be

made in the Act, as per the judgement of the Supreme Court in Air India case. Other suggestions are that wage parity with regular workers for similar nature of work should be ensured and employment of contract labour in regular and perennial nature of work should not be allowed. The changes of amendments to the Act to be made, if any, after taking into account all view points have not yet been finalised.

Conference on HIV/AIDS Held in Durban

1653. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "India may soon have half the World's AIDS patients" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated July 13, 2000;

(b) whether a Conference on HIV/AIDS was held in Durban recently;

(c) whether one fifth of the India's population nearly 200 million affected by HIV virus and about 100 million are affected by AIDS as approved by experts in the Conference;

(d) if so, the main issues discussed and the outcome thereof;

(e) the remedial measures suggested in the Conference; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The 13th World AIDS Conference was held in Durban from 9-14 July, 2000.

(c) No Sir. As per the 1999 HIV sentinel surveillance data the estimated number of HIV infections in the adult population in the country ranges from 2.4. to 3.7 million as in mid 1999.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The main theme of the conference was "Break the Silence" which focused on obstacles to global efforts to turn the tide of the HIV epidemic. These include

complacency, ignorance and denial which are still common in many countries, inequities in access to care, tardiness in the development of HIV vaccines and vaginal microbicides, lack of commitment in providing resources for research, education and public health interventions.

(f) The Government of India has implemented a National AIDS Control Programme since 1992 for a comprehensive programme for the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in the country.

De-Reservation of Items

1654. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have de-reserved some items in the Small Scale Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of hike proposed to be made in the investment limit in SSI;

(d) the details of liberalisation proposed in the Small Scale Sector;

(e) whether the Group of Ministers have made some recommendations in the matter; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Government has decided to dereserve readymade garments from the small scale sector as announced in the National Textile Policy-2000.

(c) to (f) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Setting up of new Small Scale Industries

1655. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have selected some districts for setting up of new small scale industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise; and

(c) the criteria fixed for setting up of new small scale industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The Central Government does not set up any small scale industrial (SSI) units or select sites for setting up small scale industries. SSI units are set up by individual entrepreneurs in the country.

Comprehensive Health Policy

1656. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have started work on proposed comprehensive health policy for making primary medical facility available to each and every citizen at the end of the year 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the weightage given in it to Ayurveda, Yoga Sidhi and Homoeopathy; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The Draft National Health Policy was discussed at the Sixth Conference of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare, the apex advisory body, held from 8-10th April, 1999 at New Delhi. The Council suggested a more in depth examination of the strategies for strengthening of public health infrastructure at the State level, human resource development including medical education, inter-sectoral coordination and interface between the Indian System of Medicine and modern medicine etc. Accordingly, the Draft National Health Policy is being appropriately redrafted in order to incorporate the various suggestions.

[English]

Funds from Capital Market - CMC Limited

1657. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether CMC Limited has sought permission to raise funds from capital market for its expansion plans;

(b) if so, the details and the present status thereof;

(c) the time by which the permission is likely to be accorded to enable the corporation to implement its expansion plan; and

(d) if not, other measures being taken by the Government to implement expansion programme of the said company?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

CWC Report on Water Management

1658. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of reports regarding water management, water logging and flood control received by the Government from the Central Water Commission till date;

(b) the suggestions/recommendations made by the CWC in these reports in this regard; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on these recommendations/suggestions made by Central Water Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Central Water Commission have prepared inter-alia following reports relating to flood management, Water Management, etc., in the recent past:-

(i) Working Group Report on Flood Management for the IX Five Year Plan.

- (ii) Report of the Working Group under National Natural Resources Management System—Scientific Committee on Water Resources on Flood Risk Zoning using remote sensing and other data.
 - (iii) Report of the task force on flood management for North Western region.
 - (iv) National Guidelines on DISNET (irrigation Distribution System Network)
 - (v) Guidelines for Planning Conjunctive Use of surface and Ground Water in Irrigation Projects.
 - (vi) Draft Irrigation Management Policy.
 - (vii) Theme Paper on "Water conservation", 1991.
 - (viii) Status Report on Drainage Problems in Irrigated commands in Rajasthan State.
 - (ix) Status Report on Drainage Problems in irrigated commands in Punjab State.
 - (x) "Water logging, soil Salinity and "Alkalinity"—A report of Working Group constituted by Ministry of Water Resources in which representative of Central Water Commission was a Member.
- (b) The suggestion/recommendation made by the Central Water Commission in these reports are briefly given below:
- (i) Comprehensive proposal for flood management in the country during the IX Plan period including financial outlays required for the purpose.
 - (ii) Recommended flood risk zoning using remote sensing and other data for the frequently flood prone regions in the country with guidelines, methodology and pilot schemes.
 - (iii) Reviewed the flood problems in the North Western Region in the country and suggested policy measures, structural and non-structural measures for mitigating the problem.
 - (iv) In the reports at serial no. a (iv-x), Planning, Design, Operation and Maintenance of Distribution systems for management of irrigations systems for optimum utilisation of water, Status of water logging, soil salinity and alkalinity in the country and measures to prevent

land degradation and reclaim the degraded areas, use of ground water in conjunction with surface water to prevent water logging and for optimizing use of available scarce water resources etc. have been brought out.

(c) So far as report at Sl. No. (i) above is concerned, Planning Commission has taken note of the report while finalizing the IX Five year Plan outlay for flood management. The other reports have been forwarded to the States concerned for their guidance and taking necessary action in the same.

[English]

Depo Prabhera

1659. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:
SHRI MUDRAGADA PADAMANABHAM:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

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

(a) whether a Multinational Organisation of USA is contemplating to introduce "DEPO PRABHERA" a birth control injection in India and the Union Government are planning to enlist this injection in their Family Planning Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this injection is reported to have serious side effects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) "DEPO PROVERA" a brand of Medroxy Progesterone Acetate (150 mg) injectable contraceptive for women is being marketed in India by M/s. Pharmacia & Upjohn India Private Limited since 1994. The Government of India has no immediate plans to include this injection in the National Family Welfare Programme.

(c) and (d) The side effects of "DEPO PROVERA" include menstrual irregularities which consist of amenorrhoea, prolonged bleeding and irregular bleeding pattern. Other side effects are headache, dizziness, abdominal discomfort, ache, rashes, pruritis etc. Some women experience weight gain.

**National Institute Small Industry
Extension Training**

1660. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up a centre for environment concerns of the National Institute Small Industry Extension Training in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The Centre for Environment Concerns at National Institute for Small Industry Extension Training Institute (NISJET) in Hyderabad is well equipped to provide its services to all the States in the country.

Medical and Dental Colleges

1661. SHRI T. GOVINDAN:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:
SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

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

(a) the number of Medical/dental colleges set up during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have received proposals from the State Governments to open new medical colleges/dental colleges;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(d) the number of Medical/dental colleges given approval for establishment State-wise; and

(e) the total amount allocated by the Government for opening the Medical/dental colleges, State-wise and plan-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Information is given in the Statement I.

(b) and (c) The proposals from following State Governments have been received.

(i) Andhra Pradesh: Medical College at Anantapur.

(ii) Maharashtra: Medical College at Kolhapur.

(iii) Tamil Nadu: Medical College at Vellore

(iv) Establishment of medical college at Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi by the Central Government.

(d) Information is given in the Statement-II.

(e) 'Health' being a State subject Centre Government have no scheme for providing funds to State Government for opening new medical/dental colleges. As regards, establishment of medical college at Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi adequate funds will be made available by the Government for running the College.

Statement I

New Medical/Dental Colleges Permitted by Central Government During 1998-State-wise

S.No.	Name of the State	Number of	
		Medical colleges	Dental colleges
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	—
2.	Himachal Pradesh	—	1
3.	Karnataka	—	3
4.	Punjab	—	2
5.	Tamil Nadu	1	1
6.	Uttar Pradesh	—	1

New Medical/Dental Colleges Permitted by Central Government During 1999—State-wise

S.No.	Name of the State	Number of	
		Medical colleges	Dental colleges
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	—
2.	Gujarat	—	1
3.	Himachal Pradesh	1	1
4.	Karnataka	3	1
5.	Maharashtra	—	1
6.	Tamil Nadu	—	1
7.	Uttar Pradesh	—	2

New Medical/Dental Colleges Permitted by Central Government During 2000 State-wise

S.No.	Name of the State	Number of	
		Medical colleges	Dental colleges
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	2
2.	Gujarat	2	1
3.	Karnataka	1	—
4.	Kerala	1	—
5.	Madhya Pradesh	—	2
6.	Maharashtra	—	1
7.	Punjab	—	2
8.	Rajasthan	—	3
9.	Tamil Nadu	1	—
10.	Uttar Pradesh	—	5

Statement II

New Medical/Dental Colleges Permitted by the Central Government after Amendment to the Indian Medical Council Act and The Dentists Act in 1993 - State-wise

S.No.	Name of the State	Number of	
		Medical colleges	Dental colleges
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	2

1	2	3	4
2.	Gujarat	4	2
3.	Haryana	—	2
4.	Himachal Pradesh	1	4
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	—
6.	Karnataka	4	12
7.	Kerala	2	—
8.	Madhya Pradesh	—	2
9.	Maharashtra	2	3
10.	Orissa	—	1
11.	Pondicherry	1	—
12.	Punjab	1	7
13.	Rajasthan	—	3
14.	Tamil Nadu	3	3
15.	Uttar Pradesh	2	13
		25	54

Potable Water from Sea

1662. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for utilisation of sea water by the process of Reverse Osmosis plant for supplying water to Kutch in Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether the proposal is under consideration of the Government; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is expected to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

**Delhi Scheduled Caste Financial
and Development Corporation**

1663. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4998 on April 4, 2000 and Unstarred Question No. 7998 on May 17, 2000 and state:

(a) whether the requisite information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) No Unstarred Question 4998 was admitted for the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment on April 4, 2000. It was also not question day for the Ministry. The Unstarred Question number 4998 was answered by this Ministry on 26.4.2000.

In respect of Unstarred Question No. 7998 on May 17, 2000, an assurance was given, for which the implementation report has been sent on 27th September, 2000.

A Copy of the Answer for question no. 4998 and Implementation Statement for question no. 7998 are enclosed as Statement I and II.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement I

Financial Assistance to DSCFDC

4998. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance provided by the Union Government to the Delhi Scheduled Castes Financial Development Corporation Limited during each of the last three years, scheme-wise;

(b) the norms for analysing and assessing the family income for grant of loan under the various schemes sponsored by Delhi Scheduled Caste Finance and Development Corporation Limited;

(c) the number of schemes launched by DSCFDC Limited during the last three years for the welfare of SCs;

(d) the number of persons who have applied under each Scheme separately;

(e) the criteria adopted for selection and the loans disbursed to the applicants during the above said period under each Scheme separately;

(f) whether the Government are aware of massive malpractices in scrutinizing the applications;

(g) if so, whether a number of complaints have been received against the officers of DSCFDC Limited in this regard; and

(h) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken against the erring officials and measures being taken to safeguard the interest of applicants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Under the Scheme of Assistance to State Scheduled Castes Development Corporations, Central Govt. participates in the Share Equity of all SCDCs including Delhi Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation in the ratio of 49:51. Financial assistance provided during the last three years under this Scheme is as follows:

Year	Financial Assistance provided
1997-1998	Rs. 223.95 lakhs
1998-1999	Nil
1999-2000	Nil

(b) For grant of loan, if the applicant is unmarried, income of his/her parents is included and in case of married applicant, the income of his/her family members is included.

For loan involving higher amount, income certificate issued by the Government of NCT of Delhi is considered. In bankable loan scheme, only affidavit is required from the applicant. In addition to above, photo copy of Ration Card and Scheduled Caste Certificate issued by Government of NCT of Delhi is also required.

(c) 12 Schemes have been launched during the last three years;

(d) Details are given in the Annexure.

(e) Loans under Bankable Schemes & National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers.

The Corporation seeks applications through Newspaper advertisements. A Screening Committee, comprising of the General Manager, Loan Officer of Bank, concerned Bank Manager and Area Inspector of DSFDC, scrutinized and recommend viable cases to Banks for sanction of loans with the approval of the Managing Director. The proposals are processed based on status of SC Certificate and Certificate of Income (below the poverty line, i.e. Rs. 21,206/- per annum) and having a valid ration card.

Loan under NSFDC Schemes

Applications are invited through Newspaper advertisements. Selection of beneficiaries is done by a Committee comprising of General Manager/Managing Director, two representatives of the Board of Directors and one representative from NSFDC. On the basis of the eligibility criteria set by NSFDC, viz. beneficiary should be holding Ration Card and he should also produce SC

certificate and Certificate of Income (showing that he is living double below the poverty line). The possession of valid driving licence is essential in case of loans for transport sector. Only eligible persons are called for interview and final selection is done on the basis of performance at the interview.

Loans under DSFDC Schemes

The applicant should have got admission in a recognised Government Technical Institute anywhere in India and must be a permanent resident of Delhi, having SC certificate and family income not exceeding Rs. 2,000/- p.m.

Training Schemes

The candidate must be a resident of Delhi having SC certificate issued by the competent authority with family income not exceeding Rs. 2,000/- p.m. The candidates are selected on the basis of marks obtained in Higher Secondary School Examination.

Details of loan disbursed to the applicants are given in Annexure.

(f) and (g) No Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

Details as referred of parts (d) & (e)

Schemes	Year	Applications Received	Applications sanctioned/Disbursed
1	2	3	4
Bankable Schemes:			
1. General Loan Scheme	1997-1998	5207	2245
	1998-1999	2789	1788
	1999-2000	1642	2232
2. National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers	1997-1998	2965	1258
	1998-1999	2159	1786
	1999-2000	439	2011
NSFDC assisted Schemes			
1. Transport Loan	1997-1998	Nil	35*
	1998-1999	275	20
	1999-2000	1015	26
2. Purchase of TSRs	1997-1998	Nil	Nil
	1998-1999	Nil	15
	1999-2000	07	06

1	2	3	4
3. Purchase of Bus	1997-1998		
	1998-1999	Nil	Nil
	1999-2000	02	02

DSFDC Schemes

1. Loan for Higher	1997-1998	23	23
Technical Education	1998-1999	18	18
	1999-2000	31	31

*No fresh applications were called

2. Training Schemes

Schemes	Year	Targets	Achievements
1. Training in Footwear Design	1998-1999	50	56
	1999-2000	50	73
2. Training in Computer Software Development	1997-1998	500	500
	1998-99	500	500
	1999-2000	500	700
3. Training in Other Trades	1997-1998	250	271
	1998-1999	200	200
	1999-2000	200	250
4. Training to Scavangers	1997-98	200	215
	1998-99	200	203
	1999-2000	200	263

Statement II

Question No. Date and Name of the Member	Subject	Promise made	When & how filled	Reasons for delay
1	2	3	4	5
Unstarred question No. 7998 dated 17.5.2000 by Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale.	Delhi Scheduled Caste Financial and Development Corporation. Asking for: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 4998 on April 26, 2000 and state: (a) the number of applications received for grant of loan to purchase of photo-copier machine;	The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.	The requisite information has been obtained from Delhi Scheduled Caste Financial & Development Corporation. The reply in r/o part (a) to (f) of the question is given as under: (a) The number of applications received by DSCFDC for grant of loan to purchase Photo-copier Machine during the last three years is given as under:	It took time because, the requisite information had to be collected from Delhi Scheduled Caste Financial and Development Corporation.

1	2	3	4	5
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(b) the details of each application rejected on the ground of excess income from the prescribed limit as laid down for grant of said loan;

(c) the income declared by the applicant duly verified by the SDMs in each case;

(d) the income assessed by the authority of DSCFDC in each case and the basis of their assessment;

(e) the number of complaints received by DSCFDC in this regard; and

(f) the action taken thereon so far and proposed to be taken in this regard?

Year	Application received
1997-1998	175
1998-1999	103
1999-2000	115

(b) to (f) During 1997-98, the following 3 cases were rejected:

1. Shri Raju S/o Shri Bhano R/o 10/47, Khichri Pur, Delhi.
2. Shri Bhupender Kumar S/o Shri Laxman Sg. R/o New Q.No. 575, Vill. Khera Khurd, Delhi.
3. Shri Sushil Kumar S/o Shri Soni Singh R/o 9-A, S.P. Mukharji Marg, Delhi.

During 1999-2000, one application was rejected in respect of Shri Rajesh S/o Shri Moolchand.

S/Sh. Raju (S.No. 1) and Sushil Kumar (S.No. 3) did not submit any income certificate issued by the SDM.

Shri Bhupendra (S. No. 2), S/o Shri Laxman Singh had submitted an affidavit showing income of Rs. 2000/- per month.

Shri Rajesh Kumar, S/o Shri Mool Chand had submitted income certificate issued by SDM. As per the same, income is reported Rs. 18000/- per annum. The father of applicant is Executive Officer in Parliament and the applicant himself is also working with Member of Parliament Mr. R.K. Malviya and earning about Rs 2000/- per month. Besides this, the father of the applicant is in possession of three storey house in Paschim Vihar and earning about Rs. 3000/- per month as rent.

1

2

3

4

5

The competent authority considered all the above 4 cases and found that the family income from all sources of these applicants exceeded the prescribed limit in the scheme and therefore, all the above mentioned 4 cases were rejected by the Corporation.

Chairperson of DSFDC has reviewed the system of defining the income criteria under various schemes of the Corporation and it has been decided that where the applicant is a major person, he/she will be treated as a separate entity and the income of parents should not be included with that the beneficiary. Accordingly all the above four cases are being reviewed, due to which all of them are being informed separately in this regard to apply afresh in response to the advertisement, published in various Newspapers on 3.7.2000.

[English]

Pending Water Supply Projects

1664. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the new number of Water Supply Projects of Maharashtra particularly IV-Mumbai (Middle Vaitarna) are pending with the Central Water Commission for technical clearance;

(b) whether there is any delay in clearing the projects; and

(c) the time by which the clearance to the projects be granted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Only one water supply project

viz.; Mumbai-IV-Middle Vaitarna Project was received in the Central Water Commission (CWC) from Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai during September, 1993 for technical scrutiny regarding construction and safety of the dam. Based on the final compliance of the comments received from the project authorities in January, 2000, the CWC has already issued clearance on technical aspects in February, 2000.

Non-Alignment Movement

1665. SHRI N. N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister during his visit to USA and while addressing UN millennium summit made any statements regarding the Non-alignment movement; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Prime Minister did not make a specific reference to Non-Aligned Movement while addressing the millennium summit. However, the concerns of NAM were addressed in his speech by use of the more general term "Developing countries" in which connection PM made the following points:

- Expressed concern that developing countries are finding it increasingly difficult to meet their social obligations due to decreasing resources.
- Expressed concern at the impact of HIV/AIDs in developing countries.
- Referred to the risks to which developing countries are exposed due to unregulated and volatile capital mobility and the destabilising impact of uncontrolled global flight of money.

Called for greater participation by developing countries in the major forums of decision making including the international financial system.

- Called for bringing in new permanent members from developed and developing countries into an expanded Security Council.

Incidence of Cancer

1666. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a report of the Indian Council of Medical Research, the incidence of cancer is rising in the country;

(b) if so, the number of cancer cases in the country at present; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Time trend analysis of the data from population-based cancer registries over the last decade shows a small but significant increase in the overall incidence of cancer in all the urban cancer registries, among both men and women.

(b) Based on the data from population-based cancer registries in Bangalore, Bombay & Madras, the estimated number of new cancer cases for the year 1992 was 644,600. Considering no change in age specific incidence, 806,000 incidences of cancer cases are expected to occur during the year 2001.

(c) To strengthen the National Cancer Control Programme, the Government of India has launched the following schemes for early detection of the disease, creating awareness for the same and treatment of cancer:—

- (i) Upgradation of Regional Cancer Centres in various States/UTs.
- (ii) Development of Oncology Wing in identified Medical Colleges/Hospitals.
- (iii) Setting up of Cobalt Therapy facilities in various parts of the country.
- (iv) District Cancer Control Programme including a pilot project called "Modified District Cancer Control Programme".
- (v) Financial assistance to NGOs for early detection and awareness activities.

[Translation]

Jhag Wale Shampoo and Toothpaste Se Cancer

1667. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards news-item captioned "adhik jhag wale shampoo aur toothpaste se cancer" appearing in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' New Delhi dated October 16, 2000;

(b) if so, the details of the company manufacturing excess lather shampoo and toothpaste; and

(c) the details of action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Sodium Laurayl Sulphate (SLS) is a foaming agent and emulsifier used world wide in cosmetic preparations and is recognised as a safe ingredient. The standard for cosmetics prescribed under Drug & Cosmetics Rules also allow the use of SLS, and all cosmetics manufactured and marketed in India have to comply with these standards. There are no reports of studies linking SLS to incidence of Cancer.

(c) Does not arise in view of 'a & b' above.

*[English]***Cyber Crimes**

1668. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN:
SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the cyber crimes and illegal cyber operations;

(b) if so, the corrective measures taken by the Government to avert the impending danger and the names of countries with whom the issue has been discussed for finance and defence in particular and the statistical details of the reported Cyber Crimes in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have set up a C.B.I. Cell to keep an eye on Cyber Crimes;

(d) if so, the number of cases registered by the C.B.I. Cell so far;

(e) the action taken thereon;

(f) the steps taken by the Government to stop obscence and porno websites in India;

(g) whether the Government have taken any steps for the improvement of internet and e-com facilities in the country; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ministry of Information Technology has taken the following steps to reduce/control cyber crime in India:—

(i) The Information Technology Act, 2000 has been enacted. This Act has adequate provisions to deal with cyber crime. Apart from that the Act, the rules notified thereof have detailed IT security guidelines.

(ii) Ministry of Information Technology is implementing a project to set up Centre for IT Security on the lines of Computer Emergency

Response Teams (CERTs) in other countries to provide a single trusted point of contact for security related issues in IT systems, networks etc.

(iii) The project on Information Security Management (ISM), implemented by MIT, aims to bring in awareness, provide training and third party certification in the country.

(iv) MIT has also sponsored projects on development of technologies for Public Key Infrastructure and Payment Systems to address internet based transactions/Digital Signatures. These projects are in the advanced stage of completion.

The issue has been discussed in general terms with the Governments of Australia, Brazil, France and Singapore.

A few incidents involving computer crimes have been reported. The CBI has registered two cases, the details of which are given in (e).

(c) Yes, Sir. The Cyber Crime Investigation Cell of CBI was notified in September 1999. It became functional from 03.03.2000 with the posting of a Superintendent of Police. The cell is at a nascent stage both in terms of infrastructure and trained manpower.

(d) Two.

(e) (i) Case No. RC S18 2000 E 0001 dt. 28.06.2000 under section 379, 419/420 IPC and

(ii) Case No. RC S18 2000 E 0002 dt. August 2000 under section 120 B r/w, 292 IPC are under investigation.

(f) IT Act 2000 has provisions for dealing with publishing or transmitting obscence information in electronic form.

(g) and (h) Government has been a facilitator for the growth of internet and e-commerce in the country. Internet Service Provider (IBP) Policy was announced by the Government in November 1998. A number of constraints have also since been removed by permitting international gateways to ISPs and direct access to undersea fibre optic cable under security clearance. Since then, 399 licenses have been issued in various categories. It has enabled competitive service provision by private sector.

Safe Motherhood Programme

1669. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) the funds allocated to each State under the child-care and safe motherhood programme during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 till date;

(b) the details of works included under the said programme; and

(c) the guidelines issued by the Union Government for proper implementation of programme in various States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) A statement showing the details of funds released to each State under Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) programme into which the erstwhile Child Survival and Safe Motherhood (CSSM) programme was integrated during the financial year 1998-99, 1999-2000 and the current year is enclosed as Statement-I.

(b) The interventions included under the RCH Programme are of two types viz. (i) interventions applicable to the country as a whole, (ii) interventions which selectively apply to districts depending upon the Reproductive and Child Health status in the districts. A tabular statement showing these interventions is enclosed as Statement II.

(c) The scheme guidelines have been codified in the shape of a document known as "RCH Schemes for implementation". These mainly contain the administrative and financial guidelines. The technical guidelines issued under the CSSM Programme apply to the current ongoing activities and have been supplemented by guidelines on standards for female and male sterilizations; guidelines on training programmes; guidelines on Reproductive Tract Infections (RTI) for para medical workers and on Pulse Polio Immunization. Under the European Commission supported Sector Investment Programme, the programme document itself contains guidelines for implementation. Supplementary instructions for its operationalisation have been issued in the form of a handbook for Programme Managers. These Major guidelines have been supplemented and clarified in response to queries raised by States from time to time.

Statement I

RCH Programme-Total (Kind + Cash) assistance provided to States/UTs

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the State/UT	Kind+Cash assistance provided during			Total assistance
		1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2,828.72	4,134.36	3,135.84	10,098.92
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	333.22	277.20	101.06	711.47
3.	Assam	1,353.90	1,973.39	1,349.69	4,676.97
4.	Bihar	4,622.06	5,959.35	4,809.78	15,391.19
5.	Goa	68.49	114.28	44.56	227.34
6.	Gujarat	2,478.84	2,515.28	1,858.67	6,852.79
7.	Haryana	1,173.54	1,382.80	703.33	3,259.67
8.	Himachal Pradesh	702.12	469.83	225.52	1,397.47
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	551.19	635.28	396.94	1,583.41
10.	Karnataka	2,132.18	2,076.72	1,624.32	5,833.22

1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	Kerala	1,762.10	1,479.79	1,445.57	4,687.46
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4,546.90	5,375.26	4,890.26	14,812.42
13.	Maharashtra	3,749.79	4,528.00	3,319.32	11,597.11
14.	Manipur	177.16	638.68	245.96	1,061.80
15.	Meghalaya	204.74	242.30	177.04	624.08
16.	Mizoram	530.39	586.99	160.88	1,278.27
17.	Nagaland	165.50	223.29	158.17	546.97
18.	Orissa	2,061.83	2,409.46	1,461.81	5,933.09
19.	Punjab	1,026.00	1,180.27	875.40	3,082.27
20.	Rajasthan	2,872.79	3,743.80	3,537.77	10,154.36
21.	Sikkim	125.99	93.08	49.27	268.34
22.	Tamil Nadu	2,458.56	2,590.39	1,601.59	6,650.54
23.	Tripura	411.60	389.84	154.08	955.52
24.	Uttar Pradesh	8,239.35	11,402.89	7,883.55	27,525.79
25.	West Bengal	3,203.00	3,795.29	3,065.83	10,064.12
26.	A&N Islands	118.22	52.58	26.09	196.89
27.	Chandigarh	55.53	139.49	27.83	222.85
28.	D&N Haveli	41.23	34.42	10.67	86.32
29.	Daman & Diu	35.96	40.40	8.63	85.00
30.	Delhi	462.15	458.52	357.07	1,277.74
31.	Lakshadweep	36.42	29.38	6.99	72.79
32.	Pondicherry	80.89	70.42	26.29	177.59
Total		48,610.95	59,043.01	38,495.31	151,393.75

Figures provisional.

Releases for the current year in respect of the newly created 3 States of Chattisgarh, Uttaranchal Pradesh and Jharkhand are included in the respective mother States viz. Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar respectively.

Statement II

Interventions in all Districts	Interventions in selected States/Districts
1	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Survival interventions i.e. Immunization, Vitamin A (to prevent blindness), Oral Rehydration (to prevent death from dehydration) and prevention of deaths due to Pneumonia (ARI). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screening and treatment of RTI/STI at Sub divisional level. Emergency Obstetric Care at selected FRUs by providing Drugs.

1

- Safe Motherhood intervention e.g. Antenatal checks up, immunization for Tetanus, safe delivery, anaemia control programmes.
- Operationalisation of Community Need Assessment Approach.
- Institutional development
- Integrated Training package
- Modified Management Information System.
- IEC activities and counselling on health, sexuality and gender.
- Urban and Tribal areas RCH package.
- RTI/STI Clinics at District Hospitals (where not available).
- Facility for Safe abortions at PHCs by providing equipment, contractual Doctors etc.
- Enhanced community participation through Panchayats, Women's Groups and NGOs.
- Minor civil works.
- Provision for Lab Technicians for laboratory diagnosis of RTI/STI & EOC.
- Adolescent health and reproductive hygiene.

2

- Essential Obstetric Care by providing Drugs and PHN/ Staff Nurse at PHCs.
- Additional ANM at sub-centres in the weak districts for ensuring MCH care.
- Improved delivery services and emergency care by providing Equipment kits, IUD insertions and ANM kits at sub-centres.
- Rentals to contracted PHNs/ANMs, not provided Govt. accommodation.
- Facility of Referral transport for pregnant women during emergency to the nearest referral centre through Panchayats in weak districts.
- District sub-projects under Local Capacity Enhancement.
- RCH Camps.
- Dais Training
- Strengthening of RCH Outreach Services.

Mentally Handicapped

1670. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formed a Trust for the welfare of mentally handicapped people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of Members of the Governing Council or equivalent body of this Trust; and

(d) the objectives thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and

Multiple Disabilities Act was passed on 30.12.1999. The Trust is a statutory body set under the above Act, having its head office at New Delhi. The Board consists of a Chair person, nine persons appointed from amongst registered organization, of which three members each are from voluntary organizations, associations of parents of persons with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities and from association of persons with disabilities, eight persons not below the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India belonging to the Departments of Social Justice and Empowerment, Women and Child Development, Health and Family Welfare, Finance, Labour, Education, Urban Affairs and Employment and Rural Employment and Poverty Alleviation, 3 persons representing the association of Trade, Commerce and Industry, Engaged in philanthropic activities (at present vacant) and one Chief Executive Officer of the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India. The Board was constituted vide notification dated 22/9/2000.

(c) The General superintendence, direction and management of the affairs and business of the Trust is vested in a Board. The names of the members of the Board are as follows:—

- (a) Mrs. Merry Barua
- (b) Mrs. Sharda Fatehpuria
- (c) Mrs. Rukmini Krishnaswamy
- (d) Mr. Damodar Tilak
- (e) Mr. S.C. Pant
- (f) Mr. Akhil Paul
- (g) Mrs. Marlene Kamdar
- (h) Dr. (Smt.) Rajam Pillary
- (i) Mrs. Renu Sahni Dhar (JS)
- (j) Mrs. V.S. Rao (JS)
- (k) Mr. Madan Mohan Jha (JS)
- (l) Mr. S. Banerjee (JS)
- (m) Dr. P.V. Thomas (JS)
- (n) Mr. Krishnan (JS)
- (o) Mr. Shailendra Pandey (JS)
- (p) Mrs. Gauri Chatterjee (JS)
- (q) Mrs. Asha Das (Chairperson & Secretary)
- (r) Mrs. Jayati Chandra (CEO)

(d) The Trust will primarily seek to uphold the rights, promote the development and safeguard the interests of persons with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities and their families. Towards this goal, the National Trust will support programmes which promote in dependence, facilitate guardianship when necessary and address the concerns of those special persons who do not have their family support. The Trust will *inter alia* also protect the interests of the persons in the above-mentioned categories, after the death of their parents or guardians.

C.T.B.T.

1671. DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of C.T.B.T.;
- (b) the names of the countries which have signed C.T.B.T.;
- (c) the names of the countries which have not signed the C.T.B.T.; and
- (d) the policy of the Union Government regarding C.T.B.T.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) consists of a Preamble, 17 articles, an annex containing a list of States grouped by region, a list of States in relation to the entry-into-force provision (Article XIV) and a Protocol. The Preamble of the treaty reiterates the "ultimate goal of eliminating of those (nuclear) weapons, and of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control", and recognises that the CTBT would constrain the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons. Article I contains the basic obligation of the treaty not to carry out any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion. Article II provides for the establishment of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO) at Vienna consisting of a Conference of States Parties, a 51-member Executive Council (EC), a Technical Secretariat, including the International Data Center and the International Monitoring System. Article III requires a State Party to take necessary measures to implement its obligations under the CTBT and designate a National Authority for interaction with the CTBTO and other States Parties. Article IV describes the verification regime consisting of the International Monitoring System with networks of seismic, radio-nuclide, infrasound and hydroacoustic monitoring stations, non-mandatory consultation and clarification, on-site inspections and confidence building measures. On-site inspections need to be approved by 30 affirmative votes in the EC. Article V provides for measures to ensure compliance with the treaty and redress a situation that contravenes its provisions by the Conference of States Parties undertaking collective measures and/or making a reference to the UN. Article VI and Article VII deal with settlement of disputes and amendments respectively while Article VIII provides for a review conference every 10 years. Article

IX provides that the treaty is of unlimited duration. A State Party can withdraw from the treaty by giving a six month notice including a statement of events that have led to the decision of withdrawal because its supreme interests have been jeopardised. Article X-XII relate to the status of the Annexes, signature, ratification and accession. Article XIV provides that the treaty shall enter into force 180 days after the deposit of the instruments of ratification by all 44 countries listed in Annex 2 to the treaty. It also provides for the convening of a Conference of States that have deposited their instruments of ratification if the treaty is not in force "three years after the date of the anniversary of its opening for signature". Article XV provides that the treaty articles are not subject to reservations and Articles XVI-XVII relate to the authentic texts and designate the UN Secretary General as the Depository. A Protocol is annexed to the treaty and provides details of the International Monitoring System, functions of the International Data Centre, conduct of on-site inspections, confidence building measures and the lists of monitoring stations.

(b) As of date 160 countries have signed the CTBT (list enclosed as statement I).

(c) 33 countries have not signed the CTBT (list enclosed as statement II).

(d) The Government's position on the CTBT was articulated by PM on December 15, 1998 in Parliament. By observing the moratorium, we meet the basic obligation of the CTBT. 160 countries are, as at present, signatories to the CTBT, including many who have supported and continue to support India's disarmament initiatives, as well as those with whom India has strategic dialogues. The priority of the country's national security concerns having been addressed, the Government believes that it is also necessary to convey reassurance to the international Community.

Statement I

List of States Signatories to the CTBT

Africa

1. Algeria
2. Angola
3. Benin
4. Burkina Faso
5. Burundi

6. Cape Verde
7. Chad
8. Comoros
9. Congo
10. Cote d'Ivoire
11. Democratic Republic of the Congo
12. Djibouti
13. Egypt
14. Equatorial Guinea
15. Ethiopia
16. Gabon
17. Ghana
18. Guinea-Bissau
19. Guinea
20. Kenya
21. Lesotho
22. Liberia
23. Madagascar
24. Malawi
25. Mali
26. Mauritania
27. Morocco
28. Mozambique
29. Namibia
30. Niger
31. Nigeria
32. Sao Tome and Principe
33. Senegal
34. Seychelles
35. Sierra Leone
36. South Africa
37. Swaziland
38. Togo
39. Tunisia

- 40. Uganda
- 41. Zambia
- 42. Zimbabwe

East Europe

- 43. Albania
- 44. Armenia
- 45. Azerbaijan
- 46. Belarus
- 47. Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 48. Bulgaria
- 49. Croatia
- 50. Czech Republic
- 51. Estonia
- 52. Georgia
- 53. Hungary
- 54. Latvia
- 55. Lithuania
- 56. Poland
- 57. Republic of Moldova
- 58. Romania
- 59. Russian Federation
- 60. Slovakia
- 61. Slovenia
- 62. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- 63. Ukraine

Latin America and the Caribbean

- 64. Antigua and Barbuda
- 65. Argentina
- 66. Bolivia
- 67. Brazil
- 68. Chile
- 69. Colombia
- 70. Costa Rica
- 71. Dominican Republic

- 72. Ecuador
- 73. El Salvador
- 74. Grenada
- 75. Guatemala
- 76. Guyana
- 77. Haiti
- 78. Honduras
- 79. Jamaica
- 80. Mexico
- 81. Nicaragua
- 82. Panama
- 83. Paraguay
- 84. Peru
- 85. Saint Lucia
- 86. Suriname
- 87. Uruguay
- 88. Venezuela

Middle East and South Asia

- 89. Bahrain
- 90. Bangladesh
- 91. Iran (Islamic Republic of)
- 92. Israel
- 93. Jordan
- 94. Kazakhstan
- 95. Kuwait
- 96. Kyrgyzstan
- 97. Maldives
- 98. Nepal
- 99. Oman
- 100. Qatar
- 101. Sri Lanka
- 102. Tajikistan
- 103. Turkmenistan
- 104. United Arab Emirates

105. Uzbekistan

106. Yemen

North America and Western Europe

107. Andorra

108. Austria

109. Belgium

110. Canada

111. Cyprus

112. Denmark

113. Finland

114. France

115. Germany

116. Greece

117. Holy See

118. Iceland

119. Ireland

120. Italy

121. Liechtenstein

122. Luxembourg

123. Malta

124. Monaco

125. Netherlands

126. Norway

127. Portugal

128. San Marino

129. Spain

130. Sweden

131. Switzerland

132. Turkey

133. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern
Ireland

134. United States of America

South-East Asia, the Pacific and the Far East

135. Australia

136. Brunei Darussalam

137. Cambodia

138. China

139. Cook Islands

140. Fiji

141. Indonesia

142. Japan

143. Kiribati

144. Lao Peoples Democratic Republic

145. Malaysia

146. Marshall Islands

147. Micronesia (Federated States of)

148. Mongolia

149. Myanmar

150. Nauru

151. New Zealand

152. Papua New Guinea

153. Philippines

154. Republic of Korea

155. Samoa

156. Singapore

157. Solomon Islands

158. Thailand

159. Vanuatu

160. Vietnam

Statement II***List of Non-signatories to the CTBT*****Africa**

1. Botswana

2. Cameroon

3. Central African Republic

4. Eritrea

5. Gambia

6. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
7. Mauritius
8. Rwanda
9. Somalia
10. Sudan
11. United Republic of Tanzania

East Europe

12. Yugoslavia

Latin America and the Caribbean

13. Bahamas
14. Barbados
15. Belize
16. Cuba
17. Dominica
18. Saint Kitts and Nevis
19. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
20. Trinidad and Tobago

Middle East and South Asia

21. Afghanistan
22. Bhutan
23. India
24. Iraq
25. Lebanon
26. Pakistan
27. Saudi Arabia
28. Syrian Arab Republic

South-East Asia, the Pacific and the Far East

29. Democratic People's Republic of Korea
30. Niue
31. Palau
32. Tonga
33. Tuvalu

Leave Travel Concession

1672. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide leave travel concession facilities to employees to visit their home town every year including to those who are married;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise, in view of (a) above.

(c) The existing Leave Travel Concession Scheme is considered to be quite liberal and adequate.

[Translation]

Industrial Laws

1673. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to review the Industrial laws to increase the pace of development of industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The Development and Growth of Industries is regulated by the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 (IDR Act). Perhaps, the reference is to this Act. In the process of review of laws, regulations and simplification of procedures applicable to Industry, an Expert Group constituted by the Government has proposed enactment of a new Industries Act in place of the IDR Act, which would focus on promotion and development of industries, instead of regulation. The Government have initiated the process of examining the feasibility of framing a new enactment in this regard.

[English]

Financial Assistance

1674. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of financial assistance provided to Orissa for sickness of Small Scale Industries;

(b) whether the Union Government have sought progress report regarding the utilisation of the amount, district-wise and State-wise; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) A total amount of Rs. 23 lakhs was provided to State of Orissa during the financial year 1982-83 to 1984-85 for revival of sick Small Scale units under the then prevailing centrally sponsored Margin Money Scheme.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Utilisation certificates were sought by the Union Government State-wise. The amount has been fully utilised under the erstwhile centrally sponsored scheme of Margin Money in Orissa.

[*Translation*]

Multipurpose Dams

1675. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of major dams constructed in the country till date, State-wise;

(b) the total hydel power generation capacity of each dam, total area of land is being irrigated and quantum of water is being provided for drinking purposes, dam-wise and State-wise;

(c) the details of large dams with their locations abandoned alongwith the reasons for shelving them, separately; and

(d) the funds allocated, and total cost incurred thereon as against the benefits occurred therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) Around 3600 large dams have been constructed in the country for various purposes. However, the number of major irrigation projects (Culturable Command Area more than 10,000 Hectares) completed in the country upto the end of VIII Plan is 200 of which 74 projects were completed in pre-plan era and remaining 126 projects during the plan period. The Statewise number of projects completed during pre-plan period alongwith the expenditure incurred and potential created through them is given in Statement-I.

The number of major Hydro Electric Stations presently existing in the country is 25. The installed generation capacity of these stations is given in Statement II.

The data regarding quantum of water provided through these projects for drinking purposes is not maintained in the Ministry of Water Resources.

Statement I

No. of Completed Major Irrigation projects During Pre-Plan and Plan Period (upto the end of VIII Plan)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Pre-Plan period			Plan period		
		No. of Projects completed	Cost (Rs in crores)	Potential created (In th.ha.)	No. of projects completed	Cost (Rs. in crores)	Potential created (In th. ha.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11	24.52	1253	5	56.70	307
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Assam	—	—	—	2	9.46	47
4.	Bihar	2	3.5	395	17	682.22	1610
5.	Goa	—	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Gujarat	2	7.22	21	10	335.78	701
7.	Haryana	1	5.77	436	4	107.38	804
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	0.49	46	—	—	—
10.	Karnataka	4	2.95*	178	3	156.91	283
11.	Kerala	—	—	—	7	313.00	303
12.	Madhya Pradesh	6	21.79	300	7	294.33	690
13.	Maharashtra	5	10.87	156	17	997.00	694
14.	Manipur	—	—	—	1	28.79	38
15.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—
16.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—
18.	Orissa	3	N.A.	167	6	273.09	387
19.	Punjab	3	13.3	1251	4	264.92	424
20.	Rajasthan	1	3.32	185	2	502.28	1053
21.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	17	12.29	1097	5	65.13	266
23.	Tripura	—	—	—	—	—	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	15	34.70	2553	35	589.34	2255
25.	West Bengal	3	2.35	138	1	24.60	251
Total		74	143.07	8176	126	4700.93	10113

*Note: Cost of two projects not available.

Statement II

Details of Major Hydro Electric (H.E.)+Stations

S.No.	Name of H.E. Station	Installed Capacity (MW)
1	2	3
1.	Bhakra (BBMB)	1200
2.	Pong (")	360
3.	Ranjit Sagar	500
4.	R.P. Sagar	172

1	2	3
5.	Rihand	300
6.	Ramganga	198
7.	Ukai	300
8.	Gandhi Sagar	115
9.	Koyana	1880
10.	Machkud	114.75
11.	Nagarjuna Sagar	810

1	2	3
12.	Srisaïlam	770
13.	Sharavathy	894
14.	Supa	810
15.	Idukki	780
16.	Sabrigiri	300
17.	Madhupatty	130.50
18.	Idamalyar	75
19.	Mettur	240
20.	Periyar	140
21.	Hirakud	307.50
22.	Balimela	360
23.	Rengali	250
24.	Indravati	450
25.	Loktak	105

Atomic Power Plants In Rajasthan

1676. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of atomic power plants in Rajasthan at present and the number out of them remained out of order during a year;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to set up more such plants in Rajasthan; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Rajasthan Atomic Power Station Unit-1, 2, 3 & 4 are presently in operation in Rajasthan. RAPS-1 is under shutdown since 26.9.2000 for carrying out In-service Inspection (ISI) of coolant channels and end-shields.

(b) and (c) Unit 5 & 6 of Rajasthan Atomic Power Projects are planned to be commenced during the 10th Plan period subject to approvals and availability of financial resources.

[English]

Bargi Dam

1677. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Major Dams in the country at present alongwith the water storage capacity of each dam;

(b) whether several major Dams are situated in the Earthquake Seismic Zone III and IV;

(c) if so, whether the Bargi dam at Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh is responsible for repeated Earthquake in Jabalpur; and

(d) if so, the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Around 3600 large dams have been constructed in the country for various purposes. However, as per information available regarding dams with storage above 10 million cubic metre (M. Cum), there are 811 dams completed with total storage of 173728.82 M.Cum. and 303 dams under construction with total storage of 75422.51 M. Cum. Statewise details giving breakup of the number of dams and corresponding storages are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (d) Jabalpur region is in Zone-3 as per Indian Standard (IS) code: 1893-1984. As per the above code, the country is divided into five seismic zones. Zone-3 is a moderate seismic zone. However, no separate compilation has been made for other dams located in Zone 3 & 4. As per information available, Bargi Dam in Madhya Pradesh is not responsible for repeated earthquakes in Jabalpur.

Statement

Sl. No.	Particulars (States)	Completed Projects		Projects under construction	
		Live storage MCM	Number	Live Storage MCM	Number
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24851.42	74	7123.27	26
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	—	—	—
3.	Assam	Nil	—	1054.32	3
4.	Bihar	4660.93	46	4352.73	27
5.	Goa	44.30	1	674.45	2
6.	Gujarat	14919.07	104	7248.38	24
7.	Haryana	—	—	—	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	13806.44	3	109.55	1
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—
10.	Karnataka	21556.07	41	3031.31	21
11.	Kerala	4617.81	23	1615.69	8
12.	Madhya Pradesh	18580.13	109	21633.14	45
13.	Maharashtra	22095.71	155	12918.88	90
14.	Manipur	396.50	1	124.58	3
15.	Meghalaya	697.96	4	—	—
16.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—
17.	Nagaland	—	—	1220.00	1
18.	Orissa	14286.77	42	3304.63	14
19.	Punjab	24.75	2	2344.00	1
20.	Rajasthan	8323.15	94	1591.48	17
21.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	6719.51	46	36.55	3
23.	Tripura	312.00	3	—	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	16347.36	59	7057.56	17
25.	West Bengal	1475.15	3	—	—
26.	Pondicherry	13.79	1	—	—
Total in M. Cum.		173728.82	811	75422.51	303
in Cubic km.		173.73		75.42	

Note: Projects having a live storage capacity of 10 M. Cum. and above only are included. An additional live storage capacity of 3 Cubic Km. (approx) is estimated to be created through medium projects each having a capacity of less than 10 M. Cum. thus making total live storage capacity of 177 cubic km. in completed Projects.

Mortality Rate of Children

1678. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the mortality rate of children as on date in each State;

(b) whether the Government propose to take preventive steps in each State during the Ninth Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA):

(a) The infant mortality rates for India and the major States for 1999 are given in statement.

(b) and (c) Immunisation against six vaccine preventable diseases, control of deaths due to diarrhoea and acute respiratory infections, provision of essential newborn care, prophylaxis against Vitamin A and Iron deficiency are being implemented in all States as a part of the Reproductive and Child Health Programme. The Pulse Polio Programme has been launched to eradicate Polio from the country. As a measure of strengthening of interventions for child health and improving the outreach of services some schemes have been initiated. The Border Districts Cluster Strategy Project has been launched in 48 identified weak districts of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. A new Scheme for improving outreach services in 50 selected districts of eight weak performing States viz Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Gujarat has also been launched to give special inputs to improve family welfare services including child health services.

Statement**Provisional Estimate of Infant Mortality Rate, 1999**

	IMR
India*	
Bigger States	
Andhra Pradesh	66
Assam	76

Bihar	66
Gujarat	63
Haryana	68
Karnataka	58
Kerala	14
Madhya Pradesh	91
Maharashtra	48
Orissa	97
Punjab	53
Rajasthan	81
Tamil Nadu	52
Uttar Pradesh	84
West Bengal	52
Smaller States	
Arunachal Pradesh	43
Goa	21
Himachal Pradesh	62
Manipur	25
Meghalaya	56
Mizoram	19
Nagaland	NA ¹
Sikkim	49
Tripura	42

*Excludes Nagaland (Rural) and Jammu & Kashmir due to part-receipt of returns.

NA: Not available due to part-receipt of returns.

Note: Infant mortality rates for smaller States are for the period 1997-98.

Source: Sample Registration System.

Externally Aided Educational Projects

1679. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the various externally aided educational projects currently accessible to the Indian scholars of various disciplines;

(b) the names of externally aided scholarships for various disciplines and the respective awardees during the last three years; and

(c) the research activities carried out in the field of archaeology, art and history by Indian scholars during the last three years aided scholarships through these externally aided scholarships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) The question does not pertain to MEA. Nodal Ministry for externally aided educational projects is Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs. We have requested the concerned Ministry to accept this question. The reply is to be given by them.

Alzheimer Disease

1680. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a National Institute for Alzheimer disease;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of patients suffering from this disease in the country at present, State-wise;

(d) whether any awareness programme has been launched with regard to this disease; and

(e) if so, the names of the agencies/organizations involved alongwith the financial assistance provided during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The need for establishing a National Institute in India for Alzheimer Disease is not being felt at present as the same is being viewed in the larger context of problems of older people with physical and mental disability. The care requirement of dementiated patients in India are usually met by the family and the programmes for older population will also cover patients with Alzheimer's Disease as most of them are older persons.

The epidemiology of Alzheimer's Disease and other dementias in India is not well studied or evaluated in different parts of the country.

(c) to (e) There is no actual data available about the prevalence of disease country-wise or State-wise. However, based on the limited epidemiological studies it is clear that the prevalence of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias in those above 60 years is 3-5%. Based on this it is estimated that over 3 million elderly people have Alzheimer and other forms of dementia in India. In the year 2000, Alzheimer's and Related Disorders Society of India organised "National Dementia Awareness Week" starting from September 18-24. A TV programme on Alzheimer's Disease is being telecast currently on DD 1 Channel under the popular programme "Jeevan Rekha". This programme is being anchored by one of the Faculty Members of AIIMS.

Health and Family Welfare Programme by European Union

1681. SHRI ARUN KUMAR:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Sector Investment Programme (Phase-II) of the five year Health and Family Welfare Programme of the EU (European Union) in India, is in implementation;

(b) if so, the details of the EU's proposed budget for the said programme; and

(c) the amount spent during the last two years, and till date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) European Commission has committed to provide an assistance of ECU 190 Million for the Sector Investment Programme.

(c) Details of releases made to the participating States are given in the Statement.

Statement***RCH Programme - Statement of Funds released and expenditure reported***

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	EC States	1999-2000	2000-01	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.00	50.00	51.00
2.	Assam	21.10	15.00	36.10
3.	Gujarat	540.38	0.00	540.38
4.	Haryana	21.64	15.00	36.64
5.	Himachal Pradesh	36.00	0.00	36.00
6.	Kerala	21.00	15.00	36.00
7.	Madhya Pradesh	21.00	15.00	36.00
8.	Maharashtra	21.52	0.00	21.52
9.	Manipur	0.00	5.00	5.00
10.	Mizoram	0.00	5.00	5.00
11.	Orissa	1.60	20.00	21.60
12.	Rajasthan	648.01	35.00	683.01
13.	Uttar Pradesh	21.82	35.00	56.82
Total:		1,355.07	210.00	1,565.07

Deportation of Labourers from UAE

1682. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Indian labourers have been deported from UAE during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to assist the deported labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per information available, Indian missions in UAE issued 1202 Emergency Certificates (ECs) during the year 1999 and 1699 ECs from 1st January, 2000 till

15th November, 2000 to facilitate deportation of Indian labourers.

The following categories of Indian labourers are deported by UAE authorities:—

- (i) not having valid visa.
- (ii) working in contravention of visa conditions.
- (iii) after completion of prison term.

(c) The deported labourers are provided all assistance by the Government to secure their rights and for realization of their dues and claims from the UAE employers.

Loan under PMRY

1683. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "widespread anomalies in granting of loans" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated October 25, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether the ambitious schemes of Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) has failed to achieve its goal;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government for granting loan to the genuine applicants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government of Haryana has reported that there were no anomalies in the selection of beneficiaries under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana in Sonapat District. The State Government has stated that the loans have been disbursed to the beneficiaries

selected by the District Task Force Committee, as per the eligibility and educational qualifications envisaged under the scheme.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The scheme has achieved its goal. As per the reports received from the Reserve Bank of India, against a target of 13.60 lakh, loans have been sanctioned to 15.66 lakh unemployed educated youths under the scheme between 1993-94 to 1999-2000.

(e) To ensure that loans are granted to eligible applicants, the eligibility criteria for selection of applicants has been clearly laid down under the scheme. The District Task Force Committee which has managers from the banks as members, selects the eligible candidates from the applications received by the District Industries Centre. The applications are again scrutinised by the bank branches. In addition, Committees have also been constituted at the District, State and Central levels to oversee the implementation of the Scheme.

Change in Contract Labour Act

1684. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received suggestions from major Trade Unions to change the existing Contract Labour Act, 1971;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Central Trade Union Organisations have, by and large, suggested that a provision for automatic absorption of contract labour in the establishment of the principal employer in the event of issuance of a prohibitory notification under section 10 of the Contract Labour (Regulation and abolition) Act, 1970 should be made in the Act, as per the judgement of the Supreme Court in Air India case. Other suggestions are that wage parity with regular workers for similar nature of work should be ensured and employment of contract labour in regular and perennial nature of work should not be allowed. The changes or amendments to the Act to be made, if any, after taking into account all view points have not yet been finalised.

[Translation]

Inter-State Water Disputes

1685. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cases of Inter-State river water disputes pending settlement in the country as on date;

(b) whether any steps have been taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the time by which all the disputes are likely to be settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) Ravi and Beas water dispute and the Cauvery water disputes were referred to the Tribunals under the provisions of the Inter State Water Disputes Act, 1956 for adjudication in April, 1986 and June, 1990 respectively. Ravi and Beas Waters Tribunal has submitted a fact finding report on 30.1.1987. The Central Government as well as the party States of Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab have sought explanation and guidance on certain points from the Tribunal under Section 5(3) of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956. Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal passed an interim order on June 25, 1991 giving relief to State of Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Pondicherry. The Central Government has published the interim order in the official gazette on 10.12.91 making it final and binding on the parties to the disputes. The Inter State Water Disputes Act, 1956 does not prescribe any time limit for the tribunals to submit their report.

[English]

Construction of Dams

1686. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of multi-purpose Dams built across the country so far, State-wise;

(b) the number of families displaced due to construction of dams and the number out of them rehabilitated so far, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for not rehabilitating the remaining families; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to rehabilitate the remaining families expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) As per the National Register of Large Dams (1994), a total of 3596 dams have been

constructed in the country. Most of these dams are serving more than one of the purposes e.g. irrigation, urban, rural, industrial water supply, hydro-power generation, flood control, pisci-culture, tourism and navigation. Details of large dams built in various States during periods are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) to (d) Being a State subject, the rehabilitation and re-settlement of people affected by construction of the dams is done by the concerned State Government. The required information is not maintained at the Centre.

Statement

Statewise Distribution of Large Dams Constructed in Different Periods

Sl No	Name of State	Period							Year of construction not available	Total
		Upto 1900	1901 to 1950	1951 to 1960	1961 to 1970	1971 to 1980	1981 to 1989	1990 & above		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	24	16	20	18	18	2	57	158
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
4.	Bihar	1	0	12	6	14	23	0	5	61
5.	Gujarat	5	47	60	76	133	131	8	6	466
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	5
7.	Haryana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	4
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	3	7
10.	Karnataka	6	16	11	35	45	40	0	35	188
11.	Kerala	0	1	4	16	7	5	0	5	38
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1	86	39	81	256	397	77	9	946
13.	Maharashtra	16	35	25	146	589	324	10	84	1229
14.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
15.	Meghalaya	0	0	1	3	2	0	0	0	6
16.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Orissa	0	2	3	5	48	72	0	1	131

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
19.	Punjab	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
20.	Rajasthan	5	5	30	19	20	16	0	27	122
21.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Tamil Nadu	1	10	10	24	27	9	0	3	84
23.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
24.	Uttar Pradesh	4	25	21	28	19	12	14	0	123
25.	West Bengal	0	0	1	1	5	10	5	0	22
Grand Total		42	251	234	461	1190	1066	116	236	3596

Source: National Register of Large Dams (1994).

Mesco Steel Plant

1687. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the workers and staff of the MESCO Steel plant under construction in Jajpur district in Orissa are facing a serious problem following the closure of the plant;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures taken/proposed by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Konar Irrigation Project

1688. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position of the Konar Irrigation Project;

(b) whether the Government have succeeded in getting consent of the concerned parties in evolving in commissioning the Konar Irrigation Project;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) The Detailed Project Report of Konar Irrigation Project has been appraised by the Central Water Commission and the same is ready for placing before the Technical Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Water Resources for according techno-economic clearance.

[English]

IAS Officers in Private Sector

1689. SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG:
SHRI BHIM DAHAL:
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to depute IAS officers in the private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and

(b) Government has received some suggestions, from certain quarters, for the deputation of IAS officers to the private sector.

(c) No decision has been taken in this regard.

Vadhawan Committee

1690. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received the recommendations from the Task Force set up under the Chairmanship of S.K. Vadhawan;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations thereof;

(c) if so, the time by which these recommendations are likely to be implemented; and

(d) if not, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Task Force has recommended the widening of coverage of Employees' Provident Fund/ Employees' State Insurance Schemes, rationalisation of Employees' Pension Scheme, integration of Social Security Schemes, stoppage of withdrawal from Provident Fund, compulsory registration of establishments, introduction of Unemployment Insurance Scheme etc. As the recommendations of the Task Force have got heavy financial implications, the entire report of the Task Force has been referred to the Second National Commission on Labour for in-depth study. Further action on the report of the Task Force can be taken only after the recommendations of the National Commission on Labour become available to the Government.

Primary Health Centres

1691. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh is considering another task force to examine the medical and health facilities in the State and suggests possible remedies;

(b) whether the State Government is also considering to install Video conferencing facility in about 150-200 hospitals;

(c) whether these could be connected to State capital later;

(d) whether according to the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Prime Minister, the principal challenge that lay before the professionals in the cities was how to take their top quality and specialist medical knowledge to the roughly 27,000 Primary Health Centres spread across the country;

(e) whether an experimental project for improvement of PHCs implemented by the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Union Government in four States has proved this aspect; and

(f) if so, the time by which these task forces are likely to be able to suggest remedies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Markandeya Irrigation Project

1692. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has submitted a proposal to the Centre on Markandeya Project;

(b) if so, whether the proposal has been referred to the Central Water Commission for study and approval;

(c) whether the clearance for a few aspects like Canal designs, foundation engineering and geotechnical investigations are yet to be studied and approved;

(d) if so, whether the Government of Karnataka has furnished all information on the aspects under study to the Central Water Commission; and

(e) if so, the reasons for delay in giving clearance to the project, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government of Karnataka has submitted a proposal to the Central Water Commission (CWC) in May-1997 on Markandeya Project for Techno-Economic appraisal.

(c) to (e) The Project Report was examined and Embankment Design, Plant Planning, Gates Design, and Concrete & Masonry Dam Design aspects have been finalised. Comments of CWC in respect of most of the remaining aspects have already been communicated to the State Government. The clearance of the scheme is linked with the promptness with which the State authorities comply with the observations of various central appraising agencies.

[Translation]

Gross Domestic Product

1693. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gross Domestic Product rate has declined in the first three months of the current financial year due to slow-pace of development in the agricultural and construction sectors;

(b) if so, whether Government have analysed this trend; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check this trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The performance of the economy is closely monitored and appropriate measures taken in light of the emerging trends as and when necessary. Various economic reform measures undertaken by the Government are expected to have favourable impact on the economy, and to impart dynamism to overall economic system.

[English]

Hormonal Disorders

1694. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether over 108 million Indians are suffering from hormonal disorders so far;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the preventive steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) It has been estimated that around 108 million Indians suffer from various types of hormonal disorders. These 108 million cases cover Thyroid disorders, Diabetes mellitus, Metabolic bone disorders, Reproductive Endocrine disorders, Pituitary and adrenal disorders etc. These estimates are based on a recent publication titled "clinical endocrinology in India" in the October, 2000 issue of "Current Science". The facts thereof are based on country wide research experience as well as clinical experience on patients coming from different parts of the country.

In order to control and prevent Iodine Deficiency disorders, Govt. is implementing the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme. Diabetes treatment is done at all levels in rural health care delivery system and urban health care institutions. Govt. has launched a Technology Mission on Drinking water in which fluorosis eradication is an important component. A National Tuberculosis Control Programme is also in operation to control adrenal disorders. Cost effective immuno assays have been developed through support of Deptt. of Bio-Technology. Efforts are being made to commercialise these laboratory techniques for refinement, up-scaling & marketing.

[Translation]

I.T. Conference

1695. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have not permitted certain Chief Ministers and Ministers of State to visit United States to participate in the information technology conference organised by 'Microsoft' company of Mr. Bill Gates; and

(b) if so, the details of the request made and the reasons for not giving permission?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Microsoft had extended invitations to the State Governments to attend the Government Leaders' Conference at Seattle in USA from 2nd to 4th April, 2000. References in this regard were received by the Ministry of Information Technology, Government of India from Chief Ministers of Gujarat and Maharashtra and Ministers from Kerala and Madhya Pradesh. The Department of Personnel and Training, however, did not concur to the proposal and the Ministry of Information Technology had brought this fact to the notice of the concerned State Government while simultaneously conveying its No objection from technical angle.

[English]

Rural Health Centres

1696. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that the condition of Rural Health Centres (RHCs) in the country is worsening day-by-day;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government have been monitoring the functioning of RHCs in the country particularly use of funds allocated by the Union Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the average population being covered by each Community Health Centre in the country;

(f) whether the Government propose to review the whole rural health care programmes in the country; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Government is aware of shortfalls within rural health care system, mainly on account of inadequate outreach of infrastructure and trained manpower.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The functioning of the Rural Health Centres is monitored in innumerable ways.

1. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Family Welfare has introduced an annual Rapid House-hold Survey whereby samples of households in 50% of the districts of India are surveyed every year. Every alternate year we have an update on district level information for 100% districts as to whether RCH services are being utilized by the people and to what extent.
2. Additionally we have a Health Facility Survey which focuses on Community Health Centres and Primary Health Centres, and ascertains whether these health infrastructure are operational, and to what extent. This facility survey is conducted in 50% districts in each States.
3. Regional Directors of Health and Family Welfare strategically located in 17 sites, repeatedly monitor the extent and outreach of Health and Family Welfare Programmes. They forward regular reports which highlight deficiencies and inadequacies in on-going programmes and projects.
4. Department of Family Welfare has repeated interaction with State Ministers of Health and Family Welfare, State Health and Family Welfare Secretaries and also on occasion, Project Directors of specific projects in order to review and monitor on-going scheme.
5. Finally, all officers/officials of the Department of Family Welfare tour States/Districts to obtain first hand information about their functioning.

(e) On an average, a Community Health Centre covers a population of 1,20,000 in plain areas and 80,000 in hilly and tribal areas.

(f) and (g) Government has identified the existing gaps in rural health care and has already begun putting in place specific interventions to plug these critical gaps, especially in the area of shortages of trained manpower, inadequate supplies, weak linkages for referral transportation, and round the clock delivery services.

Policy to Regulate Private Hospitals, Nursing Homes and Non-Governmental Institutions

1697. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

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

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a comprehensive policy to regulate private hospitals, nursing homes and other non-Governmental institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether State Governments have been consulted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details of the suggestions received;

(e) the decision of the Union Government thereto;

(f) whether Government propose to draw a legal code of conduct with a view to effect transparency in their functioning and to make them more accountable; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the code of conduct will come into operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (g) 'Health' is a State subject under the Constitution of India and it is the responsibility of respective State/Union Territory to regulate the functioning of private hospitals, nursing homes and other non-governmental institutions in the State/Union Territory under the rules/law available in the State/Union Territory. However, Government of India is considering the following initiatives:—

- (i) to make a mandatory provision that the patients or their attendants can, if desired, obtain a certified copy of their medical records from the concerned hospital whether Government or private;
- (ii) re-registration every five years after undergoing 30 hours of continuing medical education for constant updating the knowledge of doctors by suitable amendments to the Indian Medical Council Act; and
- (iii) notification of minimum standards of physical infrastructure and manpower in all hospitals, nursing homes and diagnostic centres offering medical services.

The above initiatives are at initial stage and it is not possible to indicate the time that will be required to reach finality.

Arthritic Treatment

1698. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of arthritic patients are bed-ridden/disabled due to non-availability of proper treatment in the hospitals in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the facilities available in the hospitals;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to import the latest technique for the benefit of the people to get them treated properly; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Directorate General of Health Services have informed that the disability and duration of the treatment for Arthritis depends on the severity of the disease at the time of initial commencement of the treatment. Majority of the Arthritis patients do not require hospitalization. They can be treated conservatively.

Facilities for joint replacement are available in many big hospitals including Dr. R.M.L. Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and LHMC and Associated Hospitals.

(c) and (d) Updating of the techniques is a continuous process which is made within the available resources. However, the basic treatment for arthritic patients are available in many Hospitals including three Central Government Hospitals mentioned above.

Reopening of Missions/Posts Abroad

1699. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to reopen any Missions/Posts abroad closed down during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Review of the Functions of AIIMS

1700. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

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

(a) whether All India Institute of Medical Sciences was set up under All India Institute of Medical Sciences Act, 1956;

(b) if so, the objectives of setting up the above said institute;

(c) whether these objectives were laid in the order of priority;

(d) if so, the order of priority thereof;

(e) whether the Government have formulated any expansion plan for All India Institute of Medical Sciences keeping in view the increasing number of patients there; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Under Section 13 of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Act, 1956, the main objects of the Institute are as under:

- (i) To develop patterns of teaching in undergraduate medical education in all its branches so as to demonstrate a high standard of medical education to all medical colleges and other allied institutions in India;
- (ii) To bring together in one place educational facilities of the highest order for the training of personnel in all important branches of health activity; and
- (iii) To attain self-sufficiency in post graduate medical education.

The order of priority of objects has not been specified in the above Act.

(e) and (f) A large number of patients from all over the country including neighbouring countries come to the AIIMS Hospital for treatment. The Institute consistently makes efforts to increase facilities to cater to the needs of the public. As there is an abnormal rush in the OPDs of AIIMS, there is a plan to improve the functioning of the Out Patients Department and decongest the rush by starting screening OPDs.

[*English*]

Indo-Russia Efforts to Combat Terrorism

1701. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting between the working Committees of India and Russia is likely to be held to discuss the menace of terrorism in both the countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main issues likely to be discussed in the meeting; and

(d) the efforts being made by both the countries to tackle the problem of terrorism at the global level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) In terms of the Protocol on Cooperation between the National Security Council of India and the Security Council of the Russian Federation, both sides agreed to establish a Joint Coordination Group on International Terrorism. The first meeting of the Group is expected to be held shortly.

(d) The subject of international terrorism was discussed at length in the various meetings during the State Visit to India by the President of the Russian Federation, His Excellency Mr. Vladimir Putin, from October 2-5, 2000. India and the Russian Federation considered the growing menace of international terrorism, extremism, ethnic separatism, trans-border organised crime and drug trafficking as a significant threat to international peace and stability. They condemned terrorism and extremism in all its forms, irrespective of political, philosophical, ideological, religious, ethnic, racial or any other consideration that may be invoked to justify them. The two sides condemned States that aided, abetted and directly supported cross border international terrorism. India and the Russian Federation underlined the importance of joint efforts for establishing solid international legal basis

for cooperation in combating international terrorism including through the adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and the Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

[Translation]

Public Grievances

1702. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI VIJAY GOEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have framed any system to redress the public grievances within a stipulated time;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the complaints received and redressed by the Government during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) the number of public grievances pending with the Government till date; and

(e) the details of the role of Public Grievances Cell functioning in the Prime Minister's Office?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As most of the grievances arise at the field level, their actual redress has necessarily to come from agencies functioning at the local level which are fully conversant with the subject-matter of grievances related to their respective fields of activity. The Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances has accordingly established a decentralised grievance redress machinery in each Ministry/Department/Organisation of the Central Government under the charge of a senior officer. Detailed guidelines, which *inter-alia* provide for fixing of time limits for acknowledgement and final disposal of grievances, have been issued to them.

(c) According to the information received from various Ministries/Departments, the year-wise details of complaints received and disposed of are as follows:

Year	No. of complaints received (including brought forward)	No. disposed of
1997-1998	7,06,511	4,82,048
1998-1999	15,52,228	10,82,042
1999-2000	7,13,241	6,07,678

(d) Number of grievances pending for the period 1.4.2000 to 30.9.2000 is 63,838.

(e) The Public Wing in the Prime Minister's Office receives and processes petitions from the general public including those presented to the Prime Minister during tours and Janata Darbars. All petitions are scrutinized and forwarded for appropriate action to the concerned authorities for disposal with a request to suitably inform the petitioners. Reports are sought in a few selective cases which deserve more attention and warrant monitoring in the PMO.

[English]

Visit of Russian President

1703. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:
SHRI SURESH KURUP:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI BHERULAL MEENA:
SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA:
SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI ARUN KUMAR:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI RAMSHAKAL:
DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA:
SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL:
SHRI TARUN GOGOI:
YOGI ADITYA NATH:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of issues discussed during the recent visit of Russian President to India;

(b) the outcome thereof;

(c) the salient features of the agreements/MOUS signed on the occasion;

(d) whether the issue of Soviet debt burden on India was also discussed;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof including the quantum of debt owed by India;

(f) whether the Russian President mooted the idea of Asian Triangle;

(g) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(h) the extent to which the visit helped in creating mutual understanding on major National/International issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) His Excellency Mr. Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, paid a State Visit to India from October 2-5, 2000. During the visit the entire gamut of Indo-Russian bilateral relations and regional and international issues of mutual interest and concern were discussed. Both sides reiterated that Indo-Russian relations were time tested and characterised by continuity, trust and mutual understanding. It was noted that these were based on shared perception and mutuality of interests. The two sides also underlined the national consensus in both countries on the need to further intensify and strengthen their relations.

(c) A total of 17 Agreements/bilateral documents were signed during the visit. The most significant of these is the Declaration on Strategic Partnership between India and the Russian Federation. The document defines the broad contours of Indo-Russian bilateral relations in the 21st century. The other Agreements were in the field of legal affairs and justice, postal communications, trade and economic cooperation including processing and trade of rough natural diamonds and precious metals, energy sector, science and technology, culture, military technical cooperation and peaceful uses of atomic energy. A Joint Statement on the visit was also issued.

(d) and (e) During discussions with the President of the Russian Federation, the question of trade and economic cooperation through the rupee repayment track

was touched upon. The subject will be further discussed during the 7th session of the Indo Russian Inter Governmental Commission for Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation to be held in Moscow in January 2001. The "Soviet debt burden on India" at present is about Rs. 18,683 crores.

(f) No Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) The State Visit to India by the President of the Russian Federation in October 2000 elevated our bilateral ties to a qualitatively new level. It has imparted a new vibrancy to Indo-Russian partnership. The Declaration on Strategic Partnership between India and the Russian Federation is a document of cardinal significance governing this partnership in the new millennium. During discussions, both sides noted a close identity of views on regional and international issues.

MMR Vaccines

1704. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have introduced MMR in mass vaccination scheme recently;

(b) if so, whether MMR vaccines are likely to be available free of cost at all Government Health Centres, Hospitals and Dispensaries in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether MMR vaccine are safe, indigenously manufactured and meet all WHO standard and it is being included in the Universal Immunization Programme on the recommendation of the Indian Academy of Paediatrics;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) MMR is a combination vaccine for Mumps, Measles and Rubella. It is an expensive vaccine. According to available information, it is safe and is being manufactured by some indigenous facilities. Despite recommendations from the Indian Academy of

Paediatricians, it has not been possible to include the MMR in the Universal Immunization programme because of the high cost of vaccine and also the Government's current priority for improving and strengthening the on-going Routine Immunization Programme and eradication of Polio.

Utilisation of State Resources

1705. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission propose to evolve any mechanism to keep a check on the State resource utilisation and ensure that the funds are spent on the specific plan heads only;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which the Planning Commission are monitoring the States performance on the front at present;

(d) whether this system is not working satisfactorily; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) The utilisation of States resources for Plan for the specific plan heads is monitored through the progress reports and utilisation certificates submitted by the States for the release of Plan Assistance. In addition, it is also ensured through discussions with States both at the Chief Minister and official levels and also through periodic visits of the Commission to the States. State performance is reviewed comprehensively during the Annual Plan discussions.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Reserve Posts for OBC

1706. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to form a panel to review the work being done to till up the posts reserved for O.B.C.s;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) All vacancies, reserved as well as unreserved, are filled up in accordance with the relevant instructions in this regard. However, instructions regarding timely filling up the reserved posts are reiterated from time to time.

Exploitation of Labour

1707. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to check the economic exploitation of labour;

(b) the number of industries against whom action has been taken for violating the labour laws, during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken by the Government for the protection of labour interest during the process of economical reforms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Dismantlement of US Military System

1708. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has failed to voice the demand for the dismantlement of US nuclear base in Diego Garcia during the PM's tour of US and in the millennium summit of UN;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether India has also failed to react to the National Defence System being built by the US; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) India's position on the issue of foreign military bases in the Indian Ocean is well known. The issue of dismantling of US bases in Diego Garcia did not come up for discussion either at the Millennium Summit or during bilateral discussions with the US.

(c) and (d) The matter was discussed in bilateral talks with the US. The Prime Minister elaborated the Government's position in this regard, giving voice to India's concerns covering the technological, political and disarmament related aspects.

Withdrawal of Subsidy on KVIC

1709. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have withdrawn subsidy on Khadi and Village industry;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the impact thereof on production of Khadi and the rural artisans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Development of Backward States

1710. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have identified backward States in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have prepared a blue print for the development of the backward States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which this scheme is likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (e) No, Sir. The Union Government have not identified any State as backward per se. One of the central points of focus of Successive Plan documents has been to lift the backward regions and States of the country. Planning and development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned. However, the Union Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments in the development of backward areas by assigning, with the agreement of the National Development Council, appropriate weightages for differences in levels of development in the formula used for distribution of normal central assistance. Further, special central assistance is allocated under special area programmes and various poverty alleviation schemes.

[English]

Review of IT Sector

1711. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN:
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:
SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance and progress of Information Technology in various States alongwith the investment made including FDI in software and hardware in terms of targets set and achieved;

(b) if so, details thereof for the current year and previous two years, State-wise;

(c) the details of fresh policy initiatives taken/proposed during 2000-2001 to boost the performance of the sector alongwith expected growth, State-wise;

(d) the total number of units operating and new units registered during 1999-2000 as on 31.3.2000 and number of units operating in tax exempted areas, State-wise; and

(e) the statistical details of the performance of the leading top 20 I.T. software industries in India and the details of the other I.T. software production units in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of India is constantly monitoring the progress made in development of I.T. at the national level keeping in view the national objective to make India an IT Super Power by the year 2008. However, State-wise data is not maintained by the Government. The Government has an export target of US\$ 50 billion of software export and US\$ 10 billion of hardware export by 2008. The details of proposals approved by Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), Ministry of Industry during the last two years and current year are as under:

Year	Number	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1998-1999	218	943.84
1999-2000	438	2477.84
2000-2001	261	6282.90

The details of policy initiatives taken in the I.T. sector are contained in the statement I.

(d) Centre wise data on number of units operating and new units registered under STPI Scheme during 1999-2000 as on 31.3.2000 are placed at Statement II. Under the Software Technology Parks (STP) Scheme the units are already exempted from Income tax.

(e) As per NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Service Companies), the total export by top 20 I.T. software companies was Rs. 10258 crores (approximately) during 1999-2000. The total software export was Rs. 17150 crores during 1999-2000.

Statement I

Policy Initiatives taken by Government to Promote I.T. Sector

- The Ministry of Information Technology had set up a Working Group on Information Technology for Masses. The Working Group has recently submitted its report and have made a number of important recommendations. The Working Group set an ambitious target of at least 100 million Internet connections by the year 2008 and 1 million Internet enabled IT Kiosks/Cyber Cafes to be established covering the entire length and breadth of the country.
- To increase the reach of IT to the Masses, the Government is setting up Community Information Centres at all the 487 blocks in the North East Region of the country, including Sikkim. Such schemes will be set up in other remote areas of the country also.
- The Government have set up 15 Software Technology Parks in the country to provide High Speed Data Communication facilities and incubation facilities to the software exporting units in different parts of the country. Few more Centres are being set up in the country.
- A National Venture Fund for Software and IT Industry (NFSIT) has been set up with the cost of Rs. 100 crores to provide Venture Capital Finance to the IT Companies.
- A Task Force on Human Resource Development under the Chairmanship of Minister of Human Resource Development have been set up. The Task Force among other things will give its report in a month for doubling IITs/RECs from next academic year and tripling the intake in the next two years.
- The Government has also announced a number of incentives for the growth and promotion of Information Technology business abroad. The details of these incentives are at Appendix.
- Number of initiatives have been taken under the TDIL (Technogloy Development for Indian

Languages) programme of the MIT. Resource centres for Indian Languages solutions at 13 Educational and R&D institutions to cover all the official languages under the constitution.

The National Task Force on Information Technology and Software Development has set a software export target of US\$ 50 billion by the year 2008. The software exports during the year 1999-2000 were of the order of US\$ 4 billion. For the Information Technology Hardware, the said Task Force has set an export target of US\$ 10 billion by the year 2008.

Appendix

Incentives to IT Sector

To encourage and promote information technology business abroad, the Government of India has abolished licensing and simplified the procedures to make them transparent. The following major steps have been taken to promote export of IT Sector.

1. To provide legal framework so as to facilitate Electronic Commerce in the country, the Government has enacted Information Technology Act. The Act provides legal framework for amongst others recognition of electronic contracts, prevention of computer crimes, and electronic filing/documents. The mechanism of digital signature has been approved to address the issues of jurisdiction, authentication and origination.
2. Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme at 5% duty.
3. Foreign direct Investments upto 100% allowed.
4. Software Technology Parks Scheme.
5. Special Stock Option Schemes for Indian Software Companies linked with ADR/GDR offering.
6. Working Capital Finance to Information Technology and Software industry.
7. Sweat Equity has been introduced in the Companies Act.
8. Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) access up to 50% of FOB value of exports for units under Export Oriented Unit (EOU)/Export Processing Zone (EPZ)/Software Technology Parks (STP) Scheme.
9. Depreciation on Computer @60% per annum.
10. Reduction in Custom Duty on computer and peripherals to 15%. The customs duty on all storage devices, integrated circuits, microprocessors, data display tubes and deflection components of colour monitors is @ 0%.
11. Software exempted from custom duty and excise duty.
12. Relaxation in income tax to software units under EOU/EPZ/STP Schemes.
13. Exemption of withholding tax-on interest on External Commercial Borrowings.
14. Computer systems have been made freely importable. The donation of used computers to educational institutes, hospitals, etc. have been permitted duty free from units in EOU/EPZ/STP/ Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP).
15. Exemption on income from dividends on Venture Capital Fund.
16. "Business Support Centre" has been opened in "Silicon Valley" California, USA to assist small & medium enterprises in establishing strategic alliance in the US.

Statement II

Units Under STPI Scheme

Name of the Center	Units approved upto March '2000	Units approved During 1999-2000	Operating Units
1	2	3	4
Bangalore	746	470	422
Bhubaneswar	152	116	137

1	2	3	4
Calcutta	131	95	107
Chennai	535	413	292
Gandhinagar	295	246	179
Hyderabad	977	785	539
Jaipur	95	71	69
Mohali	131	111	107
Navi Mumbai	755	715	163
Noida	1103	854	823
Pune	474	372	139
Trivendrum	188	138	72
Total	5582	4386	3049

National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped

1712. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped (NIHH) is making efforts to enhance the availability of trained personnel in its sector;

(b) if so, the number of persons trained by the NIHH during each of the last three years;

(c) whether there is any proposal to upgrade the level of training; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) The number of persons trained by National Institute for Hearing Handicapped in Diploma, Degree, Post Degree Courses for last three years as follows:

	Diploma	Degree	Master Degree	Total
1997-1998	85	91	30	206
1998-1999	82	90	28	200
1999-2000	108	106	20	234

Diploma/Degree/Post Degree courses are prepared in consultation with Rehabilitation Council of India. Training courses are generally undertaken in consultation with Rehabilitation Council of India, New Delhi.

Rabies Death by Stray Dogs

1713. DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a Seminar recently held in Delhi the Veterinary Council of India has expressed serious concern at the alarming rate of Rabies Deaths in India caused by Stray Dogs;

(b) the number of Stray Dogs caught and killed by N.D.M.C., M.C.D. and Cantonment Area of Delhi during last Six months; and

(c) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Legislation on Fake Doctors

1714. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to enact a legislation to deal with the activities of fake doctors in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which legislation is likely to be enacted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) According to the provisions contained in the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 and Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973, no unregistered practitioner can practice medicine. Any person who acts in contravention of the provisions can be punished with imprisonment and fine under the respective Acts.

However, there is no specific provision under law to take deterrent action against unqualified practitioners who masquerade as doctors and practice medicine. To deal with this situation, Government has initiated steps to formulate a model legislative proposal for checking medical practice by unqualified persons.

[*Translation*]

Facility of Ambulance in AIIMS

1715. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no ambulance available in All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) while it possess some maruti vans for this purpose which do not fulfil the standard fixed for ambulance as appeared in the *Dainik Jagran*, Delhi dated September 9, 2000;

(b) if so, the reactions of the Government thereto; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by the Government to provide ambulances to AIIMS fully equipped with necessary medicines and life saving gadgets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has a fleet of eight ambulances. As per the policy of AIIMS, these ambulances are used for transporting stabilised patients after resuscitation in the casualty to the nearby Safdarjang Hospital or other Government Hospitals, when there are no beds vacant in the AIIMS Hospital. In certain situations the ambulances are to be sent to bring patients when required. The ambulances are equipped with necessary equipment and medicines and all efforts are made to provide skilled and qualified personnel depending upon the specific situations.

[*English*]

Indo-Brazil

1716. SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Brazil have signed an MoU to cooperate in the areas like electronic, commerce, management of information security and cyber crimes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Brazil has shown keen interest in the I.T. sector and cooperation with India in this field;

(d) if so, the total cooperation in dollar terms expected between the two countries during the coming three years; and

(e) whether any projection has been made in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Brazil-India Task Force on Information Technology has been created to explore mutual cooperation in the following areas:

- (a) Research, Design and Development of ITs
- (b) Exploring Third Country Markets
- (c) Electronic Commerce
- (d) Electronic Government
- (e) Human Resource Development through Virtual Education.
- (f) Information Security and Cyber Crime
- (g) Banking Automation

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) No projections have been made in this regard.

Land to Landless

1717. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 1723 on August 2, 2000 and state:

(a) whether the requisite information has been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay and the time by which information is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) Unstarred Question No. 1723 on August 2, 2000 relates to distribution of land to landless during 1991-92.

Subject matter of the question relates to landless families, which does not concern this Ministry. Ministry of Rural Development was requested to accept this question initially. After the question got admitted in the name of this Ministry, Ministry of Rural Development was requested to send relevant information. As per information received from Ministry of Rural Development, 420681-Acre land was distributed to landless families during 1991-92. The details are given in statement. Collection of information from Ministry of Rural Development took some time.

Statement

The distribution of land to landless people during 1991-92

Sl.No.	State/UT	Land distributed	No. of beneficiaries	Remarks
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	No vacant Govt. land for distribution.
2.	Meghalaya	—	—	Land does not vest with the Govt.
3.	Nagaland	—	—	No landless people nor any Govt. land for distribution.
4.	Orissa	N.A.	277102	—
5.	Sikkim	—	—	No surplus land.
6.	Tamil Nadu	N.A.	849650	—
7.	Tripura	36509	6056	—
8.	West Bengal	583825	1611857	—
9.	Chandigarh	—	—	No vacant Govt. Agricultural land.
10.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	No suitable vacant land.
11.	Lakshadweep	—	—	No vacant land.
12.	Pondicherry	147	71	—
		620481	2744736	

*[Translation]***Nursing Colleges (Rajasthan)**

1718. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of nursing colleges opened in Rajasthan during the last three years;

(b) whether Nursing Council of India has granted permission to open these colleges;

(c) if so, when such permission was given;

(d) whether the Government have any proposal to close the colleges which have been opened without the permission of Nursing Council of India; and

(e) if so, the decision of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) As per information furnished by Indian Nursing Council, only one proposal was received for opening of College of Nursing in Rajasthan during the last three years.

(b) No, Sir. Necessary documents in respect of the proposal have not been received by the Council from the Institution.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

Increase in Administrative Cost

1719. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Administrative Cost of eight North Eastern States has gone upto an alarming level as a result of which developmental activities has come to an halt;

(b) if so, the fact thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to tide-over the crisis by providing special assistance to these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) It is a fact that there has been a considerable rise in the level of administrative cost (non-plan expenditure) in the 8 North-Eastern States. While this has certainly entailed diversion of funds which would otherwise have been available for development, its ill-effects have been mitigated by the following measures taken by the Government:—

(i) 30% of Normal Central Assistance is earmarked for Special Category States which include N.E. States.

(ii) 90% of Plan assistance is grant and 10% loan as against 30% grant and 70% loan for other States.

(iii) 10% of Plan provision of the Central Ministries/ Departments has been earmarked for development of N.E. States.

(iv) Over and above the State Plan outlays, which have been increasing over the years, funds are also being sanctioned out of the Central Pool created through transfer of unspent balance of the earmarked outlays of the Central Ministries and Departments meant for development of the N.E. States.

(v) The North Eastern Council is also engaged in the development of infrastructure in the Region.

(vi) Special dispensation has been made in respect of the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) by incorporating minor irrigation projects for the North-Eastern States and allowing 25% of the State's share, as against 33% for others, in availing of Central Loan Assistance.

Expulsion of Fiji from Commonwealth

1720. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the details of action taken so far to expel Fiji from the membership of Commonwealth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) In accordance with provisions of the Millbrook Action Programme, Fiji has been suspended from the Councils of the Commonwealth, pending the restoration of democracy and constitutional rule. At the Commonwealth Senior Officials Meeting in Apia, Samoa from 18-20 October 2000, the Indian delegation urged the

Commonwealth to ensure strict adherence to the principles enshrined in the Harare Declaration and also the provisions of the Millbrook Action Programme. Government have emphasised the need for early appointment of a Special Envoy to Fiji, as recommended by the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group. India continues to monitor the evolving situation in Fiji.

[English]

Common Action Plan for IT Service

1721. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether at a recent meeting of the State Ministers for Information Technology a 13-point "Common Action Plan" for providing IT services was adopted;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) A conference of state ministers was held on 15.7.2000 wherein a 13 point "Common Action Plan" was adopted to promote IT in India.

(b) The details are given in statement.

(c) The State Government and concerned departments of the Central Government have initiated action on various points in the Common Action Plan.

Statement

First National Conference of IT Ministers

Common Action Plan to promote IT in India

The first-ever National Conference of IT Ministers was held in New Delhi on July 15, 2000. The Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, inaugurated the Conference, in which as many as fourteen Ministers of various States also participated.

The Conference thanked the Prime Minister for announcing the following three landmark decisions.

1. Full deregulation of National Long Distance Operations (NLDO), before August 15, 2000, with no restriction on the number of licenses to be issued.
2. Complete demonopolization of underseas optical fibres connectivity for ISPs by August 15, 2000. The private ISPs will be allowed, either singly or jointly, to set up their own landing stations anywhere in India in collaboration with international undersea bandwidth carriers.
3. A Task Force on human resource development in IT to prepare long-term strategy for significantly increasing the number of well-trained IT professionals. The Task Force will draw a plan to optimally use the existing infrastructure of the IITs, RECs, other engineering colleges and educational institutions to double their student intake from the next academic year and triple it in the next two years. The Task Force will comprise Ministers of HRD, IT and Finance, along with representatives from State Governments.

These decision will go a long way to strengthen the country's telecom infrastructure for IT education.

After comprehensive and highly productive deliberations, the conference adopted the following consensus Action Plan to promote IT in India.

1. The Union Government and the State Governments will allow free Right of Way facility, with no charge in cash or kind, to access providers to lay optical fiber networks along National highways, State highways, and other roads. Only a nominal restoration fee will be charged for providing this facility.
2. The physical and civic infrastructure of the existing and emerging IT development centres will be improved.
3. Development of Indian languages on computers and creation of useful content on the Internet in all Indian languages will be promoted.
4. Facilities for IT education and IT-based education will be expanded and improved. For this, the resources and expertise of the private sector educational organizations will be synergized with those of Government and other established educational institutions.

5. The Union and State Governments will take specific measures to promote e-governance to improve transparency, accountability and efficiency.
6. The Centre will reduce customs and excise regime for optical fiber, IT hardware, set top boxes, other Internet access devices, and TV sets for distance education and extension programs.
7. There shall be no Sales tax and other State Taxes on the IT sector for the next three to five years.
8. The accreditation mechanism for IT education shall be strengthened, by among other things, decentralizing the power of the AICTE to the States.
9. The decision on setting up of private universities should be speeded up. Private universities should be set up in consultation with the State Governments.
10. Availability of bandwidth must precede the demand. This is essential as there is a gap between demand and supply of the bandwidth namely international, national long distance, last mile and satellite. All the four elements of telecom infrastructure need to be enhanced and improved in terms of reliability and quality also.
11. A special rate for internet access to educational institutions may be considered. All ISPs may be urged to extend special rates. ISPs may also be urged to levy a flat rate for internet usage for all other Internet dial-up subscribers.
12. Internet international gateways already sanctioned must become operational by August 15, 2000.
13. Permission may be given for utilization of Ku band for educational, health and other Government broadcasts.

Family Pension Fund

1722. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the amount accumulated against Employees Family Pension Fund under Provident Fund Scheme;

(b) the number of workers benefited under the scheme so far;

(c) the extent to which this scheme is really helping the workers families; and

(d) whether there is any proposal towards contribution for the fund from Central Government and increase amount of pension benefit to the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The aggregate corpus of the Employees' Pension Fund as on 31.3.2000 was 27410.13 crore.

(b) and (c) Under the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS), 1995, pension is payable in the contingencies of retirement, superannuation, permanent total disablement, death in service, death after service etc. Minimum amount of widow pension is Rs. 450/- and the maximum may go upto Rs. 2500/- per month. In addition, 25% of the widow pension subject to a minimum of Rs. 150/- per month is paid separately upto two children in the family. As on 31.10.2000, there were 8,44,281 beneficiaries drawing pension under the EPS.

(d) The Central Govt. is already contributing towards the Employees Pension Scheme @ 1.16% of the wages of the workers. Valuation of the Employees Pension Fund and review of pensionary benefits is called out on an annual basis. Second valuation of the Employees Pension Fund as on 31.3.1998 has since been carried out and an increase of 5.5% on pension in payment has been sanctioned to the pensioners w.e.f. 1.4.1998.

Termination of Grants to NGOs

1723. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to terminate grants for five years to NGOs as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated November 3, 2000, captioned "NGOs unhappy over the termination of grant";

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for termination of grants to each NGO;

(c) whether such decision would not ultimately jeopardize benefits and services which are presently available to disabled persons and other beneficiaries;

(d) the total amount misappropriated by these NGOs;

(e) whether the Government have taken any steps to recover the funds from such fraudulent NGOs;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) In June 2000 this year, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has issued guidelines for assisting non-governmental organizations/voluntary organisations which include *inter-alia*, provisions for tapering off the financial assistance being released to the voluntary organizations that have been drawing grants in aid from the Ministry for periods in excess of 5 years for the same project.

(b) Assistance from the Government shall be limited to a duration of 10 years in case of new projects. Those ongoing projects that have been receiving assistance for the last 10 years and above will be given a phase out period of 5 years and in respect of those assisted for lesser period the phase out period shall be 10 years. Where the phase out period is 5 years grants shall be reduced by an amount of 20% every year. In case of a phase out period of 10 years the reduction in grant shall be 10% every year.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) An amount of Rs. 144.80 lakhs has been misutilised by 42 non Governmental Organisations.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) If an organization is found as a result of inspection, or information from other sources to be misutilising the grant-in-aid assistance released to it or the quality of services delivered by it is not commensurate with funds released, further release of grant-in-aid to the NGO is suspended. Show cause notice is issued to the management and if the explanation is found to be unsatisfactory then action is taken to blacklist the organization and State Government/District Collector concerned is asked to seize the assets created out of the Government assistance, dispose of the same, deposit the monies thus collected with the Government and recover the balance amount as arrears of land revenue.

(g) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Policy Framework of Public Health

1724. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether America and India propose to prepare a policy framework in order to accelerate the pace of research in the field of public health;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the areas of application of such joint-projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In December, 1997, a Joint Statement to expand Indo-US Cooperation on Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases and Disease Surveillance was signed. The four priority areas defined in the Joint Statement were outbreak investigation, training, laboratory strengthening, and research. The Joint Statement has effect through December, 2002 and is subject to renewal.

An eight-member team from CDC, USA visited India in December, 1999 to address surveillance of Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases. The team had fruitful discussions with officials of MOHFW, ICMR, Health officials from States and other Indian Institutions, and officials from the US Mission in Delhi and international organisation. In June, 2000, a Joint Statement on Collaboration on Prevention of Sexually Transmitted Diseases and HIV/AIDS was signed. This is intended to initiate a range of HIV/AIDS and STD prevention research efforts, including behavioural prevention strategies and epidemiological and operational research in HIV/AIDS and STDs, including surveillance, SRD treatment and reproduction health.

[English]

Medical Grants Commission on the Line of University Grants Commission

1725. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Medical Grants Commission for promoting research on the lines of University Grants Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which a legislation in this regard is likely to be brought before the Parliament;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to link all the Medical Colleges to the National Medical Library in order to improve research activities in all these institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) In view of financial constraints the proposal for establishment of Education Commission in Health Services has been kept in abeyance.

(e) The proposal for linking Medical Colleges Libraries with National Medical Library is under process.

Tenduleaf Workers

1726. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Tenduleaf workers working in various parts of the State of Orissa are being exploited by their employers;

(b) whether these Tenduleaf workers are not getting wages for months together;

(c) if so, the facts thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken to protect the interest of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) As per information received from the Government of Orissa, the State Government collects the Tendu Leaf through the Forest Department. The Tendu Leaf Workers are paid wages at piece rate. The required funds for collection of Tendu Leaves are advanced by the Orissa Forest Development Corporation Ltd. (O.F.D.C.) and all out efforts are made for timely payment of wages to the Tendu Leaf workers. Steps have been taken to ensure the payment of wages to these workers.

National Commission of Land Use

1727. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up a fresh National Commission on Land Use Policy;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal alongwith justification and financial implication and present status of implementation/follow up action;

(c) whether it is a fact that no action has been taken on Mohan Dharia Committee on Land Use Policy to tackle the real issue relating to food stocks and water management; and

(d) the details of action taken/proposed to be taken to prepare a perspective plan to develop the 175 million hectare of degraded and waste land, State-wise for Maharashtra in particular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have decided to set up a National Commission on Land Use Policy to review and coordinate long term strategy at the National and State levels for the utilization of land resources in the country, development of agriculture keeping in view the agro-climatic conditions prevailing in different regions and preservation of forest resources. At present the National Land Use and Wasteland Development Council, set up in 1985 under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister coordinates all policy issues concerning the country's land resources. In addition, National Land Use and Conservation Board, chaired by the Union Minister of Agriculture, National Wasteland Development Board headed by the Union Minister of Rural Development and National Forestry and Eco Development Board chaired by the Union Minister of Environment and Forests, look after different elements of Land Use Policy pertaining to their respective areas.

(c) and (d) No Committee on Land Use Policy was set up under the Chairmanship of Shri Mohan Dharia. However, a high level Committee on Wasteland Development under the Chairmanship of Shri Mohan Dharia was constituted in November 1994. The Committee submitted its Report in December 1995. The Committee had recommended for preparation of perspective plans to develop 175 million hectares of degraded and wasteland in the country and to set up a Central Land Use Authority. The Report of the Committee was sent to all States including Maharashtra for implementation of its recommendations. The States were specifically requested

to prepare 10-15 years perspective plan for proper water, land use and wastelands development. In addition to the above Committee, a Technical Committee under the chairmanship of Shri C.H. Hanumantha Rao, in 1994, was constituted by the Ministry of Rural Development, which recommended a common set of operational guidelines, objectives, strategies and expenditure norms for implementation of Area Development Programmes viz. Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP) being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development on watershed basis. Common guidelines have also been adopted for other Area Development Programmes such as National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPPRA), development of catchment area of River Valley Project and flood prone areas, being operated by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Specialised Training Institute for Vocational Skills

1728. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received suggestions from various questions to establish Specialised Training Institutes all over the country to provide vocational skills to people;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the nature of suggestions;

(c) whether Government have since examined there suggestions; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) No, Sir. However, a large number of Industrial Training Institutes/Centres (ITIs/ITCs) which impart vocational skills to young school-leavers have been established throughout the country. These institutes are under the financial and administrative control of the respective State Governments/Union Territories. Opening/starting of ITIs and ITCs comes within the jurisdiction of the respective State Government/Union Territories.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Godavari Water Utilisation Scheme

1729. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Water Commission (CWC) has constituted a special task force to speed up implementation of the Godavari water utilisation scheme;

(b) if so, whether Andhra Pradesh has also decided to take initiative to send a detailed project reports to the Union Government;

(c) whether a task force comprising the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa has been set up to work out the modalities for the projects proposed to be set up across the river Godavari; and

(d) if not, the time by which final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Being a state subject, irrigation projects are implemented by the State Governments themselves out of their own resources and as per their priorities. However, a High Level Committee has been constituted by the Government to resolve the inter-state issues involved in Inchampalli and Polavaram Projects for utilisation of Godavari Water.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Diagnostic Equipments

1730. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether thermometer and other diagnostic equipments being manufactured in India are not of perfect standards;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the concrete steps taken/being taken to have standardized diagnostic equipments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Although there are no mandatory standards for thermometer and other diagnostic equipment under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940, standards have been laid down by the Bureau of Indian Standards for a number of these diagnostic equipment, including thermometer, for voluntary compliance by the manufacturers.

*[Translation]***National Commission on Population**

1731. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

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

(a) whether the Government have constituted a National Commission on Population;

(b) if so, the date on which the said Commission had been constituted and the details of meetings of the said Commission held so far;

(c) whether certain decisions have been taken in the said meetings;

(d) if so, details thereof alongwith the actions proposed to be taken to implement the said decisions;

(e) whether the meeting of the National Commission on Population was recently held in New Delhi; and

(f) if so, the main decisions taken therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Commission on Population was constituted on 11th May, 2000. The first meeting of the Commission was held on 22nd July, 2000 under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister.

(c) and (d) Some key decisions/announcements at the meeting were:

- (i) Setting up a National Population Stabilisation Fund with a seed money of Rs. 100 crore to support projects contributing to population stabilisation. It is expected that trade, industry, corporate sector as also individuals will contribute to this fund.
- (ii) Setting up an Empowered Action group for area specific programmes with special emphasis on States that have been lagging behind in containing population growth.

(iii) The National Commission on Population will constitute working Group on the following subjects:

- Unmet needs for contraception, maternal and child health.
- Unmet needs of other social sectors like health, women' development, nutrition, water supply & sanitation.
- Primary and Secondary Education in relation to population stabilisation.
- Registration of births, deaths and marriages.
- Media for IEC and motivation.
- Mainstreaming of Indian Systems of Medicines and Homoeopathy.
- Adolescents.
- Mechanism for monitoring by the Commission.
- Involvement of civil society, including industry, labour and NGOs.

(e) and (f) No further meeting of the National Commission on Population has been held.

*[English]***Population Control**

1732. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have selected districts in some States for effectively implementing the population control;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any contingency plan has been formulated for the BIMARU States in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A list of the districts/States covered under the various externally-aided Area Projects is enclosed as statement.

(c) and (d) Currently the six Area Projects are being implemented in the selected Districts/Cities of 13 States including Delhi at total cost of Rs. 1194.78 crores with the financial assistance from World Bank, DANIDA, UFID (UK), UNFPA and German Government. In addition, under the World Bank Assisted RCH Programme, 24 RCH Sub-Projects (17 Districts and 7 Cities) are under implementation in 17 States at a total cost of Rs. 283.88 crores for a period of five years since October, 1997.

The National Population Policy, 2000 adopted by the Government in February, 2000 envisages strengthening and energizing the Family Welfare services in the four States of Bihar, M.P., Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh including all other States.

It has been decided to constitute an Empowered Action Group within the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, for preparing area specific programmes with special emphasis on States including these States which are lagging behind in population control.

Statement

List of Districts/States covered under the various area Projects

Name of Projects	Donor Agency	States	Cities/Districts covered
IPP-VIII	World Bank	Urban slums Cities of	Hyderabad, Delhi, Calcutta, Bangalore and 94 cities of AP, Karnataka, West Bengal and Logistic Support Project in TN and MP.
IPP-IX	World Bank	Assam	Entire State.
		Rajasthan	Jodhpur, Pali, Churu, Sirohi, Barmer, Jalore, Nagaur, Bikaner, Gangapagar and Jaiselmer.
		Karnataka	Bellary, Shimoga, Mysore, Chitradurga, Dakshin Kannad, Uttar Kannad, Hassan, Mandya, Kodagu, Bijapur, Belgaum, Gulbarga and Chikmaglor.
DANIDA	Danish Government	Tamil Nadu	Dharmapuri, Thanjavur, Thiruvavur, Krishnagiri and Nagapattinam.
		Madhya Pradesh	Entire State.
Health & FW Project	DFID (UK)	Orissa	Bhadrak and Keonjhar.
Integrated Population and Development Project (IPD)	UNFPA	Maharashtra	Dhule, Gadchiroli, Thane and Chandrapur Districts Kalyan, Bhiwandi, Thane, Ulhasnagar and Pune Mun. corporations.
		Rajasthan	Alwar, Bhilwara, Udaipur, Chittorgarh, Sawai Madhopur and Bharatpur.
		Kerala	Kasargod, Wayanad and Kannur.
		Orissa	Koraput, Nowrangpur, Rayagada and Malkangiri.
		Gujarat	Bahod, Banaskantha, Kutch, Surendernagar and Sabarkantha.
		Madhya Pradesh	Sidhi, Rewa, Satna, Panna and Chattarpur.
Basic Health Project	German Government	Maharashtra	Sindhudurg, Ratnagiri, Pune and Raigad.

[Translation]

Closure of SSI Units

1733. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE:
SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE:
SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether under liberalisation and globalisation policies a large number of small scale industries have been closed/gone sick and likely to be closed in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the impact on employment as a result of closure of SSI units and the remedial steps taken/proposed by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government have carried out any assessment of current status and performance of small scale industries, sector-wise for the last three years as per standard norms;

(e) if so, the details of fresh policy/initiatives taken or to be taken to promote small scale industries; and

(f) the details of recommendations made by the Kapur Committee in respect of SSI units and those which accepted out of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The information on the number of closed SSI units and the impact on employment as a result of closure of SSI units is not maintained centrally. The Reserve Bank of India, however, compiles data on sick small scale industries financed by Banks. As per the Reserve Bank of India, the number of sick SSI units by the end of March, 1999 was 3,06,221. There are various factors for closure/sickness of SSI units. Increased competitiveness is one of the factors. The Government is fully seized of

the incidence of industrial sickness among SSI units and has taken various measures to facilitate timely identification and rehabilitation of potentially viable sick units, which *inter alia* include institutional mechanism in the form of State-level Inter-Institutional committees (SLIICs); special rehabilitation cells in banks and State Financial Institutions; and elaborate guidelines issued by RBI for extending rehabilitation assistance to eligible units to ensure that unemployment is avoided.

(d) and (e) The new policy measures to promote and strengthen the small scale industries sector were announced by the Prime Minister on 30th August, 2000. Some of the important measures announced include raising the limit for composite loans from Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 25 lakhs, priority sector lending to industry related service and business enterprises, capital subsidy of 12% for investment in technology in select sectors, continuance of financial assistance for obtaining ISO 9000 certification, one-time capital grant of 50% to small scale associations for testing laboratories, enhancement of excise duty exemption limit from Rs. 50 lakhs to Rs. 1 crore to improve its competitiveness etc. Further, it has been decided to conduct a census of SSI units.

(f) Out of 126 recommendations made by the Kapur Committee, decisions have been taken on 84 recommendations so far, out of which 64 have been accepted. Some of the major recommendations accepted by the Reserve Bank of India include, delegation of more powers to Branch Managers to grant *ad-hoc* limits, simplification of loan application forms and speedy disposal of loan applications as per the time schedule prescribed, freedom to banks to decide their own norms for assessment of credit requirements, opening of more specialised SSI branches by Banks, enhancement in the limit for composite loans, strengthening of the recovery mechanism etc.

[English]

World Commission on Dams

1734. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have studied the report of the world Commission on Dams, sponsored by World Bank which has studied the impact of Damodar Valley and Hirakud dams on floods;

(b) whether this exercise of the Commission is to review the demands for funds from the World Bank for setting up different dams;

(c) whether the report observes that the dams so far constructed have not yielding expected power generation and irrigation potential and fail to check floods;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir. Report of the World Commission on Dams (WCD) has attempted global assessment of dams and its effectiveness.

(b) While the WCD has been funded by the World Bank, its mandate does not include review of demands for funds from the World Bank for setting up different dams.

(c) to (e) The WCD in its Report has *inter-alia* observed that (i) Large dams built to deliver hydropower tend to perform close to but still below targets for power generation generally meet their financial targets but demonstrate variable economic performance relative to targets, and include a number of notable under the over-performers, (ii) Large dams designed to deliver irrigation services have typically fallen short of physical targets, did not recover their costs and have been less profitable in economic terms than expected, and (iii) Large dams with a flood control component have provided important benefits in this regard, but at the same time have led to greater vulnerability to flood hazards due to increased settlement in areas still at risk from floods, and in some cases have worsened flood damages for a number of reasons, including poor operation of dams.

The WCD Report deals with global issues based on data reportedly derived by them on experiences of various countries. The findings of the WCD are not binding on the Governments.

**Bringing Back Ashes of Late
Pt. Shyamji Krishna Verma**

1735. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken up the issue of bringing back the ashes of the freedom fighter Late Pt. Shyamji Krishna Verma from Switzerland to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry has received some letters from individual Members of Parliament, freedom fighters and other associations requesting for assistance in bringing back his ashes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the stage at which the matter stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Government have taken note of representations regarding the bringing back of the ashes of freedom fighter Late Pandit Shyamji Krishna Verma from Switzerland. The Consulate General of India in Geneva has taken up the matter with the concerned authorities of the Canton of Geneva. It has been indicated that these authorities would also take into account the views of the St. George's Chlorombarium in Geneva, which has been entrusted in 1930 by the family of the Late Pandit Shyamji Krishna Verma with the responsibility of preserving the ashes till 2038, before taking a decision in the matter.

[Translation]

Trade Union Act, 1926

1736. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to repeal the Trade Union Act, 1926;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a provision to register the general organisations under this Act which has been discontinued;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the registration is likely to be reopened under this Act;

(f) if so, the time by which it is likely to be reopened; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Various amendments in the Trade Unions Act, 1926 are under consideration of the Govt. In this regard, the Trade Unions (Amendment) Bill, 2000 has been introduced in the Rajya

Sabha on 28.4.2000. This Bill has been referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare for their examination and report.

(c) to (g) The Trade Unions Act, 1926 provides for registration of trade unions and in certain respects defines the law relating to registered trade unions. However, as Act does not provide for registration of general organisations, the question of opening of registration for such organisations does not arise.

[English]

Power Generation

1737. SHRI SURESH KURUP:
SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the target set for power generation during the Ninth Plan is likely to be achieved;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Eighth Plan target of a capacity of 3000 MW has been achieved; and

(d) the rate of success at the end of Eighth Plan with regard to power capacity and the expectation at the end of the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir. An assessment made by Planning Commission in the course of the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Ninth Plan indicates that there would be a shortfall of about 79 billion Kwh (13.2%), against the target of 606.7 billion Kwh at the end of the Ninth Plan.

(b) The main reason is shortfall in capacity addition during the Ninth Plan period.

(c) The Eighth Plan programme envisaged a capacity addition of 30,538 MW against which 16422.6 MW was added during the Eighth Plan period.

(d) The rate of success in capacity addition in the Eighth Plan period was about 54% of the target and for the Ninth Plan period, the assessment made by the Planning Commission in the course of the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Ninth Plan indicates likely capacity addition of 24309 MW which is about 60% of the Plan target of 40,245 MW.

Nuclear-Weapons Free and Non-Violent World Order

1738. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 8051 on May 17, 2000 and state:

(a) whether India co-sponsored a resolution calling for the commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament for a Convention on the time-bound elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction;

(b) if so, whether the draft resolution makes any reference to the Action Plan for a Nuclear Weapons Free and Non-Violent World Order presented to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Disarmament in 1988; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) India's resolution on "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons" calls for the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations in order to reach agreement on an international convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances. The resolution also notes that such a convention would be an important step in a phased programme towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time.

(b) The idea of a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons in a specified framework of time is integral to the 1988 Action Plan for a Nuclear Weapons Free and Non-Violent World Order. A Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons is part of Phase-I of the programme contained in that Action Plan.

(c) Does not arise.

Commission on Child Labour

1739. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up any Commission on Child Labour at State level;

(b) whether the Union Government have asked the State Governments to set up such Commission of Child Labour;

(c) if so, the response of State Governments thereto; and

(d) the steps taken to ban the Child Labour in different States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Government has taken a series of steps to address the problem of child labour in the country. A National Policy on Child Labour was announced by the Government in 1987 which envisages strict enforcement of child labour related laws, convergence of services for the benefit of parents of child labour in order to improve their economic conditions and launching of projects in areas of high concentration of child labour. Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, occupations/processes listed in the schedule to the Act. The employment condition of children in other occupations and processes is regulated under the Act.

Apart from legal measures, Government has taken steps for withdrawal and rehabilitation of child labour working in hazardous occupations through the scheme of National Child Labour Projects. Under the scheme of NCLP, special schools have been set up with the provision for non-formal education vocational training, nutrition, stipend, health care etc. So far, 94 child labour projects have been sanctioned in 11 child labour endemic States for coverage of about 2 lakh children. This issue was also deliberated upon by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Court has given several directions, in their judgement dated 10.12.96, including payment of compensation by the employers employing children in hazardous occupations. The Government has already taken a number of steps to implement these directions.

Reservation in Jobs for Disabilities

1740. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Disabilities Act provides for three percent reservations in Government jobs to disabled;

(b) if so, whether the quota reserved for the handicaps is filled up regularly;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the efforts being made by the Government to fill up the reserved quota in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, cast statutory obligation on the appropriate Government to reserve not less than 3% of the vacancies for persons with disabilities in the posts identified for each disability. Instructions have been issued from time to time both by the Department of Personnel and Training and Department of Public Enterprises in this regard. *Vide* DOPT'S O.M. No. 36035/119/99-Estt. (REs) dated 17.9.1999, all the appointing authorities are required to furnish a Certificate to the recruiting agencies that the policy relating to 3% reservation for persons with disabilities has been taken care of.

(d) Since Appropriate Government with reference to Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of rights and Full Participation) Act includes State Government as well as U.T. Administration, they have been requested regularly to take appropriate action so that the policy relating to 3% reservation for persons with disabilities is taken care of.

The Ministry has also reviewed the progress of implementation of the various provisions of the Act including Section 33, in a Conference of State Social Welfare Secretaries in February, 2000.

Provident Fund Scheme

1741. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering enactment for introduction of Provident Fund for the agricultural workers in all the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) Under the

Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, provident fund benefits are already available to the workers employed in agricultural farms, fruit gardens, poultry farming establishments, cattle feeding establishments, plantations of tea, coffee, rubber, cinchona etc. employing 20 or more persons.

[Translation]

Defaulting Units

1742. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by the Government against the defaulter institutions for not having deposited the amount of Provident Fund in time;

(b) whether 21698 institutions have been declared defaulter till March 31, 2000 and an amount of more than Rs. 1058 crore is outstanding against them; and

(c) if so, the number of institutions which have paid the arrears alongwith the number of remaining institutions which have failed to make the payment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Necessary legal and penal action as provided under Sections 7A, 7Q, 8B, 8G, 14, 14B etc. and where necessary also under Sections 406 & 409 of the IPC is taken against the employers who default in payment of PF dues in time.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Out of the total PF arrears of Rs. 1058.00 crore, an amount of Rs. 767.76 crore is not immediately recoverable due to BIFR, Court, liquidation and other legal proceedings. Out of the remaining arrears, the EPFO has already recovered an amount of Rs. 152.74 crore either by way of partial or full liquidation of arrears. List of EPF defaulters is generally updated/finalized on an annual basis.

Labour Intensive Productivity

1743. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether labour intensive productivity particularly agricultural productivity of the country is lower than that of other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve labour intensive productivity in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) Relevant data comparing labour intensive productivity in the agriculture sector in India with that of other countries is not maintained. Efforts to improve labour intensive productivity in the country is a continuing process through upgradation of skills and use of inputs like fertilizers, irrigation etc.

[English]

Survey by National Sample Survey Organisation

1744. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Sample Survey Organization have completed their survey for the quinquennium 1994-1999;

(b) if so, the time by which the report is expected to be made public;

(c) whether the information processed so far contradicts the trends disclosed by the Annual "thin Sample" surveys undertaken by the same organization annually through each of the five years in question;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken to ensure greater congruence between the results of annual surveys and the quinquennial surveys?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The National Sample Survey Organisation completed the field work, tabulations and release of results of all the surveys upto 54th round and the field work in respect of 55th (July 1999 to June 2000) round was completed by the end of June, 2000. The key results of Consumer Expenditure Survey based on the data collected during July-December 1999 (six months) in the 55th round has also been released.

(c) to (e) The main subject of enquiry varies from round to round and the subjects covered since 51st round are the following:—

Round	Main Subject
51.	Unorganised manufacture.
52.	Health care, participation in education.
53.	Non-directory trading establishments & own account trading enterprise.
54.	Use of common property resources, sanitation & hygiene services.
55.	Informal non-agricultural enterprises.

However in each of the survey rounds 51 to 54, small number of households were also surveyed for consumer expenditure and employment & unemployment. The results of these thin sample surveys are subject to large sampling errors due to small sample size. Greater congruence of results can be achieved only conducting large scale sample surveys on consumer expenditure every year involving the need for additional manpower and financial resources.

[Translation]

Eradication of Child Labour

1745. SHRI HARIBAHU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has not signed the 182nd proposal of ILO convention on eradication of worst form of child labour exploitation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which the Government propose to sign the above mentioned proposal of the convention; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to create congenial atmosphere at the work-site for the child labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The 87th Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC) held in June,

1999 unanimously adopted ILO Convention No. 182 concerning "Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour". Soon after adoption of the Convention, Government has initiated the process for Ratification of Convention No. 182 in consultation with all social partners.

(d) The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits employment of children in occupations and processes listed in the Schedule to the Act and regulates the working conditions of children in all employments which are not prohibited under the Act. This includes working hours, weekly holiday and health and safety measures for creating a congenial environment at the workplace.

ESI Hospital

1746. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the poor condition of ESI hospitals in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to improve their conditions;

(c) whether the Government propose to open super speciality ESI hospitals in some industrial areas of Uttar Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The provisions of medical care under the ESI Scheme are being administered by the State Governments except in Delhi & NOIDA where it is being administered by the ESIC direct. There have been sporadic complaints about shortage of doctors, Para-medical staff, drugs, dressings, equipments etc. in some ESI hospitals of Uttar Pradesh. Such complaints, as and when received, are forwarded to the State Governments for taking appropriate remedial measures. In order to ensure availability of proper medical care to the workers, the ESI Corporation has prescribed norms/guidelines for staffing and equipping of ESI

hospitals. Recently, for bringing prompt improvement in working of the ESI hospitals, the ESIC has formulated an Action Plan and forwarded the same to the State Governments including Government of Uttar Pradesh for implementation in consultation with the ESIC. The Action Plan includes, *inter-alia*, purchase and installation of modern equipments in hospitals, establishment of Regional Trauma Centres, establishment of Super-Speciality Services, Blood Banks, Cancer Prevention Centres etc. For improving resource position of the State Governments in administration of medical care, the ceiling on expenditure on medical care has been enhanced from Rs. 500/- per insured person per annum to Rs. 600/- per insured person per annum with effect from 1.4.99. A Revolving Fund has been created to ensure prompt payment of advance/re-imbursement of expenditure in case of Super-Speciality treatment to the insured persons.

(c) to (e) Under the Action Plan State Governments are required to develop Super-Speciality Services within the existing ESI hospitals. The proposal of the Government of Uttar Pradesh to develop such Super-speciality Services will be considered as and when the same is received from the State.

Provident Fund Regional Office

1747. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any memorandum to open provident fund sub-regional office in Shekhpura district of Bihar;

(b) if so, the time by which the said proposal is pending with the Government;

(c) the present status of the proposal; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) In the E.P.F. Organisation Sub-Regional Offices are opened keeping in view the parameters like number of establishments/

employees covered under the EPF Scheme, number of claims received/settled, financial viability etc. While considering the proposal the recommendation of the Regional E.P.F. Committee is also kept in view. As the Regional EPF Committee has not made any recommendation in this regard, the question of opening of a Sub-Regional EPF Office in Shekhpura district does not arise.

Vacancies of Counsel

1748. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post of counsel (Economic) in various Indian Embassies abroad at present, country-wise;

(b) the term of consel (Economic);

(c) the names of the countries where the post of counsel (Economic) is lying vacant or the term of that officer has ended; and

(d) in the event of its being vacant, the reasons therefor, and if the term has ended, the reasons for not filling up the vacant post?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) There are a total of 95 posts of commercial representatives in our Missions/Posts abroad in 60 countries. A country-wise list is at statement. In the remainder of the countries where we have our Mission/Posts, officers who may not be specifically designated as commercial representatives are duly fulfilling the role of commercial officers, in addition to their other responsibilities.

(b) Commercial Representatives in our Missions/Posts abroad are normally posted for a term of three years, unless specified otherwise.

(c) and (d) The post of Minister (Economic) is currently lying vacant in the High Commission of India, London. Steps have been initiated to fill the vacancy.

Statement

List of Countries where Commercial Representatives have been posted in Indian Missions/Posts Abroad

Sl.No.	Country	No. of Posts
1	2	3
1.	Ethiopia	1
2.	Ghana	1
3.	Senegal	1
4.	Tanzania	1
5.	Sudan	1
6.	Zambia	1
7.	Nigeria	1
8.	USA	6
9.	Canada	4
10.	Bangladesh	3
11.	Myanmar	1
12.	Sri Lanka	1
13.	China	4
14.	Japan	2
15.	Belgium	4
16.	Switzerland	3
17.	Germany	5
18.	United Kingdom	4
19.	France	2
20.	Italy	1
21.	Sweden	1
22.	Yugoslavia	1
23.	Romania	1
24.	Hungary	1
25.	Russia	2
26.	Czech Republic	1
27.	Bulgaria	1
28.	Poland	1

1	2	3
29.	Oman	2
30.	Saudi Arabia	3
31.	Syria	2
32.	Morocco	1
33.	Tunisia	1
34.	Libya	1
35.	Nepal	2
36.	Thailand	2
37.	Philippines	1
38.	Singapore	1
39.	Australia	2
40.	Kuwait	1
41.	Indonesia	1
42.	South Africa	1
43.	Algeria	1
44.	Kazakhstan	1
45.	Turkey	1
46.	Turkmenistan	1
47.	Lebanon	1
48.	Brazil	1
49.	Egypt	1
50.	Qatar	1
51.	Vietnam	1
52.	Pakistan	1
53.	Ukraine	1
54.	Mexico	1
55.	Panama	1
56.	Mauritius	1
57.	South Korea	1
58.	Uzbekistan	1
59.	Israel	1
60.	Netherlands	1
		95

Economic Package for Bihar

1749. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal of economic package for Northern Bihar has been submitted by Bihar Government after creation of Jharkhand State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) action taken/being by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME

IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) A reference has been received from the Government of Bihar forwarding the outlines of the developmental package for northern Bihar comprising of schemes/projects sent to the Union Government, schemes which are ready for submission, schemes which are necessary for taking the state to the level of national average and proposals which were sent to the Union Government for posing to the International Financial Institutions and which have not received approval so far. A financial summary of the proposed schemes has been attached as statement. Preliminary discussions have already been held at Patna with the State Officers, who have now been invited for more detailed discussions.

Statement*Financial Summary of the Proposed Schemes*

(Rs. in crores)

Department	Category I Sent to the Union Govt.	Category II Schemes which are ready for submission	Category III To reach the national average	Category IV Proposed for funding by International agencies	Total
Water Resources	23,000	18,060	14,400	—	55,460
Minor Irrigation and Agricultural (Special) programmes	3,113	346	—	5,075	8,534
Energy	8,580	8,605	570	—	17,755
Road Construction	925	5,604	25,334	—	31,863
Rural	—	9,644	5,262	548	15,454
Agriculture	80	—	—	—	80
Sugarcane Development	—	—	750	—	750
A.H. Dev. and Fishery	60	18	51	64	193
Industries	278	155	—	—	433
Education	1,520	3,165	10,196	—	14,881
Science & Technology	—	—	1,181	—	1,181
Health Tourism	41	—	30	—	71
Urban Dev.	3,253	9	35	217	3,514
	40,850	45,606	57,809	5,904	150,169

Border Area Development Programme

1750. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount disbursed under the Border Area Development Project to various States of the country during last three years, year-wise;

(b) the amount spent over to administrative work and the percentage thereof spent, border-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check the unnecessary administrative expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Under the Border Area Development Programme, Special Central Assistance is allocated to the States with blocks which have an international border. The allocations are given statement I.

(b) Only three States have reported expenditure on administrative work. The expenditure on this head and the percentage to the total amount released are in given in statement II.

(c) The main objective of the Programme is to meet the special needs of the people living in remote, inaccessible areas situated near the border, hence the State Level Screening Committees generally approve schemes of this nature only, and an attempt is made to keep administrative expenditure to a minimum.

Statement I*Border Area Development Programme: Special Central Assistance Disbursed During Last Three Years*

(Rs. crore)

States	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000
Assam	2.06	4.27	7.20
Gujarat	8.58	8.88	9.87
Jammu & Kashmir	10.34	31.38	33.52
Meghalaya	3.95	4.11	4.52
Mizoram	6.73	6.82	8.00
Punjab	8.54	7.72	9.70
Rajasthan	25.63	26.52	29.17
Tripura	10.96	11.34	12.47
West Bengal	15.00	29.38	38.05
Arunachal Pradesh	4.00	11.00	13.00
Manipur	4.00	4.00	4.00
Nagaland	4.00	4.00	4.00
Himachal Pradesh	—	4.00	4.00
Sikkim	—	4.00	5.50
Uttar Pradesh	—	4.00	12.00
Bihar	—	—	7.00

Note: Border Area Development Programme was extended to the China border in 1998-99 and to the Bhutan and Nepal borders in 1999-2000.

Statement II

Border Area Development Programme: Year-wise Releases, Expenditure on Administrative work and Percentage of Expenditure on Administrative work to Amount Released

(Rs. lakh)

State/Year	Releases	Expenditure	Percentage
Rajasthan			
1997-1998	2563.00	3.53	0.14
1998-1999	2652.00	32.50	1.23
1999-2000	2917.00	4.53	0.16
Jammu & Kashmir			
1997-1998	1034.00	10.13	0.98
1998-1999	3138.00	10.00	0.32
1999-2000	3352.00	8.13	0.24
Mizoram			
1997-1998	673.00	1.50	0.22
1998-1999	682.00	0.00	0.00
1999-2000	800.00	18.53	2.32

*[English]***Pending Labour Cases**

1751. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted additional labour courts/industrial tribunals and organised Lok Adalats for the speedy disposal of labour related dispute cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of cases disposed of through these courts during the last three years and the number of cases still pending till October, 2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The Government have constituted five CGITs-cum-Labour Courts, one each at Lucknow, Nagpur, Chennai, Bhubneswar and Hyderabad, in the 9th Five Year Plan, the criteria being the concentration of industries and the number of industrial disputes in a region. So far as the Question of organising Lok Adalats is concerned, the Ministry of Labour has not constituted any Lok Adalats as statutory remedies in the labour laws are available and the statute itself has prescribed the irreducible barest minimum relief to the aggrieved.

(c) A statement is attached.

Statement

The number of cases pending and disposed of during the last three years upto October, 2000

Name of CGITs		1998		1999		2000 (upto Oct., 2000)	
		Pending	Disposed of	Pending	Disposed of	Pending	Disposed of
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Lucknow (started functioning w.e.f. 15.6.99)	—	—	31	—	179	16

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Nagpur (started functioning w.e.f. 1.7.99)	—	—	52	—	208#	29#
3.	Chennai (started functioning w.e.f. 15.3.2000)	—	—	—	—	74	06
4.	Bhubneswar (started functioning w.e.f. 5.6.2000)	—	—	—	—	23	—
5.	Hyderabad (started functioning w.e.f. 20.10.2000)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total:		—	—	83	—	484	51

Information upto July, 2000.

Loss of Mandays

1752. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to establish better industrial relations so as to minimise the loss of mandays due to strike and lockouts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The Government has been conducting conciliation proceedings to avert strikes and lockouts and to establish better industrial relations in the Central Sphere. A tripartite mechanism has been established for encouraging social dialogue and for ventilation of grievances of workers and management alike. Government's policies of economic reforms are also discussed in this forum. The Govt. has also been emphasizing the important role of workers' participation in management so as to bring about more harmonious industrial relations. These steps are expected to foster better industrial relations and results in minimizing losses as a result of strikes and lockouts.

[Translation]

Condition of Roerich Estate

1753. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the condition of the Roerich Estate has deteriorated after its control was handed over to the Government of Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the details of steps being taken by the Government to improve its condition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The Government of Karnataka acquired the Estate belonging to the Roerichs on November 21, 1996 through an enactment. Based on a petition challenging the Constitutional validity of the Act, the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka ordered the maintenance of status quo in the matter.

With the permission of the Hon'ble Court of Karnataka, the Government of Karnataka, on December 17, 1997, shifted valuable artifacts and paintings to Venkatappa Art Gallery, Bangalore, for preservation and maintenance in their original condition.

In order to improve the condition of the Roerich Estate, the Government of Karnataka has moved the Hon'ble High Court seeking permission to clean and effect minor repairs to the buildings and to revive and prevent the plantation and trees from deterioration.

Ban of Imports of Carpets made by Children

1754. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the certain countries have banned the import of products of carpet industries and some other industries where children are working as labourers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Growth Rate of GDP

1755. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in comparison to other countries India's GDP growth rate is not encouraging;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the details of efforts being made in India to increase its GDP at an accelerated pace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir. In the decade of the 1990's India has been among the ten fastest growing economies in the world.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The strategy for attaining an accelerated growth rate of the economy rests on a fairly sharp increase in the rates of savings and investment, optimum capacity utilisation and appropriate level of investment in infrastructure sector. Some of the measures to achieve these are outlined in the Ninth Five Year Plan.

Fund for I.T.I.

1756. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) assistance provided by the Government to Uttar Pradesh to impart industrial training to the women of backward areas during each of the last three years and till date, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have received complaint regarding misuse of said financial assistance;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any proposal has been received by the Government to constitute any monitoring team in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Assistance provided by the Government under Vocational Training Projects to Uttar Pradesh to impart industrial training to the women of backward areas during the years 1997-98 and 1998-99 is Rs. 13.98 lakh and Rs. 37.46 lakh respectively. No assistance has been provided during the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (till date).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (f) Do not arise.

[English]

Recovering of Dues

1757. SHRI VAIKO:
DR. C. KRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the dues of ESI and PF to be recovered by the authorities as on March 31, 2000 and its comparison with previous years;

(b) out of these dues, the amount to be recovered from companies under BIFR;

(c) the details of the companies and the amount ESI and PF dues in each case;

(d) the steps being taken to collect these dues by authorities and the details thereof in each case; and

(e) the policy of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) As on 31.3.2000, an amount of Rs. 524.79 crore was outstanding on account of ESI dues as against the amount of Rs. 452.28 crore outstanding in the previous year. Similarly, on 31.3.2000 an amount of Rs. 1058.31 crore was outstanding on account of EPF dues as against Rs. 573.18 crore outstanding in the previous year.

(b) and (c) An amount of Rs. 147.83 crore is recoverable on account of ESI dues from 554 companies and an amount of Rs. 273.38 crore on account of EPF dues from 797 establishments registered under the BIFR. As the number of establishments/companies registered is quite large, it is somewhat difficult to furnish their individual details.

(d) and (e) Under the sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, 1985, no coercive action is permissible for recovery of dues from the sick industrial companies registered with the BIFR. However, in respect of employees contribution deducted from the wages of the employees but not deposited with the ESI & EPF authorities, recovery action as well as prosecution action is taken against the defaulting companies.

Definition of Workmen

1758. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to change the workmen's definition;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to consult the Trade Unions before going ahead with the legal changes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (e) Various amendments to the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 are proposed based on the requirements/suggestions of the social partners and in consonance with economic reforms. The amendment proposals are processed at various stages before being approved by the competent authority. The details of the amendments can be made public only after they have been finally approved.

MBBS Courses in Karnataka

1759. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no carry over system for 1st M.B.B.S. course in Karnataka as per M.C.I. Rules;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken to provide carry over facility to 1st M.B.B.S. Course also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Carrying forward of admissions from one academic session to another is not permissible as per M.C.I. Regulations. According to the Regulations of M.C.I. and the provisions of Section 10A of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, no medical college shall increase its admission capacity without prior permission of the Central Government.

This matter has also been decided by the Hon'ble High Court at Karnataka in W.P. No. 22316 of 1996 which was upheld by Supreme Court. On the question of excess admission on the ground of back-log vacancies the Hon'ble Karnataka High Court had held that colleges have no authority in law to give admission to any candidate in excess of permissible intake of the given year on the ground of back-log vacancies.

Kendriya Bhandar/NCCF

1760. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any comprehensive policy in regard to sale and purchase by the Kendriya Bhandar/NCCF;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to review the said policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Kendriya Bhandar and NCCF are autonomous Cooperative Organisations having their own Board of Directors to decide about their policies in regard to sale and purchase. However, instructions issued by the Government provide for exempting Ministries/Departments etc. from following tender procedures as prescribed in the General Financial Rules for local purchases of stationery and other items from these Cooperatives.

(c) to (e) The review of policy relating to sale and purchase of items by/from Kendriya Bhandar/NCCF is an ongoing process.

[*Translation*]

Unemployed Youth in Rajasthan

1761. SHRI PUSP JAIN:
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of Educated/Uneducated unemployed youths in the country particularly in Rajasthan and Orissa at present alongwith their category-wise details, viz., physically handicapped, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes etc.; and

(b) the time by which they are likely to be provided employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Information in regard to the number of Educated, Uneducated, SC, ST and Physically Handicapped job-seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges as on 31.12.98 (latest available) is furnished in statement enclosed.

(b) Employment Exchanges submit the names of the job-seekers against the vacancies notified to them by the employers. The time frame for providing employment would depend on generation of appropriate number of jobs in the economy. Moreover there is a mismatch between the requirements of the labour market and the education/skill levels of the job seekers. As such no time limit can be indicated.

Statement

Number of Job-Seekers on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges as on 31.12.1998

(In thousands)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territories	All category Total	Educated (10th standard and above included in col. 3)	Uneducated (below 10th standard including illiterates included in col. 3)	Scheduled Caste (included in col. 3)	Scheduled Tribe (included in col. 3)	Physically Handi-capped (included in col. 3)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3206.5	2022.2	1184.3	569.2	91.5	53.2
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	13.7	3.1	10.6	0.2	5.4	0
3.	Assam	1489.3	932.5	556.8	91.7	152.7	4.4
4.	Bihar	3310.0	2482.8	827.2	415.2	243.3	17.4
5.	Goa	111.8	83.2	28.6	1.8	—	1.0
6.	Gujarat	943.3	698.7	244.6	199.2	101.1	17.4
7.	Haryana	820.1	562.5	257.6	132.3	0	9.4
8.	Himachal Pradesh	795.4	494.5	300.9	146.3	21.8	7.2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	164.8	72.2	92.6	7.8	2.2	0.7
10.	Karnataka	1812.7	1217.5	595.2	249.1	68.7	24.1
11.	Kerala	3672.1	2749.1	923.0	413.1	22.0	29.9
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2547.1	2026.2	520.9	338.6	264.6	28.7
13.	Maharashtra	4103.1	3044.2	1058.9	592.9	138.2	30.3
14.	Manipur	334.7	218.6	116.1	2.4	94.2	1.5
15.	Meghalaya	33.4	18.9	14.5	0.3	26.5	0.1
16.	Mizoram	74.2	34.3	39.9	—	87.8	0.1
17.	Nagaland	27.7	19.2	8.5	0.2	24.5	0.1
18.	Orissa	970.9	743.5	227.4	146.8	92.2	10.1
19.	Punjab	578.8	389.0	189.8	173.7	0.2	10.1
20.	Rajasthan	891.2	622.2	269.0	134.7	66.7	19.8
21.	Sikkim*	—	—	—	—	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	4175.8	2852.8	1323.0	849.4	8.3	56.1
23.	Tripura	246.3	109.5	136.8	17.1	19.1	2.7
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2638.5	2007.9	630.6	512.9	12.5	27.1
25.	West Bengal	5724.7	3350.0	2374.7	579.2	115.8	54.6
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	27.0	8.6	18.4	—	0.7	0.2
27.	Chandigarh	110.4	59.9	50.5	27.7	0.1	0.8
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	6.0	1.2	4.8	0.2	0.9	0.1
29.	Delhi	1128.2	869.0	259.2	186.7	26.9	6.3
30.	Daman & Diu	6.0	3.5	2.5	0.5	0.5	0.1
31.	Lakshadweep	9.3	1.7	7.6	—	6.4	0.1
32.	Pondicherry	116.6	90.6	26.0	10.4	@	1.6
Total:		40089.6	27788.9	12300.5	5799.4	1694.6	415.3

* No Employment Exchange is functioning in this State.

N.B. Figures may not add up to total due to rounding off.

[English]

Gross Domestic Product

1762. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has stated during his visit to United States of America that this Government aimed at a 9% annual rate of growth of GDP;

(b) if so, the average annual rate of growth attained since the NDA Government took office in March 1998; and

(c) the reasons for the discrepancy between the rates of growth actually achieved since March 1998 and the projections now being considered for the Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The average annual growth rate attained since the NDA Government took office in March, 1998 is estimated to be 6.6% for the period 1998 to 2000.

(c) Planning Commission has just initiated exercises relating to the Tenth Plan.

Beggars Can't Choose

1763. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Beggars Can't choose" appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated November 12, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts reported therein;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any policy on storing and distributing blood;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether 50% gap between demand and supply of blood is met through imports and blood products sourced from the unregulated sectors basically professional and high-risk donors despite threat of HIV, Hepatitis B and other similar infections;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether there is any proposal to set up transfusion medicine department in AIIMS/SJH to ensure availability of safe blood at all times; and

(h) the total number of blood banks in India and how much population is catered by them, State-wise/Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The article points out that there is shortage of blood in the country and there is a need for augmenting voluntary blood donation. It also reports that the system of collection, storage and distribution of blood needs to be streamlined.

(c) and (d) The National Blood Policy that is awaiting Government approval deals adequately with the issues of collection, storage and distribution of blood for transfusion. The policy clearly states that all requirements of blood should be met by voluntary unremunerated blood donors and that blood should be used in a rational manner, avoiding wastage. It encourages component separation, quality assurance and centralisation of blood transfusion services in the country.

(e) and (f) There is no overall shortage of blood in the country, however, there could be seasonal and occasional shortages of blood in different parts of the country. Whole blood is not imported into the country, but some blood products are imported after fulfilling all conditions of transfusion safety.

(g) There is already a Department of Transfusion Medicine functioning in AIIMS.

(h) There are 1549 licensed blood banks functioning in the country and State-wise/Union Territory-wise distribution of these blood banks is laid on the Table of the House (statement enclosed).

Statement

State-wise List of Approved Blood Banks in the Country

S.No.	States	No. of Approved Blood Banks
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	135
2.	A&N Islands	2
3.	Assam	31
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	3
5.	Bihar	50
6.	Chandigarh	3
7.	Delhi	37

1	2	3
8.	Goa	6
9.	Gujarat	142
10.	Haryana	27
11.	Himachal Pradesh	12
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	11
13.	Karnataka	100
14.	Kerala	106
15.	Madhya Pradesh	78
16.	Maharashtra	234
17.	Meghalaya	2
18.	Manipur	3
19.	Mizoram	5
20.	Nagaland	3
21.	Orissa	55
22.	Pondicherry	7
23.	Punjab	52
24.	Rajasthan	50
25.	Sikkim	1
26.	Tamil Nadu	175
27.	Tripura	5
28.	Uttar Pradesh	131
29.	West Bengal	83
Total:		1549

Unemployed Persons below Poverty Line

1764. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAKIP: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed persons especially those belonging to the families living below the poverty line in the backward districts of the country as on October 30, 2000;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal under consideration to provide employment to them;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the details of measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Number of unemployed, estimated on the basis of thin sample survey of the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), was around 8 million in the year 1997 as per usual principal status. Their number below the poverty line is not available.

(b) to (d) The approach of the Ninth Plan is to generate greater productive employment in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are more labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rate of unemployment and under-employment. Government is also sustaining employment generation schemes for poverty alleviation both in the urban and rural areas.

Industrial Dispute Act

1765. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received suggestions to remove the Chapter VB of Industrial Dispute Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) Various amendments to the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 are proposed based on the requirements/suggestions of the social partners and in consonance with economic reforms. The amendment proposals are processed at various stages before being approved by the competent authority. The details of the amendments can be made public only after they have been finally approved.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council of Indian Medicine, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the Central Council of Indian Medicine, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2447/2000]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council of Indian Medicine, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Council of Indian Medicine, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2448/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding rejection of an Award given by the Board of

Arbitration under the Joint Consultative Machinery and Compulsory Arbitration for allowing special pay to Private Secretaries (merged grades 'A' and 'B') of the Central Secretariat Stenographers' Services in the Ministries/Departments.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2449/2000]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951:—
 - (i) G.S.R. 246 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th July, 2000 containing Corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 477(E) dated the 29th June, 1999 regarding Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Sixth Amendment Regulations, 1999 relating to Orissa Cadre.
 - (ii) The Indian Administrative Service (Cadre) First Amendment Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 289 in Gazette of India dated the 5th August, 2000.
 - (iii) The Indian Police Service (Cadre) First Amendment Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 290 in Gazette of India dated the 5th August, 2000.
 - (iv) The Indian Police Service (Cadre) First Amendment Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 291 in Gazette of India dated the 5th August, 2000.
 - (v) G.S.R. 805(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st October, 2000 constituting the Indian Administrative Service Cadre for the newly formed State of Uttaranchal with effect from the 1st November, 2000.
 - (vi) G.S.R. 808(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st October, 2000 constituting the Indian Administrative Service Cadre for the newly formed State of Jharkhand with effect from the 15th November, 2000.
 - (vii) G.S.R. 811(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st October, 2000 constituting the Indian Administrative Service Cadre for the newly formed State of Chhattisgarh with effect from the 1st November, 2000.
 - (viii) G.S.R. 814(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st October, 2000 constituting the Indian Police Service Cadre, for the newly

formed State of Uttaranchal with effect from the 1st November, 2000.

of the Central Tool Room, Ludhiana, for the year 1999-2000.

- (ix) G.S.R. 817(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st October, 2000 constituting the Indian Police Service Cadre, for the newly formed State of Jharkhand with effect from the 15th November, 2000.
 - (x) G.S.R. 820(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st October, 2000 constituting the Indian Police Service Cadre, for the newly formed State of Chhattisgarh with effect from the 1st November, 2000.
 - (xi) G.S.R. 823(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st October, 2000 constituting the Indian Forest Service Cadre, for the newly formed State of Uttaranchal with effect from the 1st November, 2000.
 - (xii) G.S.R. 826(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st October, 2000 constituting the Indian Forest Service Cadre, for the newly formed State of Jharkhand with effect from the 1st November, 2000.
 - (xiii) G.S.R. 829(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st October, 2000 constituting the Indian Forest Service Cadre, for the newly formed State of Uttaranchal with effect from the 1st November, 2000.
- (Placed in Library. See No. LT 2450/2000)
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Hand Tools, Jalandhar, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Hand Tools, Jalandhar, for the year 1999-2000.
- (Placed in Library, See No. LT 2451/2000)
- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Tool Room Ludhiana, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working

[Placed in Library See No. LT 2452/2000]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Tool Design, Hyderabad, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Tool Design, Hyderabad, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed to Library, See No. LT 2453/2000]

- (6) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under article 323 (1) of the Constitution:—

- (i) Forty-Ninth Annual Report of the Union Public Service Commission for the year 1998-99.
- (ii) Memorandum explaining reasons for non-acceptance of the Advice of the Union Public Service Commission in respect of the cases referred to in Chapter X of the above Report.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2454/2000]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2455/2000]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indo-German Tool Room, Indore, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indo-German Tool Room, Indore, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2456/2000]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indo-German Tool Room, Ahmedabad, for the year 1999-2000, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indo-German Tool Room, Ahmedabad, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2457/2000]

- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Process and Product Development Centre, Agra, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Process and Product Development Centre, Agra, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2458/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Apprenticeship (Amendment) Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 267 in Gazette of India dated the 15th July, 2000 under sub-section (3) of section 37 of the Apprentices Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2459/2000]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 268 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th July, 2000 specifying the purposes of the clause (aa), of section 6 of the Apprentices Act, 1961, Board or State Council of the Technical Education or other authority in respect of trade test/examination with trade subject field as mentioned in the Notification issued under section 6 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2460/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): I beg to lay on the Table—

A copy of the Prevention of Food Adulteration (76th Amendment) Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English

versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 760 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th September, 2000 under sub-section (2) of Section 23 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-2461/2000]

12.02 hrs.

[*English*]

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2000, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 27th November, 2000."

2. Sir, I lay on the Table of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2000, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 27th November, 2000.

12.02 1/2 hrs.

[*Translation*]

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Tenth Report

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the table the Tenth report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.03 hrs.

[*English*]

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Statement

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): I beg to lay on the Table Statement (Hindi and English versions) of

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the First Report of the Estimates Committee (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) regarding action taken by Government on their Fourth Report (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Textiles—Sickness/Closure of Textile Industry.

12.03¹/₂ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND WELFARE

Seventh to Tenth Reports

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Labour & Welfare:—

- (1) Seventh Report on 'The Trade Unions (Amendment) Bill, 2000'.
- (2) Eighth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Third Report of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Ministry of Labour—Demands for Grants-2000-2001.
- (3) Ninth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment—Demands for Grants—2000-2001.
- (4) Tenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Ministry of Tribal Affairs—Demands for Grants 2000-2001.

12.04 hrs.

[English]

PRESENTATION OF PETITION

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): I beg to present a petition signed by Shri Pramod Shirwalkar and others of Chembur, Mumbai regarding environmental pollution in Chembur and adjoining areas of Mumbai.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2462/2000]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up 'Zero Hour.'

Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): Sir, what about the Calling Attention?

MR. SPEAKER: We will take it up after half-an-hour.

[Translation]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (Jalore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Renuka Chowdhury is not being permitted to enter into the House...(Interruptions) She has been prevented from entering into the House.

MR. SPEAKER: I will give you opportunity, I have called hon'ble Sudip Bandyopadhyay.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Sir, this is a vital issue for which we have made a submission. ...(Interruptions) I want to raise a basic issue regarding the atrocities on the SCs and STs, and the minorities in West Bengal. ...(Interruptions) I am prepared to hear from the CPI(M) Party. They can also take part in the discussion. I am not accusing anybody now. The question is that for the last few months atrocities on the SCs and STs, and the minorities are going on at random. Who are killed and who are being killed is the second issue. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I am on a point of order. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is 'Zero Hour.'

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This particular matter has been raised on the floor of the House yesterday. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No point of order in the 'Zero Hour.'

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You cannot allow the same matter to be raised every day. They are raising the same matter every day. You are allowing the same matter to be raised every day. How can he be allowed to raise the same matter?...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you all.

[*English*]

Shri Acharia, you can rebut it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You cannot allow the same matter to be raised every day. How can he raise the same matter?...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Yesterday, in the Business Advisory Committee, something has been finalised.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Yesterday, he raised the same matter, and today also, he is raising the same matter. How can he raise the same matter everyday?...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I will listen to you.

[*English*]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: How many houses have been looted?...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, I will allow you also.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: He should not be allowed. ...(*Interruptions*) The same matter cannot be raised everyday. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you.

[*English*]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Let a Parliamentary Committee, headed by the former Prime Minister, Shri

Chandra Shekhar, visit and enquire into the allegations. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is matter concerning the State. Law and order is a State subject. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay.

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: A number of incidents of violence has taken place in the last few months after the defeat of the CPI (M) Party in Panskura Lok Sabha bye-elections, and the Calcutta Municipal Corporation elections in Calcutta. ...(*Interruptions*) The Parliamentary democratic system is in the hands of the Stalinist Communist Party. We are appealing to the Central Government to send a Parliamentary Committee. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please complete your speech. Everyday you are raising the same matter.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: We demand the imposition of Article 356 of the Constitution in the State. ...(*Interruptions*) Two Chief Ministers are operating in West Bengal. One is the former Chief Minister, who is functioning as an extra-Constitutional authority ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, what is your point of order?

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: He is taking guard of honour, inaugurating the Government offices, and using the Chief Minister's bungalow and accusing the Central Government. ...(*Interruptions*) I am appealing to the Central Government to send a Parliamentary Committee. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No, please complete your speech. You have been raising the same matter everyday.

...(*Interruptions*)

* Not recorded.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This is unfortunate.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Every day, this is the problem in the House. You are not allowing them to speak and they are not allowing you to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: He did not allow me to speak, peacefully. ...(Interruptions) Why is he doing that?...(Interruptions) We will also not allow him to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, what is your submission?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay, I have allowed you to make your submission and you have completed it. Please take your seat now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay, Shri Basu Deb Achairia, I appeal to both of you to take your seat. There are many Members who have given notices to raise important matters during Zero Hour. I have to give them also a chance.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we totally refute the allegations made by Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay. The allegations are baseless, fictitious, false and malicious. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, this is not correct. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been wrongly said about the Aligarh Muslim University that it has relations with ISI...(Interruptions)

[English]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you said that you would call me. You must protect the Members.

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you after Shri Ramji Lal Suman completes his submission. Please take your seat now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the BJP, RSS and VHP have launched a propaganda that the Aligarh Muslim University has connections with ISI. The Government also share the same view and it has been stated that the Aligarh Muslim University is the base of the ISI. It is a serious issue. FIR has been lodged against 12 students there. I would like to submit in this regard that out of them, six students have already left the University, four have been expelled and as regards two students, the local administration have said that they (two students) have no relation with this incident.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is tension in the University on account of this incident and it is being defamed. This incident is being used as a means of false propaganda against the minorities and the Government of Uttar Pradesh are intentionally creating tension. I request you to issue instruction to the State Government to defuse tension in Aligarh. The student and the University staffs are terrified on account of this incident, as tension mounts whenever the police visit there. The administration of the University is not taken into confidence. It is a serious incident.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramji Lal Suman, please understand this is a State subject. Everybody wants to raise State subjects here. This is not correct.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, how can the matter related to the Aligarh Muslim University be a State subject?

* Not recorded.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a Central University and the Chancellor of the University is appointed by the Centre and the University is under the Central Government. The University does not have only Muslim students, rather 40% of the students studying there belong to non-Muslim communities, like Hindus, Sikhs, Christians and other religious communities. The Aligarh Muslim University is a very prestigious university where the level of teaching and discipline is high. It is the conspiracy of the BJP Government to close down the university on the pretext of ISI. Not only this, Maulana Ali Mian of Nadwan who had received highest international order of the Islamic World and who was also a secular person was insulted and defamed by way of calling the Nadwa University a base of ISI. The Uttar Pradesh Government had ordered to close the Aligarh Muslim University which have produced many great leaders like Dr. Zakir Hussain. We had somehow managed to save the Aligarh University from its closure by sending five member delegation of Samajwadi Party. The question is that now the reality has come up and the district administration itself have confessed that two of the students have nothing to do with the ISI. The six students have already left the University. The four students whose names figure in the report have been expelled from the university. Even after that the statement of BJP and Uttar Pradesh Government that the Aligarh Muslim University is the base of ISI is wrong. So I appeal that the Government should conduct a judicial inquiry in this regard under the chairmanship of a sitting judge. This is a very serious matter because the integrity of the entire muslim community is being questioned. The Samajwadi Party has been constantly telling that the Government's policy is quite liberal towards the terrorists. You did escort the terrorists to Afghanistan. Even today, we tell you that if you have guts you should attack terrorists bases (*Interruptions*). A conspiracy is being hatched to defame and insult the entire muslim community by calling the Muslim University and the Nadwa University as the ISI agents bases while the Government itself is encouraging the ISI. You escort the ISI agents to Afghanistan and release them in Kandhar.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh ji, there are other Members to speak.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: You say that the Muslim University, the Nadwa University and all the school of Muslim community are the bases of ISI. You should get a judicial inquiry conducted by a judge of the Supreme Court. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav ji, you are not allowing other members to speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: We are ready for an inquiry. The present Government is dealing with the ISI liberally and is providing full freedom to ISI and the Muslim community in this country are being defamed. ...(*Interruptions*) The Universities and the educational institutions of the Muslim community are being defamed. My demand is that a judicial probe should be conducted. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Malhotra.

[*Translation*]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the allegations that have been levelled by Shri Mulayam Singh ji and his party...(*Interruptions*)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajan, U.P.): Mr. Sir, it is a very important issue, the Government should reply to it right now. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have to give an opportunity to other members also.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Your leader has already spoken. Why are you speaking now.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing. You were given a chance and your leader has already raised the matter. Now what are you doing, it is not good.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: It is a serious matter why IB officials are going there? It is serious thing, what have you done in this regard. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Malhotra you please sit down.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): He creates the scene every day. Is he the only member in the House, are we not here. Do we have no issue, is it that only the Samajwadi Party has issues to raise? What are they doing. Please stop them. ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The allegations that have been levelled by Shri Mulayam Singh and his party...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I refute the allegations that have been levelled by him. Absolutely false and meaningless allegations have been levelled. No university may be the agent of ISI. However it is a serious issue that ISI agents are using some of the universities as the base for conducting their activities all over the country. This is not such an issue under the garb of which one can try to hide.

We have no intention to drag in Aligarh University, Nadwa or Madarsas of Uttar Pradesh in this issue. However, the ISI activities that are going on there...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Akhilesh Yadav, I will take action against you.

[Translation]

You are disturbing the entire House, what is this you are doing.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am asking the leader to control his members. There are other members also.

[Translation]

Mulayam Singh ji, it is not proper, you please tell your members.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I want Mr. Malhotra to speak but the Government should also reply. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Why do not you understand that other Members have also given notice.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: You are getting annoyed, but we are trying to speak in a peaceful manner. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please try to understand since remaining Members have also given notice.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Our party does not share the view that universities, Muslim community and Madrasas have become ISI bases or agents. I would also like to say that it is not so that our party has dubbed them as the hideouts of ISI agents. But people who are infact ISI agents and those who have admitted to be so, have been arrested. The argument that attempts are being made to protect Pakistani agents, does not hold water. All of you know what ISI is doing in India. I would like to say that. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: On the one hand you escort them in the car and on the other hand, you talk of ISI. You want to punish only Muslims and not the ISI...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): He has not given notice for Zero-Hour, whereas we people have given notice but we are not being given an opportunity to speak...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I mean to say that you should not level allegation against any party in this way. You are not against ISI, rather you have a nexus with them. You want to play politics in the name of ISI. You are just making an excuse of ISI...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not only a senior Member but a senior leader as well. We have to listen to other Members also.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: You are protecting the ISI. You are destroying the nation and you are attacking the Muslims. ...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I am happy to know that even Shri Mulayam Singhji supports the view that we should crush ISI agents, strongly. Further, I would like to say that we refute the charges levelled against our party. I wanted to say only this much...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is your duty to protect the rights of hon. Members. If you do not protect our rights, then we would not be able to discharge our duties towards the nation. Today morning, when I was on my way to the House.. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have not given any notice.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: I gave you in writing.

MR. SPEAKER: When and what time you gave me the notice? Notice is required to be given before 1000 hrs.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: How I could have given a notice before 1000 hrs. It all happened with me when I was entering into the House. Please listen to me.

This morning when I was on my way to Parliament House I saw that large number of police force have had gheraoed hon. Member Shrimati Reunuka Chaudhary. I thought it was traffic breakdown. But when I got down I was dismayed to see that an hon. Member and leader of farmers Shrimati Renuka Chaudhary was gheraoed by Delhi Police. She herself was driving a tractor and the police were stopping her on the plea that heavy vehicles are not permitted on that road; but tractor is not a heavy vehicle. Hon. Member was herself driving her tractor but she was denied entry into Parliament House. I would like to request you to direct Delhi Police to take action against errant Police Officers who stopped her since preventing any Member from coming to the House amounts to violation of our rights. Therefore, I would urge upon you to give special directions to the police officials so as to enable Renuka Chaudhary come to the House. I would like to say that she was coming to the House to take up farmers cause in the House during proceedings of the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Sardar Buta Singh, please listen to me first. She was coming by a tractor, which had no parking label. There is no parking place for that here. The ferry service is also provided to the hon. Members to come to the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: She was not permitted to come upto Parliament House...*(Interruptions)* People come

from outside...*(Interruptions)* Several people come by jeeps...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the proper way. She can use the ferry service. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you should protect rights of all honourable Members...*(Interruptions)* You please decide it...*(Interruptions)* Suppose any Member comes on a horse, would you not allow him to enter the Parliament House?...*(Interruptions)* A parking label was put on that tractor...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the recent past, Hindi speaking people in Assam who have been living there for the last several generations...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I would call you also.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you disturb the House, I would not call you.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: They are engaged in their business over there. Assam Tiger Force and terrorist elements such as ULFA loot them, demand ransom and on many occasions, shoot them...*(Interruptions)* People are terrorised. So far 40 people have been killed. Many amongst them were from Rajasthan, Bihar and even U.P...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, it was already raised in the House and the reply was also given. Please understand that.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: They are from other States. They have gone there in search of livelihood...*(Interruptions)* It is a question of national unity. Therefore, I urge upon you to ask the Government to give a statement about it...*(Interruptions)* What steps the

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

Government are going to take to protect them. Further, the Union Government should direct State Governments to protect people there...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri M.V.V.S. Murthi.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): Sir, I am waiting for this opportunity for the last one week. ...*(Interruptions)* After a very long time, I have got this opportunity. Please allow me to speak.

Sir, of late all the leading newspapers are carrying advertisements. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, what Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat has said is correct. ...*(Interruptions)* Innocent people are being killed there...*(Interruptions)* The Government should make a statement on it...*(Interruptions)* People from every corner of India go to Assam...*(Interruptions)* I support Shri Rawat's demand that the Government should make a statement on it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri M.V.V.S. Murthi says.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: This is a very important matter. I request the House to kindly hear me.

All the leading newspapers are carrying advertisements, which are tantalising and attracting the youth with messages like 'have a cosy talk, have a musical talk, have a tantalising talk, have a cool talk, or something like that'. These are given with very attractive names. All the leading newspapers are carrying advertisements giving these numbers. These numbers are given by private agencies. This is being promoted by MTNL. These are all STD numbers. When elders are not in their houses, all our boys and girls, students and children are telephoning to these numbers. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): This is phone prostitution. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Yes, I agree with you. All these are very sexual talks and all kinds of talks. These are all obnoxious talks, which are going on through these numbers. Telephones are used for a number of hours on such matters. The culprit is MTNL. The Government should not stoop to such a level for getting a small amount of hire charges. Ninety per cent of the hire charges are being given to the private parties and only 10 or 15 per cent is retained by MTNL. This is not our culture or heritage. This is against Indian culture.

The hon. Minister should give a reply to this. These types of calls should be stopped forthwith by MTNL. I want the hon. Minister to give a reply. I hope, the whole House will agree with me on this subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, you are not allowing the Minister to reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you can support it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Our Lok Sabha covers are containing this.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, I have called the Minister. You can support Shri Murthi please.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I am supporting him.

MR. SPEAKER: Then, it is all right. No problem.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think a very important issue has been raised by Shri Murthi. Anybody sitting in this House, whether from the Government side or of the Opposition side, will not disagree with him that the telephone system should not be misused by anybody for immoral things. I think these advertisements have started coming in the last month or so.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: It has come in all the newspapers.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I am not disputing anything. I agree with you. I agree with every word you said and I agree with what you have not said also.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Thank you very much.

* Not recorded.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: It is because I recall that a year back when such kind of advertisements started coming in newspapers, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj was the Minister of Communications. She made some kind of an arrangement by which this could not be used by the people. As I said, I am not defending it. I am also offended by such kind of advertisements and misuse of telephone by people. I do not want to discuss it even because that will also given a publicity to such kind of things. Few of them are not in this country. They are outside the country. They are in Bangkok. They are in many other countries where you make an ISD call.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Some Ministers are using it.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: You forgot to say ex-Ministers.

That is why, I can say that it is a very important issue and I will personally take up this issue with the Minister of Communications. Let us see how we can stop technologically this kind of misuse of telephone lines by anybody. At the same time, if something is not technologically feasible, at that point of time, I think, you have educated everybody.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Not technologically. It is only a process of liberalisation. Such liberalisation should not be there. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, what is this? Hon. Members, please take your seats.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: As I said, let us try technological step so that VSNL and MTNL should not allow such kind of conversations to take place. The Government can look into all advertisements and disconnect all such kind of telephones immediately...*(Interruptions)* Please allow me to say.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Please ban all these advertisements.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, you are a lawyer. So, I have to do everything under the law. As I said, we have to do under the law but definitely the Government will also examine every possibility to ban such kind of advertisements in the very near future. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): If a law is required, why do you not bring an appropriate legislation?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I think all of us agree that this should be stopped. If Members have some specific suggestions on this, they can give it to me. We will implement each and every suggestion.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am giving a specific suggestion. Why do you not consult the Law Ministry and bring an appropriate legislation?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I will talk to the Law Minister...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The MTNL phone numbers are being distributed through our parliamentary covers. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia, U.P.): The hon. Member is making a very serious allegation. He should be heard. He has said that these advertisements are being circulated through our parliamentary papers. Is it a fact?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: How is it MTNL covers are being distributed?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: As per his allegation, it comes in the parliamentary papers. It is a serious thing.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Most respectfully I will submit that Government does not circulate the parliamentary papers.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: I am not asking the Government. I am asking the Speaker.

If it has been circulated, with whose permission was it done, how was it done and action should be taken because the hon. Member mentioned it. Mr. Speaker, Sir, in every matter there should be some limit. If the Government is helpless, as he said, at least the Parliament should be helpful in seeing that these papers are not circulated through parliamentary papers.

The other thing is, an hon. Member has mentioned that one Member is coming by a tractor and the matter is being raised in this House. Tomorrow somebody may come on a tank and should that be allowed? Are we not making a fun of this institution, Mr. Speaker, Sir, and the Government is quiet? I am sorry to say, Mr. Speaker, Sir, you should use your authority in certain matters to stop some people and punish some Members. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, ...

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except what Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev says.

...(interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am calling one by one.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: She was not detained at the gate...(Interruptions). She was not detained by the staff of Parliament instead she was detained by the police...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is over please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever names are with me, I am calling those names only. Please understand.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Hon. Speaker, Sir, every day on an average six to seven Hindi-speaking people, infants, children, elderly men aged above 80 years are being killed in Assam. We raised this issue in the House. Other hon. Members in the House also raised it. The hon. Minister the other day assured us that he would apprise the concerned Minister and that he would come with a statement. Nothing has come so far.

After that, in your wisdom, you asked us to give a notice of Calling Attention Motion. We had given a notice of Calling Attention. Many Members from various States have given notice. I urge upon you to take up the Calling Attention Motion immediately. Otherwise, we are being charged in the Assam Press that the Members who have come in the House are inactive. I know your constraints but I must request that this matter should not be taken lightly.

MR. SPEAKER: You can meet me in my Chamber.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the subject I am going to raise is not only connected with entire House but also with all the Members of Parliament. An amount of Rs. 2500 crore have been earmarked under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana for the construction of rural roads throughout the country. The declaration in this regard was made by hon. Prime Minister eight months back. But it has not been decided till date as to how the implementation of the scheme, drafted for the construction of rural roads for rural connectivity will be undertaken? As per our information, the decisions being taken by the Government of India is that this fund should be provided to the State Governments as Budget provision. I would like to request and I am sure that all the Members will agree with this that it should be implemented through Government of India as centrally sponsored scheme and its responsibility should not be put on the State Governments. Therefore, it should be implemented directly from the centre and the Members of Parliament should also have their participation in it. Its responsibility should not be put on the State Governments. I would like that decision in this regard should also be taken from your part as well. I would also like hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to say something in this regard as it is a very important subject. ...(Interruptions). Mr. Speaker, Sir, as long as your ruling in this regard does not come how we will get to know as to how the construction of roads for rural connectivity would be undertaken; whether it will be done by the State Government or by the Department of rural development...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vaiko.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All of you can associate with Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi): Sir, I draw the attention of the House and the Government, through you, to a very serious matter...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: The unfortunate thing is that many Members in the House are not following the practice and procedure in the House. I am requesting the Leaders to see and to help in this regard; otherwise it is very difficult to run the House. What is this?

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, even the decisions of the Business Advisory Committee are not being abided by a few Members. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Sometimes, senior Members are also disturbing the House.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VAIKO: Sir, with pain and agony, I draw the attention of the House towards the killing of our own Indian fishermen, our Tamil fishermen, in our own territorial waters by the Sri Lankan Navy, which has become the order of the day. Since 1974, nearly thousand times, our fishermen have been attacked by the Sri Lankan Navy and killed in the sea when they were fishing.

Sir, 48 hours ago, near Pamban, our fishermen were attacked by the Sri Lankan Navy when they opened fire. Four of our fishermen escaped by swimming and by hiding themselves. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vaiko, normally, the procedure in the 'Zero Hour' is that you can take only two minutes. There are other Members also to speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VAIKO: The other Members have taken a lot of time for other issues. How many minutes have they swallowed here? This is a very serious matter. ...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, when they go for fishing, they are risking their lives due to storm and cyclone. Even today there is a cyclone. When they go for fishing to earn their livelihood, risking their lives, till they reach sea-shore, the family members are afraid whether they will come back from the sea or not. So, at this situation, our fishermen are killed by the Sri Lankan Navy. Unless the Government takes a very stern view, condemn the killing and gives a stern warning to the Sri Lankan Government, this will not be stopped.

Sir, one *Muniaswamy* was killed. Now, the family is in tears. We have got the right to fish in *Kachchatheevu*.

Of course, it was very unfortunate when *Kachchatheevu*, which belonged to our country, was given to Sri Lanka on a platter by the then Congress Government.

Now, Sri Lankan Naval Chief came and had discussions with our Naval Chief. Our Navy and Coast Guard are also there. If they take some stern action then they will never dare to come over here.

Sir, a tiny country is challenging the mighty Navy of this country. It is a question of honour of the country when a citizen is killed by another country's Navy. It is going on everyday. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (*Sivaganga*): What is the conclave between hon. Shri Vaiko and hon. Minister, Shri George Fernandes? The issue of protection of fishermen should be looked into immediately. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is the problem. One Member is raising the issue and other Members are contradicting it.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VAIKO: The Government of India should take up the issue with the Sri Lankan Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record. Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan to speak now.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.S. PALANIMANICKAM (*Thanjavur*): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member. Our hon. Chief Minister has already written a letter to the hon. Prime Minister on this issue. ...(*Interruptions*) I urge upon the Government to take stern action against the Sri Lankan Navy...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Palanimanickam, you can associate yourself with Shri Vaiko...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I rise to raise a very important issue regarding the textile industry in India. Now the Textile Policy has been declared by the Government of India. ...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, the Policy is detrimental to the textile industry as a whole. Not only that, it will directly affect the handloom industry in India. Kerala is one of the foremost States

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

which is having an ancient handloom industry. We were exporting handloom goods to other countries but now all these have been stopped because of this declared Policy. The Policy is anti-national, anti-industrialists and is against the workers' interests. Our ancient handlooms are now still; they are not functioning. All the restrictions on the import of handloom goods have been withdrawn. The multinational companies and foreign agencies can import even handloom cloth to India. This has adversely affected the interests of thousands of handloom workers, especially in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh. All these States have been very much detrimentally affected. There is complete starvation in Kerala State, especially in Cannanore, Kozhikode and other northern districts. The handloom industry is facing a very serious crisis. Same situation is there in the southern districts also. I request the Central Government to reconsider the policy, give protection to the handloom industry and protect the handloom weavers, otherwise they will be facing a very very serious situation. I warn them...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): This is a very serious matter, Sir...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All of you can associate yourselves with Shri Radhakrishnan.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand that I am going as per the list.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih): Sir, the 'A' plant of Bokaro thermal power station of Damodar Valley Corporation has been lying closed for the last five months. It is incurring monthly losses worth Rs. three and a half crore. 1600 labourers are sitting idle. At the time of closure, the thermal power was generating 60 megawatt of electricity. The loss of Rs. 2500 crore should be realised from the officers there and Bokaro thermal power plant should be started without any further delay. Due to non compliance of pollution rules on time by the management the losses worth crores of rupees are being incurred.

Sir, thus I would like to request the Government that it should be started immediately.

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Sir, I draw the attention of the Government to a very serious issue that

is being faced by the State of Kerala regarding the Mullaperiyar Dam. ...*(Interruptions)* This Mullaperiyar dam is a 100-year old dam. For the sharing of water between Kerala and Tamil Nadu, an agreement had been entered into by the erstwhile British Government with the former Travancore State and that agreement had been made for 999 years, something which is unheard of in this country — an agreement for a thousand years, which is binding on future generations! Now there is a dispute going on for the sharing of this water. We all know it very well, and I would like to inform the Central Government, that Kerala State is facing acute water and power shortage. This is a 104-year old agreement and the same situation has been going on. Now a meeting of the Chief Ministers of Kerala and Tamil Nadu had been called by the Centre at the direction of the Supreme Court and in that particular meeting it was agreed upon to have a three-member Committee—one member each representing the States of Tamil Nadu and Kerala, and one member from the Central Water Commission - to examine this issue. The minutes of that meeting have been tampered—it has been reported in the Press—and now the Central Government has formed a seven-member Committee, and there is only one member from Kerala. The mandate of that Committee was to examine the safety of the dam.

That Committee has come to Mullaperiyar and studied the issue of raising the water level from 136 feet to 152 feet. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, this is a very important matter. Please allow me a minute to complete.

MR. SPEAKER: You have already taken more time.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Sir, if it is raised, it will affect us. This is a serious issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Sir, this is a burning issue of Kerala. We will not allow anyone to do injustice to Kerala. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Sir, this is the right of the people of Kerala. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: We must be properly represented in any Committee. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Sir, the Central Government has to interfere. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO: Sir, this is a controversial issue between the two States of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? Shri Vaiko, you are not allowing other Members to speak. I have called Shri Ganga Reddy.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: There is one member from Kerala and one from Tamil Nadu in that Committee...(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO: The State of Tamil Nadu is there. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (Calicut): The State of Kerala is getting less water. ...(Interruptions)

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Sir, this is an obsolete treaty. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All of you can associate yourselves with Shri Francis George.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, great injustice is being done to Kerala. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Are you not allowing others to speak? What is this? Madam, you please take your seat. You are always disturbing the House. Please take your seat.

SHRI VAIKO: Sir, this is a controversial issue affecting the rights of the people of Tamil Nadu. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I am on my legs.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: How can you say it? It is affecting the rights of Kerala. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO: Sir, great injustice has been done by them already.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Injustice is being done to Kerala. Let the Government reply to it. The hon. Minister is here.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Ganga Reddy says.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI G. GANGA REDDY (Nizamabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government to an important issue. There is an urgent need to take measures to minimise oil pool deficit keeping in view the heavy burden on the exchequer. In this regard I will request that steps may be taken to minimise the deficit by mixing 10 per cent of rectified spirit manufactured from sugarcane and molasses along with petro products. This mixture is giving same efficiency as pure petrol products and as such 10 per cent saving can be achieved. Incidentally, this practice is going on in Brazil for years together and no complaint about loss in efficiency has been reported.

I, therefore, appeal to the hon. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas to start this practice in our country also immediately to save the foreign exchange burden.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in an accident occurred in my constituency on 18th November, 1997 at Vajirabad bridge, 28 children were killed and some 62 children injured. To avoid the possibility of recurrence of any such accident in future, the parents of children had asked for construction of an additional bridge over there. But that bridge has not been constructed so far. Similarly, in view of the increasing population of trans-yamuna and East Delhi, a proposal of constructing a bridge from Geeta Colony to Shanti Van also came forward.

Since, its construction will take three to four years, the construction of a pantoon bridge from marginal pusta dam to Majnoo ka tila should have been constructed but no such scheme has been started. I would like to demand from the Government of India that a bridge should be constructed near Vajirabad bridge and between crematorium of Geeta Colony and Shanti Van and above pantoon bridge should also be constructed immediately so that the inconvenience of people of Delhi while commuting should be avoided and the occurrence of such incidents could also be avoided.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Samar Choudhury will speak. Shri Baju Ban Riyan may also associate with him.

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY (Tripura West): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the situation in Tripura is very bad due to escalating ethnic violence and insurgency. It is so because the Central Government is completely ignoring the deployment of forces there. I want to present only one thing before you. The State Government had declared certain areas as disturbed areas and out of 45 police stations, 22 police stations were covered under the disturbed areas laws. While the insurgency was escalating in areas increasing threat to peace under all the police stations, the State Government was helped and aided by the Central Government with three battalions of the Army, three battalions of Assam Rifles, and CRPF and BSF. After the BJP came to power and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee became the Prime Minister, all the three battalions of the Army have been withdrawn and the strength of Assam Rifles has been reduced from 3 battalions to 16 companies only.

At this moment, the situation of insurgency activities in the State is such aggravated that they are trying to disrupt the whole of State, its development etc. ISI is working there. The border is porous. Earlier, it was assessed by the professionals that 15 battalions of BSF should guard the border, but at this moment, only eight or nine battalions are posted there. Due to this, the total border is completely left open.

Now, I come to the movement of insurgents and militants from across the border. In the the Bangladeshi area across the border, there are 29 hide-outs of armed militants. The camps, which are there, are giving all kinds of war-training. This is the position. Every time, those people are coming inside our territory with AK-series of rifles or highly sophisticated weapons, and attacking the people of Tripura.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the Government should respond.

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: The Government is not responding.

MR. SPEAKER: But you are not allowing the Government to reply. Members do not allow the Government to reply.

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: Repeatedly the Chief Minister came here and talked with the Home Minister, Defence Minister. Members of Parliament draw their attentions different time. The Left Front also made their representations. M.Ps delegation talked with the Prime Minister also, but still, no additional security forces are given to the State. This is the position.

In Kanchanpur sub-division and in Teliamma of Tripura, in the month of October and November, mass killings took place. These killings led to ethnic violence and aggravated to ethnic riots.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there any response from the Government?

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: Sir, the Minister is not here. The Prime Minister is also not here. Who will reach.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view to the graveness of matter, I would apprise the Minister of Home Affairs of this subject.

[English]

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: He should reply in the House.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, he must come and make a statement as to how to protect the people of Tripura in the North-East because they are withdrawing the security forces.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi.

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: Sir, I can give you some other information about modernisation because the Government is always speaking about modernisation.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Choudhury, please take your seat.

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: During the last three years, only 400 AK-47 rifles and 2,300 SLR rifles have been given. While the actual requirement is very high, practically no supply of modern equipments has been made to the State.

13.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the last some years the disease of diabetes have been taking a very horrible shape in this country. Insulin, the important medicine for the treatment of this disease is in short supply throughout the country. This particular medicine is prepared from two different sources — one is human insulin which is very costly and a common man cannot afford whereas the second one is a animal based insulin which is cheap and generally used by common, poor man. There is acute shortage of

this medicine in the country and therefore lakhs of people living in rural areas of the country are unable to get the treatment of diabetes. The reason behind this is that the costly medicine is above the financial capacity of these poor people. The doctors have given the report that in and around Delhi even the children are becoming the victims of diabetes. If the action is not taken by the Government immediately then the children will be the worst affected. They can go in coma due to increase in sugar level. I would like the Government to understand the seriousness of this matter immediately. It has come to be known that human insulin is being produced by the multinational companies because it suites them and they are sold on high prices and thus they have stopped manufacturing animal based insulin which has caused its scarcity in the market. The Government should ensure the availability of animal based insulin in the market for the poor and common man on reasonable rates. Hon. Minister of Health is sitting here. I would like him to give assurance to the House as to what action Government is going to take in this regard?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Chaturvediji, he is also raising a health issue.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, fortunately, hon. Minister of Health is sitting here. Through you, I would like to request him that the infection of HIV, AIDS has become a controversial issue. The scientists all over the world are not having any accord on this issue. Some scientists do not agree with the existence of the medicine of HIV virus. But the data of spreading infection of this disease in a developing country like India is being publicised in a systematic manner through international institutions such as UNS, US Aid and WHO. In this regard Shri Ram Bahadur Ram has got an article published in Janasatta titled 'Lailaj rog se failata Udhog.' The data published in this article is controversial. According to Planning Commission, at present 35-40 lakh people are suffering from this disease. Our present Secretary, External Affairs stated the number of patients to be 85 lakh while the Standing Committee of Parliament stated this number to be 81 lakh. Similarly, the data provided by the hon. Minister few days back in the House is also misleading. I would like to tell the House that the World Bank loan worth Rs. 1425 crore has been taken for this purpose, the repayment of which has to be made in 30 years with 28 per cent rate of interest. Glaxo, a foreign company which manufactures a medicine for AIDS

have sold it for Rs. 3000 crore in the year 1999 which was even not advertised by them. Speculations are that during next five years the medicines worth Rs. 20,000 crore will be sold. The repayment of this Rs. 20,000 crore has to be made in the next 30 years with interest.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell the House that on the one hand the country will take a loan of Rs. 25,000 crore and on the other we have to pay the grant worth Rs. 1425 crore. This is a conspiracy to ruin the economy of India. I would like to request the hon. Minister of Health to take note of the seriousness of the matter and kindly tell the House whether the Government is likely to take any action against the massive scam which has taken place.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, would you like to say anything on both these issues?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member have raised the issue of diabetes. In this case many companies are gradually stopping the production of animal based insulin because it used to form anti-bodies in human body, thus any patient who earlier used to take 10 units started seeking 20 units after sometime of this usage and afterwards 40 units and 80 units and so on so forth. Accordingly one has to keep on increasing the dose of insulin as well. Therefore, all over the world people have started discarding it and now they are adopting the second method. Still, I will ensure that there is no shortage of this medicine. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Its price should be such that common man can afford it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chaturvedi, why are you disturbing when the Minister is replying?

[Translation]

DR. C.P. THAKUR: As the hon. Member has said that there is no two opinion about the fact that AIDS is a virus disease which causes due to its virus. But as hon. Member was referring somebody saying that there is no such disease called AIDS, is not true. As in the case of Africa where its President said that this disease

[Dr. C.P. Thakur]

did not exist in Africa. But when so many people started dying due to AIDS then he accepted. What has been told about Glaxo, I will get it enquired ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We also have to think as to how the people who are vegetarian would take animal based insulin.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: We will get it checked.

MR. SPEAKER: First of all it should be given to Dasmunsiji.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, kaun banega crorepati, aap, aap, aap ya main. I am not going to become crorepati. Sir, the programme kaun banega crorepati is anchored by Amitabh Bachchan. This programme is improving the general knowledge of children, women and all of us. It gives us a good amount of information. One day there was a question in this programme. The Zero Hour of Parliament lasts for how much time? An hour, for 15 minutes, 30 minutes or for 45 minutes. In its reply the Zero Hour was told to be lasting for one hour, whereas in reality there is no limit to zero hour. But the reply given over there should not be wrong. Therefore, I would like to request the Government that the reply given in the said programme of Star TV should be proved right. Zero Hour not necessarily lasts for one hour, it can conclude in 10 minutes. Zero Hour can last for two hours as well. Therefore, this reply is not correct. Therefore, I would like to request the Government that instructions should be issued to Star TV immediately.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to speak regarding declaring Bilaspur to Mungeli, Pauri, Mandla, highway of Chhattisgarh State as National Highway. By connecting this highway from Mungeli to Raipur, which is the capital of new Chhattisgarh State it should be developed into a National Highway. Roads there are in very bad condition. Movement of traffic is blocked. Whereas the traffic there has increased greatly, the roads are blocked therefore, people do not reach at their destination in time. The State Government is lacking funds. These roads have been included in NABARD scheme. The construction of said roads will connect them with the capital Raipur which in turn will provide transportation facilities to the people. Thus, I would like to request that above cited road should be declared National Highway and funds should be provided immediately after providing administrative concurrence for transportation.

SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL (Daman and Diu): Mr. Speaker, Sir, district panchayat was constituted in the Union Territory of Daman and Diu in 1994. But no powers have been provided to them till date...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL (Murena): Sir, atrocities are being committed on Dalits...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your statement is regarding law and order problem. How can you raise it here?

SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: According to the Amendment of 1972-73, district panchayats have not been provided with any powers till date. Through you, I would like to request that according to the 1972-73 Amendment district panchayats should be delegated powers. In Daman, administration is being run entirely by bureaucrats. No powers have been delegated to district panchayats there. I would like to request the Government that the powers should be delegated to district panchayats as early as possible. Two years back the report on district panchayat was laid in Ministry of Home Affairs by Ministry of Finance and it is gathering dust there till date. Since then no powers were delegated to district panchayat. I would like to request the Government that the powers should be delegated to district panchayat at the earliest.

[English]

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR (Dadra and Nagar Haveli): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no legislature and no democratic system there. I would to associate with the hon. Member on this.

[Translation]

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT (Nandurbar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to relate the hon. Minister of Railways about an accident which occurred on 1st November, 2000 in 76Up passenger from Bhusawal to Surat between Kikakuvi-Vayara in which 4 people were electrocuted while travelling a top bogie. The kith and kins of the victims were given only Rs. 5000 as compensation. This amount should be increased to Rs. one lakh. The train running on this line has only 9-10 bogies. Therefore, passengers travel on the roof of these bogies. The electrification work is undergoing on the route due to which these people died after coming in contact with the wires of Gujarat State Electricity Board. I would like to request the hon. Minister of Railways that the number of bogies in the all the four up and down trains running on this line should be increased to 15-16

so that the passengers are not compelled to travel on the roofs of the bogies and thus such accidents can be prevented.

[*English*]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, most of the monuments located in the cultural city of Bhubaneshwar are facing the risk of being overshadowed by the high-rise buildings. Many temples are virtually facing the prospect of going into oblivion. In a question answered by the Minister of Culture, he said that the Central Government declared an area of 100 metres around the protected monuments as prohibited for construction and mining purposes. However, high-rise buildings are coming up even within 20 metres to 80-metres of these monuments. I appeal to the Government of India to declare the old Bhubaneshwar area, which is full of very ancient and architecturally beautiful temples, as a heritage zone, and to strictly prohibit construction of high-rise buildings around those temples.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Hon. Speaker, Sir, through you I want to raise a serious matter in the august House and I want to draw the attention of the Government to it. IDPL is one of the oldest medicine-producing public sector companies of India. It is in a precarious condition now. IDPL has been producing life-saving drugs at rates that are cheaper than those of multinational companies. IDPL had gone to BIFR and BIFR had asked the Government of India to submit a revival package for IDPL. Government is very much reluctant to submit a revival package. Government has taken no decisive step in this regard to revive IDPL. Workers and employees of IDPL have not been getting their wages and salaries for a long period. IDPL workers and employees who have come from Hyderabad and other parts of the country are currently demonstrating in Delhi. IDPL's main unit in Hyderabad and its units in other parts of the country are now closed. Government has not taken any steps to submit a revival package for IDPL. My modest demand is that the Government should take immediate steps to prepare a revival package for IDPL, and make arrangements so that the workers and employees of IDPL get their wages and salaries immediately.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the whole Jharkhand including Ranchi district is in the grip of Malaria. Thousands have died within a year and at present the hospitals are full. Medicines are also not available. Medicines are costly and the disease

is spreading among the poor tribals who live near the forests.

I would like to request the Government to send a central team for its prevention. Cheap medicines should also be made available in that area so that the people who are dying in hundreds can be saved.

SHRI TARACHAND SAHU (Durg): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Chhattisgarh is a new State and we are facing severe famine there.

[*English*]

Now, it is the month of November. Though summer season is six months away, even now the situation is very bad there.

[*Translation*]

All the rivers, ponds there have dried up and the level of water in borewell has receded considerably. There is the crisis of drinking water, crisis of pond water, crisis of fodder which is forcing the people to migrate in large numbers. The House will be surprised to hear that when I went to a village, the Sarpanch of that village gave me the names of 1700 persons who migrated from the village. The situation is very bad there. I would like to urge the Central Government that the people there need foodgrains more than the money. Out of total aid, 80% should be given as grains and 20% as money. The State Government there is busy with its own fun and festivities. They are politicising this issue also. It is sad. They have also issued orders which says that relief works would be undertaken only on the instructions of the Minister-in-charge there. But no relief work has been undertaken. Each block has been given a negligible amount of Rs. 50,000 whereas each block has 100 villages. The situation is very bad. Since villagers are migrating, the outsiders have also come to know about the severe famine in Chhattisgarh and they are exploiting the situation. People are being exploited there women are being forced to stay while men are forced to go back. The contractors have also stopped paying them wages.

I request the Central Government to tackle the situation by constituting a Committee of Members of Parliament.

[*English*]

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia): Sir, Damodar Valley Bastuhara Sangram Samity is on *dharma* from 4th

[Shri Bir Singh Mahato]

November, 2000 at Maithan in Dhanbad District of Jharkhand station. This DVBSS is an organisation of the displaced persons of Maithan and Panchet Reservoir Area.

They have submitted the Charter of Demands. Their first demand is that in the Displaced Panel of 1978, the dependants of those who crossed the age of 40 years should be given appointments in their place, and 1978 panel should be completed within six months.

Their second main demand is that 1992 Recasted Displaced Panel should be verified with their land record immediately.

Sir, their third and most important demand is that the unused DVC land should be allotted among the displaced and local persons for shops and business purposes immediately.

So, Sir, I request the Government authorities to kindly sit with the DVC and settle this issue so that the demands of this organisation, which are long pending now, are met as early as possible.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the misuse of the Government Media, Doordarshan by some private parties.

The news telecast is the most important way of dissemination of information not only in the country but the whole of the world. But there are some private news makers who are misusing the Government Media. My request is that our Government Media should be used and scrutinised in a proper way so that the news is prepared in a proper manner and then correct news is telecast all over the country.

Sir, as you know at Doordarshan's DD-7 Channel which is a Bangla Channel, one news agency is giving a programme known as *Khas Khabar*. On the 21st November during the telecast of their news, they mentioned Kashmir as 'Indian occupied Kashmir'. We all know that Pak occupied Kashmir is there but there is no Indian occupied Kashmir. Kashmir is an integral part of India.

Similarly, a few days back, they showed the national flag upside down.

Likewise, a few months back, while giving news, they denigrated one internationally accepted philosopher.

Later on, they apologised. So, private news producers should not be allowed to produce news for Doordarshan. Star News and Zee News are private channels. But the Government-run channels should not be misused by private news producers. News programmes like KHAS KHABAR AND AAJ TAK should not be allowed to be produced by private parties. If the Government does not properly look into the contents of these news programmes and scrutinise them wrong news will be telecast all over the country. So, I demand that privately produced news programmes should be stopped forthwith and the Government alone should telecast proper news programmes.

MR. SPEAKER: The Government should take note of it and look into the matter.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): I will inform the Minister concerned regarding it.

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House towards a very alarming situation. On the occasion of holy Ramadan hon. Prime Minister has announced a cease fire which has been welcomed by all the parties and also the whole world. Everybody is concerned about the situation there as people of all communities are getting killed. Intelligence agencies have failed miserably. On an average, daily 17 persons are being killed. Personnel of para-military forces, military are being killed. Persons belonging to both the minorities communities—Sikhs as well as Hindus are being killed. Government ought to take concrete and effective measures to tackle the situation otherwise the ceasefire will not yield benefits for the country. I request the Government to rise from its deep slumber and give its full attention to this very important Kashmir problem as they know that the ISI will increase its across-the-border terrorist activities after this Ramadan announcement of ceasefire. But Government totally failed to make arrangements to tackle the situation.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, I possess a unique document. According to it, four Ministers of this Government have been served notice with regard to disproportionate assets and Income tax and the court has instructed the action be taken within three months. Government has filed an affidavit to the effect that a 'high level inquiry' has been set up and action will be taken.* I want to ask what action has been

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

taken about income-tax notice and the disproportionate assets case as per instructions of the Court? On the one hand, these Ministers are in the Government, while on the other hand Laloo Prasad ji, who is a respected leader of poor, is continuously being insulted in the disproportionate assets case. I allege that Government has double standards. On the one hand violaters of the income-tax law and holders of disproportionate assets are sitting pretty as Ministers while on the other leaders of the poor are being sent to jail to settle political scores and thus poor are being demoralised. I request the House to consider it and I want to know what actions has been or are being taken against the four Ministers and how action relating to income-tax and disproportionate assets can be initiated against them when they are holding their posts. You are the head of this House, please decide and tell us about the decision. All the four Ministers should be sent to jail and the action should be expedited.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Majeri): Sir, please direct the Minister concerned to come here and clarify the position. They are answerable to the House.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Sir, everyday we read in the newspapers that Government of India is not assisting the Rajasthan Government. This allegation of the hon. Chief Minister is baseless and false. He is defaming the Government of India to hide his misrule. Rajasthan is in the grip of famine and there is drinking water crisis. Earlier, the Government of India gave a matching grant of Rs. 75 crores to State Government but the required contribution was not made by the State Government. Thereafter, State Government received Rs. 105 crores and again Rs. 100 crore. But these were spent on things not connected with famine and water. The hon. Chief Minister of Rajasthan spent the whole amount on the allowances of the legislators and did not attend to the human problems. I request the Central Government warn the Chief Minister against defaming the Government of India and also against the misuse of money. Rajasthan has a severe drinking water crisis. Every village and city are facing this crisis. Therefore, hon. Chief Minister should focus his attention to the human problems and he has no right to issue such statements.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the allegations of Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh were made without your permission. I want that the name of the four Ministers which he has mentioned should be expunged from the proceedings.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If they are objectionable, they would be expunged from the records.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I am speaking with full responsibility. I lay all the documents in this regard on the Table of the House. If these are proved wrong. I may be dismissed from my Membership of this House...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk): Sir, I want to raise an important issue. The Calcutta Port Trust had submitted a proposal for river regulatory measures. As you know, ports are the lifeline of the economy. Port is important infrastructure and very important for the industrial resurgence. The Calcutta Port and the Haldia Port are riverine ports. So, the shipping channel has to be dredged. For a long time, since 1991, no major dredging work has been undertaken for maintaining the navigability of the channel. That is why the big ships are facing impediments for entering into the shipping channel.

Sir, two years ago the Calcutta Port Trust had submitted a proposal for river regulatory measures. The Calcutta Port Trust engaged a German consultancy firm headed by Sundermann. According to its recommendations, this scheme for dredging was drawn up. But the Ministry of Surface Transport and the Ministry of Finance of the Government of India are not giving approval and as a consequence of that, Haldia Port and the Calcutta Port are going to be closed.

I request the hon. Minister of Surface Transport and also the Minister of Finance to give approval to the river regulatory measures so that the Haldia and Calcutta Ports can be saved for the interest of West Bengal and the whole of Eastern region.

* Not recorded

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (Calicut): I would like to raise an important matter regarding the hardship faced by the *Haj* pilgrims of the Northern part of Kerala. Most of the *Haj* pilgrims of Kerala, nearly 75 per cent of them, are from Northern part of Kerala. Now, the *Haj* flight is operating only from Cochin International Airport. Due to this, the pilgrims of Northern Kerala have to start one day in advance.

The Cochin Airport was inaugurated only two years back. It has no accommodation facility. I, therefore, request the Government to announce Calicut Airport as embarkation point for the *haj* pilgrims from Kerala and also ensure availability of aircraft so as to avoid uncertainty of the return flight. Next Month, work on the runway expansions will be completed. So, the Air India can operate flight from Calicut to Jeddah. It will be very helpful for the *haj* pilgrims from the northern part of Kerala.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, in connection with what Shri Muraleedharan has just now said, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Speaker as also the House that last time, the Air India could not bring back the *Hajis* because arrangements were made for them only at Chennai, Mumbai and other places. *Hajis* from Kerala, Hyderabad and Lucknow had all suffered due to this. So, a demand was made to make arrangements at all the three points. So far as Calicut airport area is concerned, everything is ready. Out of 8000 *Hajis*, 6000 are from northern part of Kerala around Calicut airport region but they have to go to Cochin and there also no sufficient arrangement has been made. Hyderabad is another problem point. The *Hajis* are finding it very difficult as they have to fly all the way either to Mumabi or Delhi. Therefore, my request is to include both Calicut and Hyderabad as the two points for the *Haj* pilgrims.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Sir, I also associate myself with what Shri Muraleedharan has just now said.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I associate myself with what Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay had said. I was absent at that time.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the holy Ganga flows in Uttar Pradesh. On its bank is the Allahabad city. Preparations for 'Kumbh Mela' has started there. Central Government has extended

maximum possible assistance in this regard. Similar situation exists in South India also. A river named Godavari flows there. Nasik and Trayambakeshwar are located on its bank. 'Kumbh Mela' is scheduled for the year 2003 at that place. I request the Central Government to extend maximum possible assistance with regard to roads, railways and other facilities.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to associate myself with him.

[English]

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargoda)*: Thank you very much Sir for this belated opportunity. The commoner of the State of Kerala is crushed under the weight of the recent hike in the prices of PDS rice and wheat. This has happened at a time when the agricultural produces of our State like rubber, coconut and arecanut are fetching half its prices when compared to last year's, due to the wrong and unthoughtful import policies of this Government. Moreover, the rise in the price of petroleum products too has burdened the farmers of my State. The recent increase in the issue price of the foodgrains by the Central Government has resulted in the equalisation of market rate and the PDS rate. If good quality of rice and wheat is available for the same price in the open market, who will go for the stale foodgrains supplied through the PDS? Obviously, the off take has come down and the stock is piling up in the godowns. I even doubt a secret liaison with the traders. I feel that it is the duty of the Central Government to roll back the prices to reflect the actual commodity value. Hence, I urge upon the Government to consider the reduction of prices of rice and wheat to be distributed through PDS and also to enhance the import tariff of vegetable oils.

[English]

13.33 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Fifteenth Report

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): Sir, I beg to present the Fifteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Malayalam.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned for lunch till 14.30 hours.

13.34 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till thirty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[English]

14.34 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at thirty-four minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN *in the Chair*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House shall take up
Calling Attention Motion.

Shri T.M. Selvaganpathi — Not present.

[Translation]

14.35 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF
URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Labour unrest in Maruti Udyog Limited

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Sir, I draw the attention of hon'ble Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises and request for a statement in this regard:

"Situation arising out of discontent in workers of Maruti Udyog Limited and steps of Government in this regard."

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI): Sir, I wish to make a statement concerning the labour unrest in Maruti Udyog Limited, MUL, a 50:50 joint venture between Government of India and Suzuki Motor Corporation of Japan. The labour unrest started from 9th September, 2000 mainly due to differences between the management of MUL and Maruti Udyog Employees Union, MUEU, regarding productivity linked incentive payable to workmen. The other demands of the workers include revision of conveyance allowance, formulation of a

company based pension scheme, promotion of workers to Supervisory level in non production areas and setting up of a grievance redressal mechanism in the company, etc.

The 1995 incentive scheme in MUL was operational for a period of four years with effect from 1st April, 1995. The management of MUL was keen to keep the employee costs in check to retain the competitiveness of MUL in a highly competitive market while making the new incentive scheme. MUEU, on the other hand, has been opposing the new method of calculating the incentive. The Union representatives and the MUL management held a meeting on 23rd September, 2000 to consider the management's proposal for the new incentive scheme but no agreement could be reached.

As the matter could not be resolved and the production in the factory was getting affected, the management on 11th October, 2000 decided to notify the new incentive scheme to bring normalcy in the operations. Management has also sought a Good Conduct Undertaking from workmen before entering the factory with effect from 12th October, 2000. MUEU had sought *ad-interim* injunction from the Civil Court against Good Conduct Undertaking, but the Court dismissed the request. MUL has dismissed and terminated the services of 44 workmen and 21 trainees and suspended another 10 workmen since the start of the agitation.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan): This is highly objectionable. Workers cannot be asked to give certificates of good conduct.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister is making the statement. Let him complete it first.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): How can the management demand good conduct certificates from the workers?...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): This is a kind of dictatorship.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): For the first time this has happened.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You follow the procedure.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We want to know whether the Minister would subscribe to it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

[Translation]

Do you support it?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the policy of the Government towards labourers is that of oppression...(Interruptions) 83 persons have been dismissed there...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the rights of the workers are being ignored there...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is making the statement. You hear the statement first. Please see the last two lines.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, I have not yielded. I would like to complete my statement...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. R.P. Singh, you hear the Minister fully.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: There had been two unfortunate incidents of death involving MUL personnel on 17th and 18th October, 2000. The MUEU had alleged that high-handedness on the part of the management resulted in these two incidents...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You hear the entire statement.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: The management of MUL has claimed that they have nothing to do with it...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Suzuki is not above the law of this country, Sir ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is Calling Attention Motion. Nobody is permitted to speak except the names mentioned here.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nobody is permitted.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): What is your policy?...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: You are not listening to the policy. You have no courtesy to hear me. The policy has been explained in the statement. Sir, I expect that the Members should have the courtesy to listen to the policy of the Government...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. R.P. Singh, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: I hope the Members would have the courtesy to listen to the policy of the Government about the undertaking which the management is asking for. If you do not listen to it, then how can I explain?...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: What is your stand on Good Conduct Undertaking?...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: I will reply to your question, if you ask it in a proper manner and not when I am reading the statement. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister may complete his statement.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, to say that I will be able to reply to them if they ask me in a proper manner. This is not the manner which I am expecting in this supreme House. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not the procedure at all.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: The management of MUL claims to have been able to increase the production to normal levels with the help of managers, supervisors, apprentices and workmen who have signed the Good Conduct Undertaking. Out of a total of 4515 unionized employees in the Company, 1474 have reported for duty till 27th November, 2000. The management has informed that average daily production from April to September was 1205 vehicles whereas during November, 2000, MUL has been able to achieve a higher level of production with an average daily production of 1310 vehicles until 27th November, 2000.

I have held several meetings with the Union representatives and management. Honourable Members of Parliament have also been meeting me in this regard.

At every stage, I have endeavoured to resolve the dispute and bring about an amicable settlement between the labour and the management. It is important that discipline in the factor is maintained and profitability of the enterprise is not impaired particularly in the face of fierce competition that exists today in the market. It is equally, if not more, important that the rights of workers are protected and they are not subjected to any humiliation. The management had sought certain safeguards to ensure that harmony will be restored in the organisation and that the law will have to take its course in regard to disciplinary action taken against workers. The incentive scheme notified by the management is founded on present day norms of productivity and needs to be duly honoured. However, Government did not consider it appropriate to insist that each worker executes a Good Conduct Undertaking. Such an undertaking is not in consonance with the spirit of collective bargaining. Government had, therefore, proposed that unions may furnish an assurance to the management that the employees will abide by the extant Standing Orders of the Company. This would only amount to the workers agreeing to work in accordance with the established rules and procedures. Besides such an assurance, the union was requested to agree that disciplinary action pending against workers for alleged misconduct would be pursued in accordance with the appropriate labour laws and that the scheme of incentive notified by the management would be accepted.

The management has agreed to this course of action and to drop insistence on individual workers furnishing a Good Conduct Undertaking. The response of the Union is awaited. We hope that the workers would find these terms of settlement acceptable as their principal demand that the Good Conduct Undertaking be withdrawn is being acceded to. It might be noted that the essence of the settlement is the spirit of collective bargaining and protection of the basic rights of workers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has given notice of a Calling Attention. Only those hon. Members who have given notice of a Calling Attention shall be allowed to speak. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: In the absence of Shri Selvaganapathi, you please allow me to speak.
 ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: As an ally of AIADMK, I have a right to be substituted! Are you agreeing to this?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. Nobody can be substituted.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramji Lal Suman to speak.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: When you are sitting in the Chair, you please allow me to speak. Since your party Member is absent, I can be allowed to speak.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You are not his ally.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: He is my good friend.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, I have no objection to this. I know that Shri T.M. Selvaganapathy, who has to initiate this discussion, is not present in the House at the moment. Of course, the next Member can speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is why, I called Shri Ramji Lal Suman to speak. Rule 197 provides that only those Members who have given notices alone are eligible to put supplementary questions.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Chair has the discretionary power to allow me. Sir, you can exercise your power.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It would apply if there are no Members. But now there are three Members to speak. So, Shri Ramji Lal Suman to speak now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is great discontentment in Maruti Udyog Limited since last 18 months. Workers are being oppressed in the name of discipline. In my opinion Shri Joshiji would have read out the statement prepared by the management. As per my information, 4167 workers are still kept idle. They want to work but the management is not ready to provide them work. Maruti Udyog Limited Employees Union is the sole union of the said institution which has requested the management for negotiations to resolve two outstanding issues. Basically, they have two problems: Production Incentive Scheme and Pension Scheme. When the repeated requests of the Union went unheeded, the

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

Union gave strike notice on 18 September. Immediately after that, a relay hunger strike was initiated by them. On October 12, the gate of the factory was closed and the General Secretary of the Union was arrested and sent to jail without any warrant. Most importantly, a notice was pasted on the gate indicating that only those workers would be allowed to enter who provides a signed undertaking. 12 workers were suspended while 70 were dismissed.

I also know a little bit of law. One should get an opportunity to explain himself before being penalized. This standing order, relating to workers, is of Maruti Udyog Limited, Gurgaon. In regard to termination of services of workers there is provision in clause 21.2, 21.3 and 21.4 of this book. Under sub-clause 21.12 of clause 21.1 no order can be issued unless the workers concerned are provided written information about charges for misconduct and opportunity is provided to him to clarify his conduct in the said circumstances. Clause 21.3, sub-clause.....of clause 21.1.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can put a question.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The rule 197 (2) says:

"There shall be no debate on such statement at the time it is made but each member in whose name the item stands in the list of business may, with the permission of the Speaker, ask a clarificatory question and the Minister shall reply at the end to all such questions."

You are debating. You put a question to the Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: I am coming to that. I mean to say that the workers were penalized without any notice or hearing them. Most importantly, the bodies of two workers, Shri Chandrabhan and Shri Rajesh were found in the campus of Maruti Udyog Limited. Both were murdered. The Union repeatedly requested for the C.B.I. probe on the innocence plea of the management. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I charge the management as being responsible for the incident either directly or indirectly. An agreement between Union and Management was signed on February 6, 1998 and this agreement expired on March 31, 2000. A new agreement can be signed. The workers' Union also wants it. But management is

not ready for it. Losses in crores of rupees are being incurred. But most importantly, production of cars in Maruti Udyog Limited has increased sharply, cost per car has declined and the profits have increased. Can we not give the workers a share in the profits? Maruti Udyog is profiting on their blood and sweat and when they demand a share in the profit they are abused, beaten and dismissed without showing any cause. It is not justice.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have to put a clarificatory question. It is not a debate. You have already taken more than five minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: My demand to the hon'ble Minister is that workers be given the benefits of Production Incentive Scheme and Pension Scheme through a new agreement. The earlier agreement has expired. A new agreement should be signed now. A C.B.I. probe should be ordered into the death of two persons and the suspended and dismissed workers should be reinstated immediately. The notice pasted on the gate, be removed, illegal lock out is withdrawn. These are my demands.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (Sirsa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the workers of Maruti Udyog Limited are the first victims of multinational companies. It was presumed that when they will come in India, they would try to enslave us through our workers. There is a confrontation between management and workers in Maruti Udyog and hon'ble Minister has informed us about the demands of workers.

But along with its decision on their two major demands relating to amendment of Production Scheme and Company Pension Scheme, Government also said that workers could go for work in the factory only if they sign an undertaking of good conduct. Meanwhile, some incidents, two workers died. I would like to ask hon'ble Minister, whether he would order an impartial probe by C.B.I. into the death of the workers?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in his statement, hon'ble Minister said that Incentive Scheme was launched on 1.4.1995. But he did not give the details of the share of workers in it. Worker has strengthened not only the Maruti Udyog but the whole country through his blood and sweat and therefore is eligible for his share. I would like to know what share was being given to the workers in the

Incentive Scheme earlier and also about the future plans of Government regarding the share so that production is increased and its benefit should accrue not only to the country but also to the workers. I would also like to tell the hon'ble Minister one thing. In democracy, it is the right of the workers to convey his views to the Government through democratic means, such as strike or procession or agitation whenever they face problems. But the Government has violated their rights by prohibiting them from protesting. I request the hon'ble Minister to withdraw the order to signing Good Conduct Undertaking by the workers. You are aware that the members of Maruti Udyog employees Union have met you as well as Shri Pandiyanji, Shri Ramji Lalji, other hon'ble Members and also the hon'ble Prime Minister. They have related their sad story to all of them. I request you to kindly consider on their demands and see that justice is done to them. They are expressing their views in a democratic manner but they also should be assured that management would not victimize them once the strike is over.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You may request the Government of Haryana to put pressure on the Labour Commissioner but the Government of Haryana is not putting any pressure you may talk to Chautala ji...(*Interruptions*)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: They are not allowing the labourers to go there. They are not allowing them to work...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit, through you, that if the distinguished Member can help the Government of Haryana and if the Government of Haryana becomes active to take action against the management of Maruti Udyog Limited on the labour issue, the hon. Minister here will have to act. But both the parties, the party that is in power in Haryana as well as the party to which the hon. Minister belongs, are in the National Democratic Alliance and that is why I am requesting them.

[*Translation*]

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a matter related to the Central Government and not to the Government of Haryana since the Government's stake in Maruti Udyog Ltd. is 50 per cent and the rest 50 per cent stake lies with the Suzuki Company of Japan. And then, the Union Government has to take action in this regard. I would like to know from the hon. Minister

as to how it has affected the Production of Maruti Udyog Ltd.

15.00 hrs.

As the hon. Minister said that the average production of the vehicles has registered an increase, but I possess a cutting of the newspaper, 'Business Standard', which reveals—

[*English*]

"The sale of Maruti-800 comes down from 16,223 units in September to just 8,775 units in October."

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: There has been a loss of Rs. 20,000 crore...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, you are a Senior Member. While sitting, you are talking. This is the institution of Parliament.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you had given a notice, I would have allowed it.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: What I want to say is that the sale is directly proportionate to the production. Sale of the vehicles would automatically increase with the increase in production. I would like to know from the hon. Minister that if the production has actually increased then why have the sales gone down?

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put a question. That is all.

[*Translation*]

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: I am not delivering any speech, but just asking a question. The hon. Minister right now said that amongst the suspended workers, 44 were labourers and 21 were apprentices, but as per my knowledge 88 workers were dismissed and 15 workers were suspended there. I do not know whether his

[Dr. Sushil Kumar Indora]

information is correct or my information is correct. A discussion on disinvestment was also going on...*(Interruptions)* It is said that the country is being sold by way of dis-investment process. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is bent upon ruining the Maruti Udyog by bringing about dis-investment in it? I also want to know whether the Government are going to safeguard the interest of the poor labourers by intervening in this matter or not? Alongwith this I want to know the quantum of profit accrued from the imports disbursed among the officers and the labourers, because the average pay of the labourers is Rs. 7500. I have heard that the officers are earning a profit of two to three lakh rupees. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the labourers are being paid in proportion to the toil they put in?

[English]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I call the attention of the hon. Minister to this issue and the statement made by the hon. Minister. I would like to say that it is rather contrary to the facts. The dispute arises in the Maruti Udyog Limited not because of unrest of the workers but due to the unconstitutional, unethical, illegal and stern attitude of the management. The management does not pay any respect to the laws of the country. They have thrown away the labour laws in the waste paper basket. Even then, they have not agreed to have bilateral talks with the sole recognised union of the Maruti Udyog Limited.

Not only that, the workers are being prevented to enter into the factory. Before entering, they are asked to endorse a good conduct certificate. It is a good behaviour certificate just like that under the 107 Cr. P.C. Are they bonded labourers? Are they '*Bandhua Mazdoors*'? Why should they give a good conduct certificate before entering into the factory? Not only that, the management has also dismissed 83 workers. The management has suspended more than 70 workers. The action taken by the management of the Maruti Udyog Limited is unethical and unconstitutional. It is an infringement of rights which have been given in the Constitution of India to every citizen of the country.

The workers were prevented by the management to carry on peaceful trade union activities, which is embodied in the statute. It is not only that but the management is giving wrong advertisement in the papers everyday that the rate of production is decreasing day by day and that they have incurred a loss of Rs. 300 crore.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question? This is not a debate. Please put your question.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Sir, I am putting my question. They have also sought the intervention of the Haryana Police also and the police arrested the Secretary and the President of the workers union when they were on hunger strike.

My specific questions to the hon. Minister are that in view of the joint memorandum submitted by MPs from various political parties to the hon. Prime Minister, will the Government kindly take appropriate steps to bring about normalcy in Maruti Udyog Limited to end the stalemate? Whether the Government will take steps to direct the management to withdraw the 'Good Conduct Undertaking Order' for seeking undertaking for good conduct from individual workers? Whether the Government is ready to direct the management of MUL to withdraw the suspension and dismissal order forthwith? Whether the Government is ready to direct the appropriate statutory bodies to process other pending issues? Whether the Government is ready to initiate impartial probe order of the death of the worker while they are working within the premises of the factory? Lastly, whether the Government has forgotten that the Government is the owner of MUL and 50 per cent of its shares are held by it and whether the Government has taken a decision to surrender before the Sukuki Company by selling out the ownership of the company to them?

These are my specific questions to the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has just now made a statement in response to the Calling Attention Motion on the discontentment among the workers of Maruti Udyog Ltd. Sir, through you, I wish to say that it seems as if this statement has been drafted by the Management of the Maruti Udyog. His claim with respect to the increase in production of vehicles in Maruti Udyog is wholly untrue. The management of the Maruti Udyog Ltd. portrayed this rosy picture in a pre-planned manner whereunder 25,000 vehicle were already manufactured and stored. Such stored vehicles are now being brought out to present a fake figure of increased production despite the fact that 4100 workers, out of 4700 are not attending the factory. I do not agree with the contention of the hon. Members discussing this issue here that it is merely a workers' agitation. It is not workers' agitation. The workers have been prevented from entering the premises. I want to

display a photograph before you. The police was deputed at the gate and a board of 'Good Conduct Undertaking' placed there. The workers were asked to sign the board before they were permitted in. I have not come across any such agitation where the workers are prevented from going inside like this, but, infact, there was no agitation at all here. It is being said that the workers have launched an agitation, but I do not agree to it. The workers were stopped at the gate by deputing the police.

He has said that the Government have assured to withdraw the Good Conduct Undertaking when the workers were stopped from going inside by installing the Good Conduct Undertaking Board, the workers held a meeting and tried to appeal to the Government for help. Thereafter, 70 people were expelled and 15 were suspended. People working for the last 15 or 30 years, were stopped from working by installing the 'Good Conduct Undertaking' board. The workers who did not abide by this black law, were expelled from the company. The hon. Minister has stated that action would be taken under the Labour Laws. Such a situation has been created by the Management of the Maruti Udyog. The management displayed a new black-law and did not let the workers enter the premises and also took action against thereunder. I want to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government would direct the Management to unconditionally reinstate all the workers to their respective jobs with honour from the date of their suspension and expulsion? The Maruti Udyog is registering a perennial increase in its income because of the hard work put in by the workers. Rupees 300 crore were earned during the last Financial year due to the hard work of the workers. The period of agreement reached regarding implementation of incentive scheme and pension etc. in 1995 has expired now. Does the Government intend to implement the incentive scheme for the workers in proportion to the increased profit earnings during this period? Whether the Government is intending to issue any orders regarding pension? Shri Chandrabhan and Shri Rajesh...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should put a question.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: I will take just half a minute more. Whether compensation will be paid to the next of kin of the workers who died in mysterious circumstances, Mr. Chairman, Sir, this matter may kindly be considered seriously and resolved as soon as possible...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the hon. Minister may now reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra): Sir, I have given a notice. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rudy, your notice was disallowed by the Speaker.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, I want to make my submission. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot. The Speaker has disallowed your notice.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are all senior Members. Show me any provision in this book-Rule 197-under which I can permit you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I urge upon your wisdom to use your discretion. This is such an important matter relating to a major undertaking and to the public interest. The Minister should clarify as to what is the policy of the Government in regard to keeping this unit or disinvest it. What is the policy of the Government in regard to taking back the dismissed employees?...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Since I am in the Chair, I am not able to speak. The Minister may recall the representation that I made.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, kindly allow me to put a question to the hon. Minister after the reply of the Minister. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Rs. 2 lakh 747 thousand crores were invested in public undertakings. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will not be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You must follow rule 197. This is Calling Attention. Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, you take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, it will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramdas Athawale, this will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have not been permitted by the Speaker himself. You resume your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not proper This is improper. You must respect the ruling of the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You must respect the ruling of the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then, I have to take action. Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, you are inviting an action.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, take your seat. This is not expected of a Member. I will take action against you. I have to take action.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, you control your side. You have to control.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not proper.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not proper.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why do the ruling Parties not control him?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why do you not control him?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why do you not control him? Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, this is not proper.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, nothing will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Chair is constrained to take action. You are not sitting. I have to take action. I will take action. I will name you. I will name Shri Ramdas Athawale. I have to name you.

...*(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, there is an end to it. You must follow a procedure. You must follow the rule. I will take action.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already finished.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, Now the hon. Minister, you can commence your speech.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record, expect the speech of the Minister.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Nawal Kishore Rai, I will name you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Nawal Kishore Rai, I have to name you.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: I am thankful to all those members who participated in the debate. I am thankful to them for bringing out all the points which were necessary to be brought before this August House. I am indeed happy that the issue has been discussed because it was necessary to discuss in the interest of all those concerned with Maruti Udyog. I agree with Shri Basu Deb Acharia that it is in the interest of the nation also that this issue should be discussed in the House. Therefore, my request to the entire House would be that the points which I would like to make today are important from the point of view of the management of such companies as well as from the point of view of unions also. This is a very strange situation which the country is facing today. It is needless to say that there is a recession all over. It is needless to say that unemployment problem is also existing today to a large extent.

Let me complete. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri M.V.V.S. Murthi, you have not given a notice. What is this? You must follow the rules.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: It is the responsibility of all of us to see that those companies which are running, also keep on running. I am sure that one who has the interests in the welfare of the country will definitely agree with my views that we must look to the interests of the country first, above everything else. And, therefore, taking due interest in the political parties, taking due interest in the unions for which we work, also it is necessary to see that the units of different Companies do not close down. And, therefore, for the last almost three months as the concerned Minister, I have been trying to find out a settlement between the Management and the Unions seriously. Here, it is a strange case. I am happy to mention that this Company has a good management and the Company has equally good workers. ...(Interruptions) Of course, when I say workers, it means that the leaders of the workers are also included.

A Company's prosperity is not only because of one aspect. There are various reasons for the prosperity of the Company which the Company has done and we must all be proud of a company like Maruti Udyog Limited. This Company made a tremendous progress since its inception. Somebody may not give credit to the Company just because of the licensing system which existed earlier. Even during the competition time in the last few years after 1991-92 also, when the other companies suffered, this Company maintained its leadership. I have seen, in the case of other companies, that initially the companies started as companies of our own but slowly they have been taken over by a number of multi-nationals. Today in the Automobile Sector the picture is grave and we find that the only company where 50 per cent of the shares are with the Government—we may call with the Indians—is this particular Company and therefore, the matter must be looked at seriously.

It is not that I am here to side with either the management or the union. But if I place before you a few figures, you must take them in the proper spirit. I will discuss the issues which were raised in the House and I will discuss all the questions that have been raised, provided the time permits. But I must say that the incentive—one must understand—is not a question for bargaining. The incentive is an offer by the Company. The incentive is not a deal or a point of dispute. The incentive is decided by the management on its own will, agreed by the unions also. It is not considered to be a right. There may be other things like the DA, salary, or basic salary. They are the rights of the workers for which they fight for. And there may be other issues like pension etc. Those issues have been raised in this House. But the workers have never raised them before me.

* Not recorded.

[Shri Manohar Joshi]

The two issues about which the workers are sensitive right from the beginning were, one about the incentive issue and the other about the Good Conduct Undertaking which has been strongly put forth by the Members of Parliament here...(Interruptions) Of course, I will deal with victimisation which has also been raised and for which a reply has been given in my statement. Of course, to that also I will refer...(Interruptions)

Therefore, I said this is a case where both the sides are good, the strike has continued and sometimes I personally feel that there is a necessity to go into the roots to find out what may be the other exterior reasons for this particular strike, which I have not been able to find so far.

But the apparent reason is that there is no strike. But the people have been referring it as a strike. ...(Interruptions) But I have said that it is not a strike. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ajoy Chakraborty, you cannot get up without my permission.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: First, I come to the incentive issue. The incentive issue was started right from 1988. For four years, the agreement was done. First time, there was an agreement. The second time, an agreement could not be arrived at. Therefore, after four years, a declaration was made by the management and the workers accepted the incentive. Therefore, on the same lines, this time also it was made. The incentive was declared, but it was not accepted by the workers. It is interesting to note what the incentive is and what are the results of the incentive. I would like to put before the August House the comparison of the incentives—the union proposal and the management proposal, cost to the company of this incentive. This figure is really interesting. I would be happy if all the workers could get that amount on the present date.

Sir, in 1999-2000, the union proposal was Rs. 25,636 management proposal was Rs. 23,008. In 2000-2001, the management proposal was Rs. 25,800 approximately and the union proposal was Rs. 30,000. On the same lines, the management's proposal would have been Rs. 29,743. In 2001-2002 while it would have been Rs. 37,000 from union side. In 2002-2003, the proposal would be Rs. 33,767 while union was for Rs. 42,559. In the year 2000, in the present circumstances also, the management is prepared to give the incentive. But the workers are

asking for Rs. 42,000. May I ask a simple question, which all my learned friends present here can reply? I would like to know whether it is possible to pay such a huge amount after three or four years. The company, in its wisdom, thought that this decision should not be taken today.

Sir, we know what has happened in the case of number of different Governments belonging to different States. The salaries were given to any extent without application of mind because there was no management as such in the Governments and today almost all States are facing financial problems. Some of the States are not in a position to pay the salaries to the workers also. Do you want that condition to happen in the case of Maruti Udyog Limited?...(Interruptions) Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, I am sorry. I am not supporting one side or the other. I am simply giving the facts. Ultimately, let them decide.

However, on certain points I must make it clear that I am also in favour of the workers. This is the point, which we must also consider whether it is possible to pay a particular salary. I must give you the figures as to what was the profit of the company when it started; what was the profit after ten years; what is the profit today; and what will be the profit of the company after five years. One must consider the company, as one's own. One cannot say that running a company, like this, is the concern of the Government. This Government may be the Government of this particular Party today, but Governments keep on changing. We have seen it in the past. So, we must always feel that this Company belong to us. And if the Company belongs to you, can you behave in the same manner? If you behave in the same manner, this Company will also be like some of the other States that the Company will not be able to pay today. Therefore, I am prepared to present to all the Members what are the salaries paid by other companies, which Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy said here and which has not gone on record. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot answer Shri Rudy. His speech was expunged.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: I am not answering him here. ...(Interruptions)

Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, you need not worry about it. The figures are really astonishing. The present position is that no other company is paying even 50 per cent of the salary which Maruti Udyog Limited pays.

With this also, all this trouble started. I must say that it is not only me but the Government is also in favour of workers. But if the workers are paid Rs. 15,000 as salary, the amount, including incentive, goes to Rs. 23,000—I am talking about the average so that you can understand; sometimes it may be more than that, sometimes it may be a little less than that—and they have all facilities which a normal worker should have. ...(*Interruptions*)

I heard you patiently. I never disturbed any Member when they were speaking. My request would be to please listen to me also. Therefore, Sir, I negotiated with the workers. Let me tell you that my discussions with the workers were for more number of times than with the management. If you want to know, I have got the record of the meetings which I have taken. I discussed with the management two times but I discussed with the workers' representatives ten times. So, it is not that I have failed to understand their sentiments. I discussed with them because they are the bigger part of the society, not the management. If you feel that this Government wants to side with the management, this impression is unfortunately not a correct impression. I discussed with the workers ten times and ultimately they have now told that the issue of incentive is not that important.

I am not going into it as to how many workers have gone inside or how many workers are outside. I may say that my figures are not always authentic, but the figures may be almost the same because I have the figures from both and I have found that the figures are almost the same. The figures are not important, the principle involved is important, that is, whether you can give the salaries as demanded. I personally feel that it is really not possible for any Government or for any company to increase the salaries.

I must say that this industrial unrest was not started all of a sudden. The scheme was notified earlier on 31.3.1999. A Committee was formed to prepare a new Scheme in December, 1999. A number of meetings were held between the union and the management between 2nd of August, 2000 and 7th of September, 2000. The union did not agree with the proposition. That also I did not mind. The workers started agitation by wearing black badges, holding gate meetings and going slow on 11.9.2000. On 3rd October, 2000 onwards, they went on tool-down strike along with go-slow. There was a loss of more than 5,500 vehicles due to tool-down strike, go-slow, raising slogans within the factory premises, processions, etc. I can always understand that because this is the right of the workers. On 18.9.2000, there was

relay hunger strike and from 11.9.2000 to 22.9.2000, the contract labour was prevented from entering the factory. So, these are the number of things that happened. Therefore, ultimately a Good Conduct Certificate was asked from the workers by the management.

Now the question is whether this certificate is ever asked for. Somebody said here that this is never asked for. Not that it is never asked for, but I can understand that generally there is no such practice. If somebody says that this is never asked for, then I will have to produce here, in this House, that it is not only asked for but such undertaking has already been given in other companies.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Not individually.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: This is a Good Conduct Bond given in TELCO, Lucknow, and I am prepared to read the contents of this bond. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Do you support it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Chakraborty, you have asked the question and he is replying. You cannot ask another question.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, let me make it clear that I am reading it just to meet their argument. If somebody says it is never given, I say this has been given, not in one company, in four companies. I would not like to go into it because I have said that neither me nor this Government agrees with this type of undertaking.

Someone showed me a book of the standing orders. I am prepared to give you this book on standing orders. What is this book? I have marked each page of this. The House is not the place where I can read each and every word of this book. This is the Standing Order for every workman which even the workers have agreed to sign. There is no difficulty from the point of view of workers. They are prepared to sign it again.

This is the Good Conduct Undertaking. Each sentence of this book and this—both—include the same thing. I do not really understand why the management is insisting on this. I do not also understand why the workers are refusing to sign this. I am prepared to sit with the hon. Members who have strongly opposed this. You tell me—is it not the same thing like ego either from this side or that side and ultimately putting the company into a great loss? Apart from the monetary loss, what is the reputation of Maruti Udyog today? This Company has the finest

[Shri Manohar Joshi]

reputation. I am sorry to say that because of such strikes, the reputation goes down. If at all this Company is for disinvestment, somebody tries to take advantage of this for bringing down the prices. So, does it not happen? You tell me about it.

Therefore, I am prepared to show word by word that whatever is asked for in the undertaking is nothing else than what the workers have agreed to right from the beginning in the Standing Order. So, there is nothing special in asking for it and there is nothing special in refusing it. Unnecessarily this became a point of prestige. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Then, why is the management pressing for it?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, one hour has passed in this Calling Attention. You have taken one hour.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, this issue is very difficult to understand. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Why is the management pressing for giving the undertaking for individual workers?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Let me complete. Sir, this is an important issue.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Why are you asking for the Good Conduct Undertaking?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Dasmunsi, under what rule you got up?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, let the House know what the wording of the Good Conduct Undertaking is. Please allow me also to read the wording of the standing order. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We know the standing order.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: If you know the Standing Order, then the wording of the Undertaking is also the same.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: When there is a Standing Order, what is the need for Good Conduct Undertaking?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, please address the Chair. If you look at them, they will ask questions.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, therefore, my point is the same that this point came only for ego and, therefore, this problem, according to me, has no importance. Ultimately, the Government has proved that the Government is with the workers and, therefore, they have asked the company to withdraw this.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, he has not replied to the main thing. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, we are not insisting on the undertaking now. Let me make it clear. We have only said that this particular Standing Order is important and on behalf of the workers the Union is prepared to give it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon'ble Minister should get this issue resolved.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: That is what I am saying.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, within how many days this issue will be resolved? Within one day, two days or two months.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is this? Are you following the rules?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the workers have been suspended without giving any notice. The management is violating all the labour laws of our country. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You resume your seat.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, he has not replied to it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you are asking for withdrawal of good conduct undertaking. You see your conduct here. You please raise above it.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, I am ready to explain about the undertaking in detail. I am prepared to read it to you. I will give you both the copies. I have no objection in giving both the copies. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, we want to know whether the Government will ask the management to withdraw the victimisation action and the punishment imposed on the workers. He has not replied to it. That is the main problem. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, I am not allowing you. Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, I am coming to the issue of termination of service.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, please wait for one minute. Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you are asking for withdrawal of the victimisation and about good conduct undertaking etc. You must see your own conduct here.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, they must be finding it difficult to listen to me. It is inconvenient to the unions. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, somebody may find it in convenient to listen to me because it is inconvenient to the unions. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not speaking for the unions; I am speaking for the workers. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Senior Members should conduct themselves.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, he is not resolving the problem. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Minister may conclude now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, I am not being allowed to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, he is not replying.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, kindly resume your seat.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The main issue is the issue of victimisation. He has not responded to that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Members should conduct themselves. That is all I can say.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: I am coming to that point also provided they allow me to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Members should observe rules and Members should conduct themselves.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHAIRA: The main issue is the issue of victimisation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: What can I do?

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You conclude now.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, I am coming to all the points raised by the Members. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, we are prepared to listen. The Minister in his reply should tell only three points—whether they are going to withdraw the dismissal, whether they are going to disinvest and whether they are...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Dasmunsi, under what rule are you speaking?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, we are speaking under the convention. Convention is there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But you should follow the rules.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Basu Deb Acharia and Shri Dasmunsi, you must conduct yourselves and you must observe rules. Then only we can talk of rules for others.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, I am happy that you are following much more discipline than in Maruti company. I am really happy. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Then, there is a convention also. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, there is a convention that Members should address the Chair. So, we address you. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: When we talk of discipline, at least we must discipline ourselves.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, I appreciate this. *...(Interruptions)* Sir, therefore, on the fourth point of undertaking, though the decision in the court was against the undertaking, the court took the point. I have got the judgement of the court also. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This is the highest froum. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: The first decision went against the Union. The Union did not succeed in getting an injunction. *...(Interruptions)* Therefore, after that, *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, you yourself are an eminent lawyer and you know the law. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, under what rule are you speaking? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I thank the Minister. I know that he is in favour of Maruti Company. I know that he is against disinvestment. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Dasmunsi and Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please resume your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: If his intention is only about Maruti, then I can understand. But his intention goes much beyond that. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I ask the Minister to kindly conclude.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, I conclude within three minutes.

If the question is about termination and other parts and action of dismissal, then I would like to inform that we have taken the legal advice in regard to this matter. I will just read it and you listen to it carefully. I read:

"The services of 25 workmen have been terminated for not maintaining the essential service necessary for operations in the company. In their cases, individual notices were issued to the employees and public notices were also issued. Nineteen workmen have been dismissed on account of gross misconduct such as instigating the workers to resort to go slow, tool down strike as well as indulging in stopping of production line."

...(Interruptions) Sir, let me explain what happens in Maruti car factory. These are the days of competition. Please listen to me. If this type of behaviour continues in the company, cars will not be produced and ultimately, the Company will go and everybody will be unemployed. I am trying to save the workers.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What about management's behaviour? What is he doing?

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: What you are doing today is not the way to save the workers.

Sir, I must say that the cars are produced one after the other. If one shop does not work, the entire car will not be produced. Who is responsible? That is what the workers tried to do and therefore, the action of dismissal was to be taken. Sir, it is done in a very systematic way. I have gone into that. Those workers, who tried to stop the work of the factory, have been terminated. Essential services have to be done by everyone. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, I am not permitting you, and you cannot speak.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, I am trying to save all the workers. It is not that we are taking action against all the workers. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should have given a notice. This is not the procedure.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I have given the notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It has been disallowed and you are not in the priority list. Your names has not come in the ballot.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Please listen to me. Finally, I cannot save the employment of all the workers by the methods which some of the people want me to adopt. The law will take its own course. If they are legally saved, we have nothing to say, and we will be very happy also. Let all of them be saved. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, Dr. Indora, please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Whatever the Company wants to do, it can do so. Ultimately, one must understand that this Company is not entirely owned by the Government. This Company is under the management of a Board. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have to obey the rules, the law and the Chair.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: On the question of disinvestment, may I read the resolution passed by the Disinvestment Committee?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. Shri Dasmuni, you are testing my patience.

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: I must say that for the purpose of saving the workers, sometimes, one has to be strict. If we are not strict, the Company cannot be saved. For saving a few workers, if we sacrifice the jobs of all the workers, then who will be responsible for that? We are not prepared to do that. We want to save the jobs of all the workers and, therefore, this action has been taken against them. At the same time, I would like to say that the law will prevail. We are in favour of the law taking its own course. Whatever is permissible under the law will be positively done. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister's statement ends the debate.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Under what rule?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not saying this; Rule 197 says that.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Therefore, I personally feel that the House must cooperate in this matter. The House should send a good signal that if we want to encourage

competition in the Country, then we must help the management which is working in the interest of the workers. Ultimately, it is the management, which is trying to save the jobs of the workers. Therefore, we should not be carried away by sentiments only.

With these few words, I conclude my speech.

[*English*]

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Without following the procedure, you cannot get up like this.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will now take up the next item, that is, 'Matters under Rule 377'.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is an illegal action. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken one hour and fifteen minutes for the debate, and you must be satisfied with it.

15.48 hrs.

At this stage Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, Shri Ramdas Athawale, Shri Ajoy Chakraborty stood on the floor near the Table of the House.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

15.48 hrs.

- (i) **Need to ensure payment of dues to sugarcane growers in Bundi, Rajasthan**

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL (Kota): A sugar mill has been set up at Keshorai Patan in my

* Not recorded.

[Shri Raghuvir Singh Kaushal]

Parliamentary Constituency Bundi in Rajasthan. Hundreds of workers of this mill have not been getting their salary for the last several months. Crores of rupees of sugarcane growers are yet to be paid and as a result the farmers and workers are agitated. Surprisingly, the Government, on the one hand is encouraging the farmers to grow sugarcane by providing incentives in the shape of grants, whereas on the other hand, the Government is contemplating to close down the mills, which has further deepened the trouble of farmers.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to request the Government of Rajasthan to make early payment of outstanding dues of sugarcane growers, payment of salary to workers and not to close down Keshorai Patan sugar mills.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please donot disturb the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Chakraborty, please donot disturb the House.

...(Interruptions)

(II) Need to ensure major share for tribals in all spheres of work in the Jharkhand State

SHRI SALKHAN MURMU (Mayurbhanj): The creation of Jharkhand State should not prove to be a futile exercise for Tribals in particular, because it is the tribals, who fought for this from beginning to end. It is suggested that there should be an Act to ensure 60 per cent shares to *Adivasis* (Tribals) in all spheres of activities in the new State. And *Moolnivasis* and *Anyavasis* must get 30 per cent and ten per cent shares respectively. The 81 seats in the Jharkhand Assembly should be increased to 150 and the seats must be re-allocated with *Advisasis getting* 60 per cent, *Moolnivasis* 30 per cent and *Anyavasis* ten per cent. The formula must apply in jobs, education, trade and business etc. The new State must also have a 50 seated Jharkhand Legislative Council to accommodate the educationists, social workers, specialists and traditional tribal chiefs from *Majhi—Pargana, Manki—Munda, Parha-Panchayats* etc. It is also desired to adopt at least one of the tribal languages, which is spoken by the largest number of tribals, as the Official language of Jharkhand State as per article 345.

This is urgent and important for the identity and development of tribals and others in Jharkhand State.

(III) Need to set up a heavy industry in Basankantha Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY (Banaskantha): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no heavy industry in my Parliamentary constituency, Banaskantha. As a result, the people of this area have to go to other places to earn their livelihood. Therefore, the process of setting up a heavy infrastructural industry should immediately be started in this Parliamentary constituency. A large chunk of the population of this area depend on dairies for their livelihood but they are not getting any sort of assistance from the Government.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to issue instructions to resolve the problem immediately so that the development of Banaskantha parliamentary constituency may take place.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will follow the Rules.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are interrupting the parliamentary work of other hon. Members of the House. You allow him to read his 377. You cannot do like this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I have to take immediate action.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not the procedure. Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are disturbing the proceedings of the House. You are disturbing other Members as well.

...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not disturb the House. Please do not disturb other Members. It is not the procedure.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have not given notice. You have not participated in the discussion. Please go back to your seats now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you not going to obey the Chair?

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: When you are not obeying the Chair, do not talk of discipline here.

...(Interruptions)

(iv) Need to accord clearance to irrigation Project of Bastar region in the State of Chhatisgarh

[Translation]

SHRI SOHAN POTAI (Kanker): Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, various projects in Bastar region of Chhatisgarh are still lying incomplete for want of environment clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests. Moreover, villagers and adivasis belonging to special backward castes are not getting basic amenities and other facilities provided by the Government.

There is 'Sondur' dam in my Parliamentary constituency Sihava nagri, Legislative Assembly, Distt. Dhamtari with the irrigation capacity of 15000 hectare but during rains it irrigates only 700 hectare of land and 250 hectares of land during summer season. The dam having the capacity of 7 TMC of water is used to keep only 3.50 TMC of water. Thick shrubs have grown up there for which clearance has not been given by the Ministry of Environment and Forest and the project is lying incomplete.

Similarly, as per the survey conducted in Dudhava (North), a canal is still to be dug out. P.V. 133 of Kanker distt. and P.V. 36 are still incomplete. Formalities regarding the proposed dam on Kotali Bonali V. Kh. Bhanupratap has been completed. The railway line project from Delhi Rajhara to Rajghat is also in abeyance.

Development of adivasis fully depends upon the completion of said projects. Bodhghat project is also lying incomplete for not getting environment clearance even after the expenditure of approx. 35 crore rupees on this project.

I request the Central Government to clear these projects as early as possible.

[English]

(v) Need to declare road between Gopalpur Port and Raipur as National Highway

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Sir, the road from Gopalpur Port to Raipur should be declared as a National Highway for its importance of connecting the steel city of Bhilai with the Port of Gopalpur which will open up a vast hinterland rich in minerals and a poverty stricken population to developmental activity.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not disturb the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is an act of indiscipline.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Raghuvanshji, please tell them.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: This highway will also be a part of our Government's policy to strengthen the infrastructure to boost our economy in the backward pockets like the KBK Districts. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: When I have to suspend you, I will suspend.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Also a proposal was sent by the Government of Orissa to the Central Government in 1998 in which modification has to be done regarding the route of the road. ... (Interruptions) Previously it was going from Rampur to Amat-Belgoan, but as the Bargarh-Boriguma road has been declared as a National Highway, it will overlap if the road is taken to Belgoan. ... (Interruptions) Therefore, I suggest that the road be taken to Bhawanipatna-Khariar Road-Mahasamund. ... (Interruptions) At Mahasamund, it will join

[Shri Bikram Keshari Deo]

National Highway No. 6 thereby developing backward areas of Madhya Pradesh and Orissa...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Members are participating. Do not shout.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Raghuvanshji, take them.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Therefore, I request that the road between Gopalpur Port and Raipur should be declared as a National Highway.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will have to pass an order to withdraw from the House.

...(Interruptions)

15.56 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please go back to your seats.

15.56 hrs.

At this stage, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, Shri Ramdas Athawale and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

...(Interruptions)

15.57 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Basu Deb Acharia, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, Shri Ramdas Athawale and some other hon. Members left the House.

(vi) Need to provide financial assistance to Government of Rajasthan to tackle drought situation in the State

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Udaipur): Sir, for the last three years, Rajasthan has been facing drought. Though Rajasthan is the largest State of Indian Union, it has only 1.1 per cent water resources of the country. Irrigation facilities are available in less than 25 per cent of the cultivable area. Kharif crop in the State is mainly rainfed.

Due to successive failure of the monsoon the Kharif crop in the State has become the major victim. Due to failure of monsoon, the water level has gone down considerably. Inadequate ground water collection in reservoirs and tanks has resulted in severe drinking and irrigation water problems. There is urgent need to provide relief to the people in affected areas to provide gainful employment, and to take measures for cattle and conservation of drinking water. The State Government is facing a severe financial crisis and immediate Central assistance is required. I request the Central Government to look into the matter more on humanitarian ground and rush immediate financial or material help to Rajasthan Government.

(vii) Need to provide financial assistance to Government of Andhra Pradesh to check spread of brain fever (Japanese Encephalitis) in the State

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY (Cuddapah): Sir, I would like to draw attention of the Central Government to the fact that in Andhra Pradesh, brain fever (Japanese Encephalitis) epidemic has affected children in more than 300 Mandals and claimed 44 lives up to 10th November, 2000. Brain fever cases had been reported from Anantapur, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Chittoor, Guntur, Prakasam, Nalgonda, Warangal and Mahaboob Nagar Districts.

During the last year, 174 cases and 28 deaths were reported from 15 Districts. This disease has been taking a heavy toll of human lives in the State for the last three to four years. The only medicine required to check this disease is J.E. vaccine which is being manufactured in a vaccine factory at Kasauli in Himachal Pradesh. There is acute shortage of J.E. vaccine since Kasauli is the only factory manufacturing this vaccine in the country, and the number of doses allocated to Andhra Pradesh is not sufficient.

I request the Union Government to procure this vaccine by importing it from Japan and China as the shortage of vaccine has been felt and the present factory at Kasauli is unable to meet the demand. I would request the Union Government to provide financial help and send health experts to the State to examine the causes of this disease which is affecting the State of Andhra Pradesh for the last several years

16.00 hrs.

(viii) Need for construction of a railway overbridge at Phagwara in Punjab

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SANTOSH CHOWDHARY (Phillaur): A railway overbridge is required in Phagwara Assembly constituency which falls under my parliamentary constituency Phillaur. This densely populated industrial city is divided into two parts due to the railway level crossing. School, college, hospital, industries and the national highway which goes to Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Chandigarh, Nawa Shaher and Delhi remain on one side of the railway level crossing. This railway level crossing remain closed for long times due to which children and old people have to face much difficulty. I have raised this issue in Lok Sabha for umpteen times but Railway Ministry has not taken up this problem seriously.

Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to solve the problem of people living in Phagwara and other adjacent areas and thereby oblige us.

(ix) Need for early implementation of the scheme providing pension benefits to employees who had left service between 1.4.93 and 15.11.95 under Employees Pension Scheme, 1995

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): Sir, there was a proposal to extend the pension benefit under Employees Pension Scheme 1995 to Employees Pension Fund members who had left service between 1.4.93 and 15.11.95. The scheme proposed to extend the benefit to those who have not completed 60 years of age and have not been members of Employees Family Pension Scheme 1971 as on 1.4.93. It was also advised that those who wished to avail of pensionary benefits under Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 should give their consent letter in Form 10-D available at Employees Pension Fund Sub-Regional Offices.

Accordingly, many of the retired employees of Grasim Industries Limited, Mavoor, Kozhikode, Kerala State, who left service between 1.4.93 and 15.11.95 and who were not members of Employees Family Pension Scheme, 1971 have submitted their consent in Form 10-D to the Sub-Regional Office in Kozhikode within the stipulated time. But so far, no action has been taken to grant pension under Employees Pension Scheme, 1995.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government especially the hon. Minister of Labour to give necessary directions to issue notification without any further delay.

(x) Need to bring down prices of insulin at an affordable range

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (Nagar Kurnool): Sir, in the last eight years, the price of the one of the life saving drug—insulin has increased six-fold leaving millions of diabetic patients, especially the underprivileged ones in dire straits. The multinational companies are ignoring their responsibility towards society, health, human rights and justice. I urge upon the Government to bring down the price of the bulk drug particularly insulin to help poor patients. In India, there are about 2.5 million young people suffering from diabetes, out of which half are poor. Insulin is now beyond their pockets. The Government must attend to public health. The Supreme Court has said that such drugs should be manufactured to satisfy every demand.

In 1991, the commonest form of insulin, Bovine, was available at a fairly affordable price of Rs. 12/- for a 400 U vial. Now, the Bovine Insulin is priced at Rs. 76/- per vial. The multinational companies have stopped operation in India and the insulin is imported solely for profit motives.

I request the Union Government to take immediate action to slash insulin prices at an affordable range so that 40 per cent of poor diabetic patients, who are unable to purchase this life saving drug, are able to survive with affordable insulin treatment.

(xi) Need to provide stoppage of Utsarg Express at Ratanpura railway station in Mau district, Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN (Ghosi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a new train Ustarg Express which runs between Chhapra to Lucknow via Ratanpura, an important station of northern railways which falls under my parliamentary constituency Ghosi, distt. Mau, U.P. Lots of people are living in the nearby areas of Ratanpura station and it is important from traffic point of view. People of this area want that regular stoppage should be provided to Utsarg Express at Ratnapura. Local people are staging demonstrations on this issue. Railway administration has given assurance in this regard for several times but still the stoppage at Ratanpura has not been provided. Through you, I demand from the

[Shri Bal Krishna Chauhan]

Government to provide stoppage of Utsarg Express at Ratanpura station in the interest of the public.

- (xii) **Need to provide more railway facilities to the commuters travelling between Thiruthani and Avadi in Tamil Nadu**

[English]

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Sir, from my Sriperumbudur constituency the rail passengers travel from Thiruthani to Avadi daily. They go to Chennai Central for their daily livelihood. Most of the passengers are Government servants, railway employees and daily wage employees. Without frequent train facilities, they are put to inconvenience. When we approached the office of the General Manager, Southern Railway, it was told that unless the fourth line is laid they could not clear the traffic and arrange frequent train facilities.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government particularly the hon. Minister of Railways to include this quadrupling project of Chennai-Pattabhiram to Thiruvallur or Arakkonam in the current Railway Budget.

- (xiii) **Need to set up fertiliser plants at Mashraikh in Chhapra and Basantpur in Siwan districts of Bihar**

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, after the formation of Jharkhand State on 15th November, rest of Bihar is depending mainly on agriculture. Rest of Bihar separated from Jharkhand has not developed from industrial point of view. In such a situation there is a need to pay proper attention towards the development of agriculture, to apprise the farmers with the modern and scientific techniques of farming and to provide them all agricultural facilities including inputs etc. Partition of Bihar has badly affected the farmers. Sir, farmers of northern Bihar are already living in very poor condition, sometimes due to floods or drought, sometimes due to lack of inputs and sometimes due to unavailability of adequate amount of fertilisers. Two districts Chhapra and Siwan of my parliamentary constituency are predominantly agrarian districts and the entire population is dependent upon agriculture.

I, therefore, demand from the Central Government to set up Bio-fertilizer plants at Mashraikh in Chhapra and Basantpur in Siwan districts of Bihar and to issue directions to the Chairman, KRIBHCO for setting up these plants without any delay.

- (xiv) **Need to look into the problems being faced by tea plantation workers and farmers in the country, particularly in Pollachi Parliamentary Constituency in Tamil Nadu**

[English]

DR. C. KRISHNAN (Pollachi): Sir, the tea plantation workers and farmers of my Pollachi Parliamentary Constituency and other parts of tea growing States in the country are suffering very much due to the present down trend in the price of tea resulting in not getting minimum support price for green leaves.

The following remedial measures should immediately be taken:—

1. The Minimum Support Price for green leaves should be increased from Rs. 2 to Rs. 5 per kilogram.
2. The export excise duty for tea should be zero as an export promotion measure and to save the domestic tea industry.
3. The import of tea from various foreign countries should be banned or dumping duty should be heavily imposed on import of tea.
4. The excise duty may be withdrawn to company estates also as at present it is applicable only to co-operative and private tea factories in Tamil Nadu.

16.09 hrs.

COAL INDIA (REGULATION OF TRANSFERS AND VALIDATION) BILL, 2000, AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up item No. 13.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to empower the Central Government to direct the transfer of the land, or of the rights in or over land or of the right, title and interest in relation to a coal mine, coking coal mine or coke oven plant, vested in the Coal India Limited or in a subsidiary company to any subsidiary company of Coal India Limited or any other subsidiary company and to

validate certain transfers of such land or rights, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Even since the coal mines were nationalised in two phases, 1972 and 1973, Coal Mines Nationalisation Act, 1973, and also ever since the nationalisation of the coal industry, though the land or right in or over such land acquired under various Acts and the right, title and interest in relation to a coal mine or a coke oven plant were directed to be vested in the Coal India Limited or its predecessor, its subsidiary companies were *de facto* managing such land, coal mines or plants.

The absence of a formal legal title to the land or the right over such land or the right, title and interest in relation to a coal mine or coke oven plant, in the subsidiary companies has exposed them to litigation and other legal infirmities. While the Companies Act, 1956 contains provisions for reconstruction and amalgamations, it could be given only prospective effect under that Act.

It has, therefore, been considered necessary to empower the Central Government to direct the transfer of land and its rights pertaining to a coal mine or coke oven plant vested in the Coal India Limited to a subsidiary company, or where it is vested in a subsidiary company, to another subsidiary company. It has also been considered necessary to validate all purported transfers of this nature, which have taken place before the commencement of the proposed Legislation.

The Bill seeks precisely to achieve this purpose.

16.11 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

This Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 14.2.1995. Later it was discussed and passed on 24.11.2000.

With these words, I commend that the Bill may be taken up for consideration and passing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to empower the Central Government to direct the transfer of the land, or of the rights in or over land or of the right, title and interest in relation to a coal mine, coking coal mine or coke oven plant, vested in the Coal India Limited or in a subsidiary company to any subsidiary company of Coal India Limited or any other subsidiary company and to

validate certain transfers of such land or rights, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only one hour has been allotted for this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH: (Begusarai): Sir, the bill presented...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rajo Singh, please sit down.

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Please listen to me for a minute...(Interruptions) He had to present the bill first, it is not mention as to who has present the bill.

[English]

16.13 hrs.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): Sir, the Statement of Object has not been given in the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is because it has been passed in the other House. Rajya Sabha has passed it.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, the Coal Ministry and the Coal India are in a very bad shape. They do not have the Chairman. A number of stories are published in the Press. The subsidiary is running with the acting MDs. For years together they have not been in place. This Bill has come after the Supreme Court passed strictures regarding transfer of some property. You, Sir, also were a Member of the concerned Standing Committee. I would first like to read out the views of the present Foreign Minister, who was then the Chairman of the Standing Committee, when it came from Rajya Sabha to Lok Sabha.

"The Coal India (Regulation of Transfers and Validation) Bill, 1995 aims to empower the Central Government to direct the transfer of land, or the rights in or over land or of the right, title and interest in relation to a Coal Mine, Coking Coal Mine or Coke Oven Plant, vested in Coal India Limited or in a subsidiary company to any subsidiary company and to validate certain transfers of such land or rights."

The Committee obtained different State Governments views, mainly West Bengal and Bihar, on the Bill and examined them in detail. It says further:

[Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev]

"The Bill has also been questioned on the ground of being violative of the provisions of the Mines and Mineral (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 and certain other State Acts. The Government on the other hand, have clarified that the Bill flows from the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973.

Section 28 of the Act has an over-riding provision stipulating that the Nationalisation Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent with any other law for the time being in force. The Committee after detailed examination and discussion are inclined to the view that the proposed Bill, apparently serves no other purpose than to safeguard against the possibility of being challenged on grounds of lack of title to the subsidiary companies of Coal India Ltd. The Committee, therefore, hold that what is required presently is to have a fresh look at the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, and to eliminate such shortcomings, if any, as exist in its effective implementation. The Committee therefore, are unable to recommend that Coal India (Regulation of Transfers and Validation) Bill, 1995 to the Parliament for adoption."

That was the recommendation of the Standing Committee. When the hon. Minister introduced this Bill, I expected him to make this point. I also expected him to say that he has come before this House to overcome these difficulties which are being faced and that this is a limited purpose Bill. As has been rightly said by the Minister, these coal mines were taken over by the Acts of 1971 and 1973. It was done to improve the working conditions of the workers and secondly to modernise coal fields of India which are precious gold for us and which give us raw material for steel, thermal and other projects. It also adds to many other things. What does the history speak? It says that the condition of the workers has gone from bad to worse. They have converted subsidiaries to run them more effectively. The subsidiary is a white elephant. Only a few days back, we have seen some reports in newspapers. Since those who are involved in the CBI raid are not present in this House, I do not like to take their names. But I would like to warn the Government that behind this scheme there is a lobby. They are saying that in spite of CBI raid so and so can be appointed as he is a very good fellow. Who has certified it? Is it CBI or the Court or those lobby people who are working for them?

Today, you have brought before us this Bill to say that it was one time transfer of property and that you

want to regularise it. That has gone for the other subsidiaries. We welcome it. It is because you have to face some trouble here. But then the question arises as to why you have brought another Bill which is before me as the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Energy. It is called Coal Mines Nationalisation (Amendment) Bill, 2000 for allowing private investment in coal sector. The idea is to transfer the property from Coal India to the subsidiaries. Then the subsidiaries will go for collaboration with the private sector. All the States like Bihar, West Bengal and other newly created States will be the sufferers. You will get the advantage and the cream of it. It is a Bill just to deprive the States of their limited resources which they have. It is a known fact that mines and minerals are also the property of the State. They get premium or royalty from that and they run their State on it. For years together, we have seen in this House that whether it is the Congress Government or Janata Government or your Government, everybody is depriving the States of their legitimate royalty and other things. You have become a *jamindar*. All States are suffering and they cannot start development work, whether it is North or South.

The Central Government, by Act after Act, tries to squeeze them like a moneylender. This is not fair. This is not a good deal. That is why I do not welcome this Bill.

All right, the Supreme Court has passed some strictures and the Rajya Sabha Standing Committee on Industry has made some recommendations which go in your favour. In their Report the Committee said that as per the recommendations of the Parashar Committee you have to regularise it. So, you regularised it. But, before I support this Bill, I would like to get some support from you saying that whatever you do, you will not deprive the States of their legitimate rights of royalty.

I know a State like Punjab is asking for captive mines. I have written to you personally in this regard; many other MPs have written to you; Chief Ministers have also written to the Prime Minister. But this is not being given. What is the reason? Because some subsidiary is opposing it. They are the dog in the manger. I proposed to the then Secretary to find out whether they are going to utilise that coal mine and if they really want it, I will be the first person to support it. Neither they utilise it, nor will they give it to the State Government. My interest is only to give it to the private sector. What else will you give up? You are giving up Maruti, FCI and the Banks. You are trying to privatise them. This is the new theory started by your Government.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): Who started it all? Your Government started it.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Whoever may have started it, I said at the very beginning that the Congress Government, the BJP Government, and all the Governments are equally responsible. You may please be alive and listen to me. I am above all these things. I always speak straight.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: You have agreed with me. Thank you.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: My point is whatever is going on today, the States' interest should not suffer.

Bank nationalisation was done for the poor. Now you are asking us to believe something else. The other day the hon. Finance Minister, while speaking in the Economic Conference of world-famous people, said that even if you have 30 per cent share, your position is not diluted. This is really a very interesting point. We always heard as Ministers - I was also a Minister for quite a long time - that 51 per cent must be the minimum to exercise control. Now your new theory is that even with 33 per cent share you can be in control.

The hon. Minister is a very nice man, an honest man and a good man. But he must be very careful. He is in a vicious circle. The Coal India Ltd. is the capital of all dishonest people. You go through the records. What is the immediate cause for transfer of properties from Coal India Ltd. to its subsidiaries? These subsidiaries have been carrying on their operations for the last so many years without any difficulty.

I have certain questions. I would not burden you with a long speech. I would be precise in my questions. The first question is whether there has been any court case where the legal title of any subsidiary has been challenged. If so, what are the details? This question is to help you pass this Bill because I think you should be transparent. You can answer my questions because these are all known to your Department.

My second question is whether it is not a fact that the cost of land of some of the properties which are under Coal India Ltd. is very high and the Government wants to take advantage of it. I have explained to you how. What is the need for transfer of property to these subsidiaries retrospectively, particularly when the Government has brought forward the Coal Mines Nationalisation (Amendment) Bill, 2000 allowing private investment in coal sector?

For the last seven days I have been studying this Bill. It has been sent by the hon. Speaker to my Committee. If you go through this Bill, all these problems will be solved.

What is the hurry for you to bring this Bill? Let me and the House know it. Only then we can stand by you and I think you have neither explained it in the aims and objectives or anywhere else. I thought you will explain it. We shall not go in for it. How does the Government propose to redress the grievances of the coal-bearing States like Bihar, West Bengal and Assam?

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi): And Jharkhand also.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: I am sorry and beg for apology. It includes Jharkhand also.

My last question is, considering all these things, will you take corrective steps? I am sure that you will mention in your reply that you will take corrective steps. What is your plan and programme for modernisation? It is being told by the power sector that when you supply coal, it has 20 per cent stone, 10 per cent mound and 70 per cent coal. All the washeries are in a bad shape. You are dearth of money. Are you thinking of selling land and investing that money for modernisation of coal washeries? What is the position there? Singareni Coalfields is doing well but I have been told that there is a move from here recently. It is not wise for me to say it here because people write to me as the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Energy. Singareni Coalfields is doing well. The plant and power project under them are also doing well. Do not try to change the heads to make them zamindars and auction it to them. It must not be done.

As I told you, you are an honest and sincere man. There will be attempts to make you also like others and us. You will have to be very careful. That is why, I am telling to keep the Bill very transparent. Try to keep the Department also transparent. I do not understand why one Secretary posted there is being transferred from there within a month. Why was Shri Kaul changed? It was because he did not concede to some demands of some superpowers who are running the Government. He could not oblige to some of the pressures there. If somebody does not like him, another man is sent there from the Ministry of Finance. This is what is happening.

You are supporting the Government...(Interruptions)
You must take care of these things when you are supporting them. You are the main pillars and others are

[Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev]

subsidiary pillars. So, you have to correct all these things. I think this is a Bill which can be avoided. My party's direction and my Chief Whip's direction sitting besides me is that I should support it and I support it. But I have to say about all these things. I spoke to you yesterday also and apprised you of my feelings. I feel that this Bill is not at all necessary at this time when you have another Bill. Even if you are bringing it, you should not misuse this Bill to deprive the State Governments of their rights. Today, all the State Governments, except Andhra Pradesh, are living with the World Bank funds. They have got a lot of money from the World Bank. Other States are suffering. West Bengal does not have money for their plants. Jharkhand is also suffering.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Singareni Collieries in Andhra Pradesh is doing well. We are getting profits now and we are giving bonus to the workers. Out of the net profit, we are giving them bonus.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: You are also following Mr. Murthy. I am praising you and when I praise you, you do not understand it and again, you start criticising. We are all old friends. I want Singareni Coalfields to be encouraged. I had gone to the thermal power project and I had planted a tree there, when I was the Chairman of the Estimates Committee.

I had gone there recently. I had seen it becoming a bigger one. The Project Manager told me that it is not only the tree but the Singareni Coalfields are also becoming bigger.

So, in the end, I would tell you, Mr. Minister, that I am supporting you. With these words, I give my conditional support to you. When I listen to your answer, then, I will give you my full support.

[Translation]

16.30 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Minister has introduced the Bill because of the decision of Supreme Court in the case of Bharat Coking Coal Versus Government of Bihar. On the basis of that decision, hon'ble Minister has introduced the Bill. It has been passed by the Rajya Sabha. It is true that Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev was mentioning about a Committee. Fortunately, I am also a member of that Committee and we are going to discuss coal mines in

our next meeting. Since, hon'ble Minister has moved the Bill, it has been passed by the Rajya Sabha and decision of Supreme Court on the issue is as follows:

[English]

"The main objective of the Bill is to empower the Central Government to direct the transfer of the land, or of the rights in or over land or of the right, title and interest in relation to a coal mine, coking coal mine or coke oven plant, vested in the Coal India Limited or in a subsidiary company to any subsidiary company of Coal India Limited or any other subsidiary company and to validate certain transfers of such land or rights."

[Translation]

Some lacunae remained in the transfer of assets to the subsidiary companies. Hon'ble Minister has moved this Bill to remove the lacunae. There are eight subsidiary companies, the names of which I do not need to mention.

[English]

Now, they are able to transfer properties which are there in their names. In order to give power to them, the Bill has been introduced so that they can transfer the land and properties to the other to the other companies.

[Translation]

It is a small amendment. Hon'ble Member who spoke before me said that there is no Chairman of Coal India Limited and the Bill that has been moved with a view to give title to the subsidiary companies is, in a way, retrospective. It will be appropriate if the Government of India gets the right of transferring the land and interests of these subsidiary companies. The Bill has been moved for this purpose only. Shri Sontosh Mohan Deb ji was rightly saying that there is discontent in the employees of these companies. Probably, they are not getting Bonus or other facilities. Now that the hon'ble Minister has assumed the charge of Coal Ministry. I request him to address the discontent among employees and appoint a Chairman there. I would also request him to consider the ways to compensate the loss of royalty accruing to various States as also the issue of loss of stamp duty to State Governments. The issue of widespread corruption in coal mines of Coal India has been raised. I do not know much about it. The people of Bihar would be knowing more about it. Definitely we will have to improve the system. There are hurdles in Legal provisions and the hon'ble Minister has moved the Bill with a view to

streamline the working of Coal India. You are aware that the demand, the price as well as quality of coal produced in the country is going down. It is true that this Bill is going to be discussed in the Energy Committee. But being a member of your party I support this Bill.

The Bill should be passed so that the legal hurdles may be removed. It is a small Bill. It relates to giving rights to the subsidiary companies. Committee will report on the deficiencies of the Bill, and I am sure that hon'ble Minister would try to remove them. With these words, I support the Bill. The Bill should have been brought earlier, but the hon'ble Minister is aware of the circumstances which caused delay. Change in the Government causes delay. I regret it and I am sure that hon'ble Minister also regrets it. Hon'ble Minister has brought the Bill with a view to providing the subsidiary companies the right to transfer their property and land. I strongly support it and hope that House will pass the Bill.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I rise to oppose this Bill, the Coal India (Regulation of Transfers and Validation) Bill, 2000. This Bill was first introduced in 1995 in the Rajya Sabha, and then it was referred to the Standing Committee on Energy. Under the Chairmanship of Shri Sontosh Moihan Dev, the Standing Committee on Energy stated that they are unable to recommend the Bill to Parliament. They have given the justification. In its Report, 1995-96, they have scrutinised the Bill. They took the evidence of the Ministry of Coal and the Ministry of Law, Justice & Company Affairs and came to the conclusion that there was no necessity for such a Bill. Then, why again the same Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Industry? The Standing Committee on Industry also examined the Bill and recommended that the same should be passed.

Sir, what is the necessity of this Bill? Coal mines were nationalised in 1972 and 1973 by the Coal Mines Nationalisation Act. Prior to 1972, all the coal mines were under private sector. Why coal mines were nationalised? They were nationalised because under the private management, unscientific mining was carried out, 'slotter' mining was carried out, and workers were squeezed and exploited. In order to protect the interests of the workers, to enhance the production of coal, and to have a scientific mining, coal mines were nationalised.

The lands were vested with the Government and then subsequently transferred to Coal India. Now, what is the need for transferring into the subsidiary, and to

make the subsidiaries, an independent one? What will remain with Coal India?

Sir, we have been demanding that the Coal India should be restructured. Its organizations should be like the Steel Authority of India. There is only one company, the Steel Authority of India. Under it, there are steel plants.

There is only one Board in the Steel Authority of India Limited and there are no separate Boards for different steel plants. But, the Coal India has its own Board. It has eight subsidiaries now. Previously, it had five subsidiaries, but it has created three more subsidiaries by bifurcating some of the collieries. So, there are eight subsidiaries and they have eight boards. These are eight white elephants. The three subsidiaries of Coal India, namely the ECL, CCL, BCCL are situated in the newly created Jharkhand State and all these three subsidiaries are incurring losses now. They are incurring losses because they are the oldest mines. The coalfields in Raniganj and Jharia are the oldest coalfields in the country. All the three subsidiaries have a large number of underground mine and each of these subsidiaries has inherited a huge work force of more than one lakh in each one of them.

Sir, when these subsidiaries become independent, the land which is now vested with the Coal India Ltd. will be transferred to the subsidiaries. But what is the need of transferring of the land now? After the coal mines were nationalised in 1972 and 1973, in 1995, when Shri Ajit Panja was the Coal Minister, this Bill was introduced. This Bill remained in the cold storage for the last five years. But the Government has suddenly woken up now and brought this Bill before the House. I would like to know whether the ECL will be able to survive when it is bifurcated from Coal India. What will be the role of Coal India? The hon. Minister has not stated anything about it in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. This Bill has been brought forward to empower the Central Government to direct the transfer of the land, or of the rights in or over land or of the right, title and interest in relation to a coal mine, coking coal mine or coke oven plant, vested in the Coal India Ltd. or in a subsidiary company to any subsidiary company of Coal India Ltd. or any other subsidiary company and to validate certain transfer of such land or rights. There is no problem in managing these lands now. So, what is the need for this Bill and what is the motive behind it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I have just started and I have spoken only for five minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted for your party is only four minutes, but you have already spoken for five minutes. So, please be brief.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I will be brief, but this is a very important Bill. So, I have to speak for another 15 minutes.

So, what is the motive behind bringing this Bill now? The only motive is, when the Government of India adopted the liberalisation policy and decided to open up all the coal mines, the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act was amended in 1995 to allow captive mining.

Now, the motive behind this is to privatise coal-mining. It is one step towards privatisation of our coal industry. He has not clarified it. He has stated that it is a very simple Bill. Shri Bhargava, this is not a very simple Bill.

[Translation]

There is a motive behind it.

[English]

So, he should clarify what will be role of Coal India. Why is he bringing forward this Bill at this juncture? What purpose will this Bill serve to strengthen the organisation of Coal India and its subsidiaries? What will happen to the loss-making subsidiaries?

Yesterday, I received a written reply from the Minister about the revival of ECL. I asked them a question. He has not replied positively that the Government of India is considering the revival of ECL. Rather the Government of India is actively considering to close down 64 mines. This is the motive behind bringing forward this Bill. What will happen to ECL? Would ECL survive? Would CCL survive or not? Would BCL survive or not? Will they allow the closing down of mines? What has been invested during the last eight or nine years? Has any budgetary support been provided to the Eastern Coalfields Limited? No budgetary support is being provided. We are importing coal. How much are we importing? When the Congress Party was in power, only seven million tonnes of coal used to be imported. Today, it is 24 million tonnes of coal. We have abundant reserves of both coking and non-coking coal. Still we are importing it. Earlier, even the Railway freight was less for imported coal than what was prevailing for the indigenous coal. Now that has

been withdrawn. There is 10 per cent rebate. So, he should clarify all these things.

There is also another Bill which Chairman of the Standing Committee on Energy has already referred and it will be considered by our Committee. Then, why is there a need for a separate Bill? Will the Nationalisation Bill also cover this aspect or not?

Coal India is in a very bad shape. He has rightly said that there is no Chairman. We do not know who will be the Chairman. One person was selected but his house had been raided by the CBI. There is no permanent Chairman for the Eastern Coalfields Limited. There is a CMD who is looking after three subsidiaries. How can one CMD look after three subsidiaries — ECL, CCL and BCCL? One CMD is looking after three subsidiaries. There is no permanent Chairman. There is corruption. I was told that to become a Chairman of Coal India, an amount of Rs. 40 crore was offered. If such a huge amount is offered to become the Chairman of Coal India, you can imagine how much corruption is there. There are mafias. The mafias are ruling. The mafias are recommending who should become the Chairman and who should become the CMD. There is no concrete measure to reduce corruption. ECL can be revived. BCCL as well as CCL can also be revived by modernising them and also by investing money. How much amount has been spent for mechanisation? what is the percentage of utilisation of machinery in ECL, CCL and BCCL?

They have imported heavy machinery by spending crores of rupees. What is the percentage of utilisation of it? It is only 57 per cent. How much have they invested.

Only a few days back, last week, there was a strike by six lakh coal workers. They went on strike on two demands. One is about the wage agreement, which was finalised on 13th of September. All the unions, except CITU, refused to sign the agreement. There was a strike. It was complete in four subsidiaries, ECL, BCCL, CCL, SECL and in Singreni Colliery and WCL also. There was a total strike. That means the workers of coal industry have rejected the wage agreement. On the floor of this House, I demanded that the Coal India management should immediately start negotiations with the unions about a fresh wage agreement.

Sir, you will be surprised to know that in the case of executives or officers the increase is 120 per cent; the minimum increase is about Rs. 5000 and the maximum is Rs. 15000. But in the case of 40 per cent of the workers, there is no increase in the wages and they will

not be benefited by this agreement rather they will get reduced wages; in case of some workers there is only a little increase. Why is it 120 per cent for the executives and why there is a reduction in the wages for the workers? Why is the Ministry not instructing or rather directing the Coal India management to start fresh negotiations with the workers?

Another demand was for withdrawal of the Coal Mines Nationalisation (Amendment) Act Repeal Bill, which was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in order to privatise the coal industry. The hon. Minister should clarify what is the need of this piece of legislation. What was the purpose? Why, at this juncture, has he brought this piece of legislation? What will happen to the loss making subsidiaries? What will be the role of Coal India Limited? Whether there will be double taxation or double excise for subsidiaries as well as for the Coal India?

As regards royalty to the State Governments.

[Translation]

You also have interest in it, but you are not making demands because the entire area has gone to Jharkhand now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will demand for Jharkhand.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Now there is nothing in Bihar, earlier you used to indulge in demands vociferously and we used to support you.

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: If you have double excise and double taxation, then double royalty will be given, according to the Act.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: That is not there in the Act. It has to be amended again. It has to be incorporated.

So, there is no justification in bringing this piece of legislation. There is no need for transferring the land to the subsidiaries. Therefore, I oppose this Bill as the Government intend to legalise an illegal thing.

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (Eluru): Hon. Chairman Sir, this Coal India (Regulation of Transfer and Validation) Bill, 2000 is mainly introduced because of the Supreme Court and the Government of Bihar is mainly responsible for it.

The main purpose of this Bill is to empower the Central Government to transfer the land right, title of interest in relation of coal mines vested in the Coal India Limited to subsidiary companies, and to help certain transfers to the subsidiary companies, namely, the Bharat Coking Coal Limited, the Western Coalfields Limited, the Eastern Coalfields Limited, the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited the South-Eastern Coalfields Limited, the Northern Coalfields Limited, and the Mahanadi Coalfields Limited.

The main purpose of this Bill is to transfer land. The entire Coal India Limited acquires substantial quantity of land. When the subsidiaries want to pledge land, raise capital, and borrow money, it is not possible for them to do because the land title is not there. There are some problems in the transfer of land titles. And that is why, this Bill has come before the Parliament to allow them to get the land title. The stamp duty that has to be paid to the State Government is also very high. These are the factors that they want to avoid and see that they would be able to have the land transfers. The proprietorship of the Coal India Limited, as has been mentioned by the hon. Members, is one hundred per cent in the hands of the Coal India Limited only.

The subsidiaries do not have the main Capital. This Bill is to have the transfer of land title. In fact, it is only just a sort of an obligation of doing it, in reality it is not a very big problem.

As the hon. Members have mentioned, the main purpose of having the Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries is mainly to increase the production and also look after the labour relations and their welfare. In fact, today if you look at it, 40 per cent of load in the Railways is because of the transfer of coal. Today, after the Railways have changed their technology from the coal-based steam engine to diesel and also to the electrical side, the Coal demand of the Railways will not be there. The transfer of coal will be mainly for power generation. That is, energy is the major factor for development of our country.

As some of the hon. Members have put it, we have met the demand substantially through import of coal. In the power projects of the coastal States, it is cheaper to import coal from outside and they would be able to use it. But for increasing the production within the country, they have to go in for modernisation.

The cost incurred in respect of transportation of coal is one of the big problems. The best thing today is that

[Dr. B.B. Ramaiah]

we must provide coal washeries at the pit heads in order to reduce the transport cost of coal so that it would become more efficient and economical both for the power projects and also profitable for coal mining.

Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev has also mentioned about the Singareni Collieries. It has come to a profitable stage after a long time. It is because of the better management and better technology that they are adopting. These subsidiaries also have to be strengthened. If they have some problems, for solving the problems, they can be combined together, that is amalgamation, and through adopting better management techniques.

17.00 hrs.

The Coal India today would be able to take all the assistance required for them. In any case, the other doubts expressed by some of our Members are whether this will lead to double taxation, both excise duties and local taxes. The second thing is about income-tax provision and all those things. I am sure that the hon. Minister might have taken this into consideration. In consultation with the Department concerned, he will be definitely looking into those aspects. As our hon. Members have mentioned, in this coal industry there is Mafia which is one of the major factors that is going to affect. That is a very important thing that we have to watch carefully when they are able to operate these subsidiaries which are located far off and in different States. We have also to watch the problems of naxalism in some parts. In any case, this Bill only gives the power for transfer of land and the title deeds so that the individual subsidiaries can also be able to improve their efficiency and modernise them with proper assistance from outside. Regarding financial requirement, what is required for them will be borrowed from the financial institutions or raised in the capital market. Though we have no objection to approve this Bill, I am sure this thing and the other things the hon. Minister will take into consideration. While taking all these precautions, they should improve on these things.

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR (Mysore): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for the opportunity given to me to speak on this Bill. I submit that this Bill has been brought in this House after the judgement of the Supreme Court on the Bharat Coking Coal Limited *versus* Government of Bihar. No doubt, the Bill seeks to empower the State Government to transfer lands belonging to Coal India and its subsidiaries and to validate certain transfers.

I would like to submit to you that majority of the coalmines is situated in tribal areas. It is a well-known

fact. One of the newspapers has stated that a number of multi-national companies, including, Rio-tinton of Australia, have been very active, and are trying to explore the possibilities of mining in these areas. By this Bill, through the back door, the Government will try to overcome the lacunae of the Land Acquisition Act and so they have brought this Bill. Through this Bill, they can easily transfer the tribal land and the forest resources to non-tribals including the multinational companies. These multinational companies procure raw material for a negligible amount. The same thing is processed and re-sold in our country for a huge profit of hundred per cent. Further, you are trying to de-notify tribal lands. The tribal lands are protected by the Constitution. The tribal lands cannot be sold to non-tribals. By this Bill, you are trying to approve all that. You are infringing upon the rights of the tribals. My appeal is that the land should not be touched. Rio Tinton and other such multinational companies should be kept out because they give very little in consideration to what they take. The Government will be ruining the lives of a large number of tribals. The benefit will not reach us. Further, the State Governments are likely to be affected as the royalties and the stamp duty for transfer of property from various parties are being infringed upon.

The Government is taking away this property as it can transfer it to any person. It is illegal, morally not correct and very unethical. In the matter of transfer of such property the Government should consult the Ministry of Law and see in what way the rights of the tribals are not infringed upon. There is a possibility of double taxation; excise duties are likely to be charged on holding and subsidiary companies and this is likely to lead to litigation and loss to the entire company of Coal India.

Further, I would like to submit that the production of coal has considerably come down from 1998-99 to the current year. The Government should consider taking steps to increase the mining activities so as to produce larger amount of coal and make all these coal mines viable instead of trying to take away the powers of the Company so that they can be disposed of.

In the year 1998-99 the production was 18.168 tonnes whereas it has come down to 17.52 in the year 2000. What is the reason for this reduction? I would like to know that from the coal industry or the management of the coal industry which is playing around and dancing to the tune of these various coal *mafias*. Their connivance or conspiracy should be exposed. The revenue has been affected and the production has been suffering.

Seventy per cent of our population is agricultural and rural based. We need electricity for them. Unfortunately, today the Government is not in a position to provide electricity to the rural sector or the agricultural sector. Instead of improving the production of coal so that many thermal-based power companies come out successfully and produce enough power, the Government has gone to the extent of not taking account of the need to re-vitalise the production of the coal industry.

The Government has instead, gone in to invite foreign companies to participate in the de-nationalisation and management of coal companies. The coal mines were nationalised in 1971 and 1973. The Government could have some private participation, but I feel that it should not totally sell out the interests of the country, the coal companies and especially many of the tribals who are not in favour of the multi-national companies.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli): There was a severe cyclone in Tamil Nadu in Cuddalore just now. The hon. Minister is here. What is the devastating effect of the cyclone in Tamil Nadu and what are the relief measures that the Central Government is going to initiate?

Just now, we have received information. The hon. Minister is here. He has made a statement there.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): I have informed them.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: He has just now informed the other House. What is the velocity and what is the effect? It has a devastating effect. He has to make a statement.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Meteorological Department had already issued warning about it and therefore the evacuation work undertaken in the affected areas. We have just received information that the cyclone has passed over Cuddalore at around two o'clock. Its velocity is between 90-100 Kms. per hour. Tamil Nadu Government has informed that a few trees have been uprooted and rainfall is occurring in Nagapattinam area. As the Meteorological department has already said that it would cause widespread and heavy rainfall in Tamil Nadu and coastal areas of Pondicherry and South Andhra Pradesh. This is the latest situation according to the information received.

SHRI P.R. KHUNTE (Sarangarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support Coal India (Regulation of Transfers and Validation) Bill, 2000. Inefficient and corrupt management practices of the Previous Governments have made the country backward in the matter of coal. Several Countries in the world, such as China, Australia and Poland occupy top slot in coal production and improvement of quality of coal. Coal production in our country is increasing. From 206.31 million tonnes in 1998-99 it increased to 208.18 million tonnes. Though coal production is gradually increasing but there is no improvement in its quality.

17.12 hrs.

[SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN in the Chair]

Coal consumers in India are not getting good quality coal. You must consider seriously increasing quality coal production reaping its benefits. Our coal production is short of demand. Further, even coal produced is not consumed entirely because of its poor quality. Though, we produce enough coal, yet we are not exporting it. On the contrary, we have to import coal. My submission is that we should stress upon improving its quality and not merely increasing production. It should be of first class quality so that coal consumers can utilise it easily.

We have many collieries in our country. CIL and BCCL are coal producing companies. CIL alone supplies 86 percent coal. What were the coal prices in India recently?

From 595.84 rupees per tonne in 1999 it has increased to 775.62 rupees per tonne. We should assess how much production we need. Almost in every colliery more than required persons are working. In some of the collieries even ten times more persons are working. It has resulted in increase in production cost. And because of high production cost we are not able to compete with other countries. If anyone desires to enter the field of coal production, he can get soft-loan from overseas. For example, Germany have given loan to our country for coal mining. I am sorry to say that though they provide soft-loan but they impose certain conditions. The machinery imported from abroad is lying idle due to shortage of spares and ultimately whose loss it is? After all, it is a national loss.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to submit that we should wash coal to remove ash from coal so that we can compete with other countries. We should set up coal washeries in our country. These washeries should be set up in private sector also. We have enough coal in India, if we have will power we can easily export it.

[Shri P.R. Khunte]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, my parliamentary constituency, Sarangarh, falls in newly formed Chhattisgarh State. Large scale coal mining is carried out in Corba, Chirimiri and Raigarh and in areas adjoining Orissa. Therefore, I urge the hon'ble Minister to set up coal washeries in my constituency. Since several large rivers such as Mahanadi, Haso, Kelo, Mand, Parry, Arpa etc. cross this area and flow into the sea, therefore there is enough scope for these projects. Local populace of this area are not able to reap any benefit from this water. In view of large scale mining of coal in this area, setting up of coal washeries there is necessary. Not only it would generate revenue for the Government but will provide employment to the unemployed persons.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to bring one more thing to your notice that is regarding labour charges. For mining of one truck coal Rs. One thousand labour charges are to be paid. And for loading of that coal in the truck eight rupees are to be paid. In newly formed Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand States rupees five thousand per truck is required to be paid to Station House Officer as bribe for plying the truck. This lures Police personnel to this area. By paying hefty bribes all intend to become incharge of Police Station.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted for this is one hour. Already one hour and ten minutes have passed. Three hon'ble Members have to speak. Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Sir, it is my maiden speech. For the first time I have been elected as a Member and I have not got an opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If it is maiden speech, I will allow you.

[Translation]

SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, around ten thousand rupees freight charges are paid per truck for carrying it up to Banaras where one truck coal is sold for Rs. Forty-thousand. Sir, perhaps you may remember that earlier there was a suggestion for making diesel from coal. But none knows about the progress made so far in this direction. Today, there is a diesel crisis in India. We have to import diesel from abroad at higher

prices causing great hardship to the consumers. If we produce diesel from coal then we can achieve a break through in the field of fuel.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, rampant corruption is prevalent in coal mines and collieries and I feel ashamed of telling it in the House. I would urge upon the hon'ble Minister to take steps to check corruption in collieries. Simultaneously, I would like to tell you that large number of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and other backward people are centred around these collieries and are exploited. If any labour working in colliery dies, no proper compensation is paid. Not only this, in some of collieries even there is no subsidised canteen. In case of sickness, labours are not provided cheap medical-aid. Several hon'ble Members have expressed their views on this Bill and many good suggestions have come. This Bill has been passed by Rajya Sabha and I am sure Lok Sabha would also pass it unanimously. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak and would like to conclude by supporting the Bill.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Coal India Bill has been brought with an intention of grabbing land. It has been brought to confer enabling powers to Central Government for bungling of land. This Bill was drafted in 1995 when Shri Ajit Panja was the Minister in charge. He wanted that the Bill be passed. But he switched sides. Now Shri Shanmugam has brought it after five years. In 1972-73, coal mines were nationalised and then modernisation took place. Now Britain is facing the problem of plenty of coal, and production had to be stopped. But condition in India is entirely different. During discussion the hon'ble Members were saying that coal mafia have spread its tentacles and is looting everywhere. But, I would like to know, what action the Government is contemplating to check mafia and their nefarious activities.

As Shri Basudeb Acharia ji, who also hails from coal mines area, was saying that these subsidiaries are white elephant. Coal miner's condition is bad and they are being exploited. As per the policy, 40 per cent hydro power and 60 per cent thermal power should be generated. It is better if more hydro power is generated. In our country there is potential of one and a half lakh megawatt hydropower generation. But the Government are not making efforts in this direction. Coal is an asset for the future. We should stress upon generating hydropower instead of thermal power. In the absence of concerted efforts in this direction we have to use coal for power generation. Not only this, even we have to import coal, on the ground that imported coal is cheaper. It involves transportation cost also. Coal is being imported from

Australia and South Africa. In thermal plants we find that stone in place of coal being despatched. It puts thermal plants in loss. The Government should ensure that desired quality of coal is supplied to the thermal plants. Stones cause damage to turbine and boilers. In fact first coal is grinded into powder and then this powder is put into boiler. This way if stone powder is put into boiler, it damages the boiler. Since we have greater thermal power plants, so the Government should ensure that good quality coal is supplied to these plants. We should stress more on generating hydropower since we have limited reserves of coal which can be saved for future use. Our hydropower capacity is one and a half lakh megawatt.

After Supreme Court's decision coal royalty to the States was stopped. Consequently States where coal is produced and coal mines are situated, are losing heavily. An expert committee was constituted in 1997 to review coal royalty paid to the States, after 3-4 years gap. But it could not be enhanced putting coal producing States at great loss. The Committee constituted in 1997, recommended in its report for Advalorem payment of royalty on coal, whereas it is still being paid on the basis of quantity of coal. It causes coal producing States loss of crores of rupees every year. The Government sat quietly on the report submitted by the Committee in 1997. The Government should give specific reply in this regard. Though, the Centre had old enmity with Bihar, but Jharkhand is a newly formed State, so justice should be due with it. Royalty is still paid on the basis of quantity of coal produced and not on advalorem basis. Though coal prices have gone up but the basis of determining royalty is still the quantity. This injustice is not going to be tolerated any longer. Bihar has been decided in two parts but the hon'ble Prime Minister calls it reorganisation. If you consider Bihar as your enemy, then we do not need your mercy and would fight on our own. You complain that labourers from Bihar migrate to other States in search of jobs but now you see, harvesters from Punjab cope to Bihar. It is a general comment that Bihar is a very poor State, but see, these people have deposited Rs. 37 thousand crore in Government Banks. In Andhra Pradesh Rs. 26,000 crore are deposited. I would like to know the investment made? When Bihar was united it was 22 per cent now after reorganisation it is 17%. Is it not injustice? You invest the money deposited in Banks in Bihar in other States and then call Bihar a poor State? This all is not going to work out. You carved out Jharkhand State and BJP formed Government in newly formed State but it is not stable. Well, you know the Government will go in one stroke but if injustice is done with Jharkhand then we will not sit quietly.

Therefore, we warn the Government. Jharkhand is abundant in minerals but coal royalty has not been paid for the year 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 and now it is fourth year. I would like to know why the Government is not taking any action on expert Committee's report wherein royalty was recommended to be paid on the basis of value of coal or advalorem and not on the basis of quantity of coal? Why are you not paying State's share. Economically, State are in bad shape, whereas the Union Government is the owner of all the mines and minerals. I would like to know where does the State's share of revenue goes? In the backdrop of all this, Jharkhand would have a surplus budget of Rs. 1500 crore and Bihar's budget would be minus Rs. 3000 crore. You formed this State because it was in your election manifesto. While forming new State you had thought that you are taking a progressive step but people of a newly formed State will hold you accountable. There is a similar demand from Telengana and Vidarbha as well. Several similar demands would come up which will be difficult to be tackled.

You formed new Jharkhand State and were boasting that the Government will carry out development works in Jharkhand. I would like to know when are you going to release coal royalty to Jharkhand? Three years have passed. ...*(Interruptions)* They were of the opinion that I was raising such demand with vested interest but now since Jharkhand has become a separate State I want that its due share should be granted. If you do not concede our demand, we would not beg but we would fight it out. We will convince and compel them to give our legitimate share and the Union Government will have to give our share. Jharkhand is our State so we will not let it remain backward. The Hon'ble Members from Jharkhand State will not voice their concern since they are bonded labour. Bonded labourers are almost vanishing in the world but these people have become bonded labour here. They will not voice peoples concern but we will have to raise them since our demands are legitimate and justified. We will support this Bill only if the Government clarifies its stand on it. Otherwise, you know we will stall the Bill. My submission is that when are you going to implement the report of Expert Committee? The recommendations have been gathering dust for the last three years. Until and unless you clarify this position we will not allow the Bill to pass.

With these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Bill introduced in this House by the hon. Minister as passed by the Rajya Sabha. We all

[Shri Raghunath Jha]

very well know that the coal companies had been rationalized in 1972-73 and the objective behind it was that we would improve the service conditions of labourers, provide housing facility to them, provide education to their children and at the same time, we would also provide employment to those whose lands or coal mines have been acquired. In this way, we would also make arrangements for them. But Sir, today Jharkhand has been segregated as a separate State. I hail from Bihar. I have also got an opportunity to be a part of the Bihar Government, but I have very closely observed that the persons whose lands were acquired for the aforesaid purpose have suffered a kick of adversity and are roaming idle. We abolished the feudal system at the time of independence but created a new feudal lord in the coal fields. What is the position of C.C.L. and B.C.L. today. We were thinking that with the process of nationalization, good quality coal would be produced by evolving a scientific method and theft of coal would also be prevented but if you observe minutely, you would find that from top to bottom, all the officers are indulged in the theft of coal. Hon. Member belonging to the coal area, is sitting here. Coal worth thousands of rupees is being stolen and carried on cycles and trucks, but no measures from this department have been adopted to prevent this theft of coal.

A Committee named Mishra Committee was constituted in the past. It had undertaken some investigation in this regard and had suggested about the increase in production of coal and measures to be adopted for prevention of theft of coal. A discussion took place in the House also in this regard and the officers held responsible for such theft as also corruption were given good areas so as to extract more money from this. I have absolutely no hesitation in saying so because we all know this. 26 hon. MPs of this House gave a memorandum to hon. Prime Minister making an allegation of corruption on the Chairman and Managing Director of C.C.L. Investigation in this regard was also going on. All hon. Members of that area had also raised this issue in the meeting of Coal Consultative Committee. It was said that action as also investigation may be undertaken against such corruption. But during this investigation, the Ministry of Coal recommended the name of Chairman, C.C.L. for C.M.D. and also got it cleared from the C.V.C. He is really an influential person. Recently, C.B.I. conducted raids at his residences of Ranchi, Madras and some other places and recovered foreign liquor worth rupees five lakhs, gold worth rupees seven lakhs, a house in Madras and according to some people rupees twenty lakh or rupees twenty eight lakh in cash. And that officer

has not been sacked till date. These people are making efforts to appoint such officer as C.M.D., they are going to give him the whole sole power. What I mean to say is that even high dignitaries when charged, had to resign from the post of Chief-Minister, but this officer is really so influential and powerful that this C.M.D. does not even care for a Minister. This is the situation today. If you think that you would bring a big revolution, or would bring advancement, then it is not possible. ...*(Interruptions)*. There is a report with regard to the investigations carried on. Coking coal is sold by the name of Non-Coking Coal. Such a practice has been reported. All these officers are extracting money there and these people are taking no action. We shall raise this matter in the House. As this is a Bill, so it has a limited purpose, but we shall definitely raise this matter in the House and are not going to leave person of any position whether we are amongst the treasury benches or in the opposition. If anyone tries to safeguard this issue or such corrupt persons, then we shall fight against such person. Until our demands are fulfilled, we shall punish the corrupt officials. Raghuvansh Babu was talking about royalty, infact we have continued with our movement in this regard throughout our life. Royalty should be price-based, at present royalty is being given on the basis of tonnage. Jharkhand has been created just 1 to 2 months back, but these people have grabbed the share of our royalty for the last three years. they are not giving it to us.

So, today we all, very humbly want to say to the Government and to the hon. Minister that he has been recently transferred to the coal department from health department. So, we request him to improve the conditions prevailing in the coal department but please do not improve it in the way you improved the health department. Please perform this duty with devotion, we would all support you. We are supporting this Bill because it has come from the Rajya Sabha, on the directions of the Supreme Court.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Sir, I rise to support the Bill with a few queries and reservations. The workers of the coal mines are under the threat of retrenchment and they are totally frustrated and disappointed.

Sir, through this Bill the Government proposes to transfer the assets of Coal India to its subsidiaries. I have a few queries on which I would like to be clarified. I would like to know if this is a step towards privatisation of the coal mines in India. We are for total modernisation but not for privatisation of the coal mines. I would like to

know if the hon. Minister of Coal is proposing to tread the path of the Steel Authority of India Limited whereby he could have eight Board of Directors under this organisation. If that is what is being proposed, then the Government must have to have a very big and costly set up for which the Government have to transfer more funds from its account. I would like to know if the Government is attempting to set up eight Board of Directors in this Institution of Coal India. I would like to be clarified on this point when the hon. Minister replies to the debate.

The workers of Coal India—be it the ECL, or the BCCL or CCL—are not getting any positive response from the Government in regard to their job security. This is because the import of coal from Australia and South Africa has gone up substantially. The very future of Coal India is now at stake. If the import of coal goes up so substantially, then the existence of Coal India would be in jeopardy. If the fate of such a public undertaking of the country is threatened to this extent, then I do not know how the Government would take a stand for the survival of this organisation.

Sir, if imported coal is allowed on such a large scale, the future of the Coal India Limited will be in jeopardy.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in addition to this point, I would ask the hon. Minister a few other questions.

This organisation is the second largest employed organisation with 7.5 lakh permanent employees. So, it is to be looked into with priority.

Sir, we still remember that it was Shri Ajit Kumar Panja, the then Coal Minister who introduced the Pension Scheme for the coal workers. But now, the fate of the Pension Scheme for the coal workers has no existence either in this Bill or anywhere under the decision of this Ministry. So, this is another question which may kindly be looked into by the hon. Minister.

Sir, the Coal India Limited is passing through great difficulties. Shri Basu Deb Acharia is present here. I still remember that a dispute got promptly precipitated when Shri Ajit Kumar Panja was the Coal Minister. It was only the State Government of West Bengal which was levying dual taxes as cess and royalty on coal, and for which the Coal India had a maximum loss over this dispute. The case is still *sub judice* pending in the Supreme Court.

If the fate of the Coal India Limited reaches such an uncertainty level, then the fate of the coal workers from the 64 mines of this great organisation will be totally fully of uncertainties. The conditions of the coal workers are well known. They have no homes. They have no system by which they can go for proper education of their children. Everyday, they have to pass their days with great difficulties.

So, far as the human rights of these workers are concerned, how is the Government protecting them? Merely passing of this Bill will not be enough. They will have to take some concrete steps. If they want to capture powers from the Parliament to reorganise different official set-up in the organisation, we are not hesitant to give them that power but *vis-a-vis* interests of the workers are to be protected at all costs.

You know, the public undertaking companies are already under threat. Even a few profit-making undertakings are also under threat. The Coal India being a positive public undertaking of this country should be given all sorts of protection. I reiterate that imported coal should not affect the future of the Coal India Limited, which is just at the verge of liquidation. The headquarters of the Coal India Limited being situated in my constituency, Calcutta North West, I am well aware of this organisation and their problems. I am also well aware with how much difficulties it is functioning.

Sir, the fate of a large section of the coal workers is in great dismay and full of uncertainties.

The purpose of this Bill is very limited. We do not find an appropriate opportunity to come across with you, for which, I hope when you get this opportunity, you will kindly clarify all the points, so that a message can reach everywhere, every section of the people that the Coal India Limited can be inspired, its 64 mines can be inspired and we can give a new light to these sections of people.

With these words, I once again support this Bill.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this Bill. I will be very brief.

Sir, it is an important Bill which we have already passed in the Rajya Sabha. I remember that it was the great man of Tamil Nadu — Shri Mohan Kumaramangalam — who, under the leadership of Shrimati Indira Gandhi, nationalised the coal mines.

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

Again, it is another Minister from Tamil Nadu who is now heading the Ministry of Coal, possibly under pressure from the NDA to find ways and means to privatise and disinvest. The NDA Government is under the scrutiny of the nation at the moment as to what their designs in the various Departments are. The Minister of Finance is keeping quiet; Shri Arun Shourie is analysing the units one after another to finalise his views about disinvesting. Each Ministry is under tight control not to spell out the policy. Even during the Calling Attention on Maruti Udyog Limited we observed that the Minister did not categorically answer whether they have any design for disinvestment. We support the transfer of properties to subsidiaries and all these things. We support the transfer of properties to subsidiaries and all these things. We support this Bill because we understand the compulsions of the hon. Minister. But can he categorically announce today in the House on behalf of the NDA Government that the Government has no design or plan during the entire tenure of the NDA Government to de-nationalise or remotely plan to privatise the coal sector of India? He has to answer this. He should not try to give an evasive reply.

The coal *mafias* are ruling the coal sector. Being a public man, I am sorry to admit that the coal *mafias* have a nexus with the coal bureaucracy and the politicians. It is the coal *mafias* that are ensuring the losses of the coal mines and the coal sector. It was found that the *mafias* rule this sector and not the workers who are actually risking their lives. Therefore, I want to know from the hon. Minister the specific measures that he is contemplating for protecting the coal mines from the hands of the *mafias*. I would not like to mention any names here; the hon. Minister knows them better. The list is too long. You may appoint anybody as Chairman of the Coal India Limited and we do not question that. We do not have any role in that because it goes to the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. But please do not propose the name of any person under the scrutiny of the CBI under any kind of pressure of any lobby. If you do that, the Government would be under the cloud of a scam. Why are the official functionaries of the subsidiaries not appointed on a regular basis? Why are there only acting officials? Why could the Coal India Limited not find a Chairman till date? We have read in the newspapers that something is going on but please do not succumb to such pressures.

I was talking to the Secretary, Ministry of Coal the other day. I have got an interesting information. The Eastern Coalfields Limited is planning to float tenders in such a manner that a particular group is encouraged, a

particular individual is encouraged to respond to the tender. Here, you have a subsidiary which is floating a tender. When you float a tender, you stipulate certain specifications or requirements. But to accommodate one or two particular groups, they are preparing the tender forms in such a manner that they do not show certain items as required. This is the corruption rooted in the subsidiaries. You will have to apply a strong hand to check this corruption. The losses that are shown by the Coal India Limited are not because of the workers' inefficiency—they toil—but it is because of the manipulations both by the coal bureaucracy and by the *mafias*. Trucks after trucks of coal go right from the coal fields right up to Bangladesh without proper arrangements. There is no check. There are the *mafias* that have a nexus with the police, the coal bureaucracy and also the Border Security Force personnel.

Since we have supported this Bill in the Rajya Sabha, we will support it here also. But I request the hon. Minister to clarify the three points that I have raised.

There is also the issue of how to reduce the import. I am thankful to Shri Basu Deb Acharia. This is the first time he has praised the Congress of the past days. During the Congress period, the import of coal was to the tune of seven million tonnes; now, it is 24 million tonnes. Why has there been this increase in the import of coal? Is it because of the fact that the private sector that is emerging in the power sector in India and the State Electricity Boards are complaining about the quality of coal and the poor arrangements in the washeries? Or, is it because of something else? You have got to analyse this because it is more important to check the drain of your resources.

With these words, I conclude and again request the hon. Minister to categorically assure the House that there is no move to de-nationalise the coal mines and privatise any of the subsidiaries.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. Many hon. Members have said that decentralising this will help in stepping up production. Many hon. Members have also said that we should not rely only on imports. Indigenous production has to be stepped up. So, this is a right step to increase the indigenous production. At the same time, it would also improve quality. Mafia will be disintegrated. Since we are dependent on one channel, that channel is creating a lot of corruption. There should be an end to it. If you make the base wider, more people will be involved and more production will come. This is the right step to meet the country's energy needs. We should

also depend on clean energy. Hydel energy is the clean energy which is being wasted in our country. If you do not use coal it would remain, but if you do not use water, it would go waste; and it would go into the sea. Hydel energy has to be developed. This is a very important factor. The other cleaner energy is nuclear energy. I do not know why we are not concentrating on nuclear power. In other countries, like France, ninety per cent of the energy needs are met by nuclear energy. We are using only thermal. For that you have to supply quality coal. For that, you should have washeries etc. Many power plants are suffering since the quality of coal is not good. Most of the times there are shutdowns due to non-availability of quality coal.

With these few words I fully support the hon. Minister for bringing this amendment and I would request him to do it as fast as possible.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I extend my thanks to you for the time you gave me to speak. I support the Bill introduced by the hon. Minister in the House. Infact this Bill should be deliberated from both the sides, but the fact is that this deliberation has taken place only from one side. We have deliberated upon acquiring the land, but we have not discussed as to what are we going to do for the person from whom we shall acquire such land. I mean to say that it is necessary to give more price of land to such people alongwith service to them.

Sir, the country does not merely run by Lakshmi (money) and Saraswati (education) but a hard labour is also required. No one has ever thought about the person who puts his hard labour. We should also consider this aspect. I have myself witnessed the plight of labourers. Maximum coal mines are in Maharashtra, Nagpur also has many coal mines. There are no facilities of treatment, education and accommodation for the labourers. They are tribal people and so they remain in the same pitiable condition. The Government always say about the tribal people in any field whether it is about drinking water or anything else, but this would not last for long. This is not right. Secondly, revenue is earned from coal.

18.00 hrs.

In our Maharashtra, there is one thermal power station in Bhusawal, Parli but very bad quality coal is supplied there, which results in defects in thermal power, we should divert our attention in this direction. Only this

is my request. Once again, I extend my thanks to you for having given me time to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I hope the House agrees to extend the time of the House till this Bill is passed.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): I am thankful to the hon. Members who have participated in the debate and gave valuable and good suggestions. In all, 12 Members have participated in the discussion. They are Sarvshri Sontosh Mohan Dev, Girdhari Lal Bhargava, Basu Deb Acharia, B.B. Ramaiah, Wadiyar, P.R. Khunte, Raghunath Prasad Singh, Raghunath Jha, Sudip Bandyopadhyay, P.R. Dasmunsi, M.V.V.S. Murthy and Hari Shankar Mahale.

Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev wanted to know which Court case has compelled the Government to bring in this Bill. I may inform the hon. Member that in August, 1990, in the context of what the Supreme Court has said in the BCCL vs State of Bihar, it was decided to bring this Bill. Shri Dev also talked about the need for modernisation and protecting the interest of the State Government. The hon. Member also felt that vacancies in Coal India need to be filled up and corruption to be checked. The purpose of the Coal Mines Nationalisation (Amendment) Bill, 2000 is not to allow privatisation of Coal India but to allow any Indian company, maybe also private company, to do non-captive coal mining. Its purpose is not to reduce the role of the Coal India or its subsidiaries.

Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava while supporting the Bill said that the Bill has been brought to correct the lacuna in the statute. He also requested the Government to improve the workers' welfare and ensure that the loss made to the State Government is set right. He also requested the Government to improve administration in Coal India.

Shri Acharia talked about the history of the Bill. He also talked about the pre and post-nationalisation scenario in the Coal industry. The hon. Member wanted the Coal India to be structured in the fashion of the Steel Authority of India. His concern is about the BCCL, CCL, etc. There are a number of underground mines. He believes that a large number of work force has caused loss to the industry. He also talked about the import of coking coal. I would like to tell the hon. Member that coking coal is being imported because it is in shortage in our country.

[Shri N.T. Shanmugam]

The hon. Member has also referred to the shortage of CMDs...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We have abundant reserves...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Do you have any reason to support the shortage?...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: Coking coal is in short supply in India.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Chairman Sir, where does the weakness lie, they sell coking Coal under the name of non-coking coal.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him reply.

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: Sir, the hon. Member has referred that there is a shortage of CMD.

Very soon PSEB is going to conduct the selection.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, what the Minister is replying? Is there dearth of talent in this country?

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: He referred to the shortage of CMDs in coal companies. But soon PSEB is going to conduct the selection in this regard. He also referred to corruption in the Coal India. He also said that the heavy earth machines are not being utilised properly. He also referred to the strike of the coal workers. Sir, the Coal India has already started negotiations with the workers. I can assure you that definitely it will be settled as early as possible. I have also given the direction to settle issues of the workers. This Bill is not really for the privatisation.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Minister, I do not know whether you have the information or not that the first negotiations failed.

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: The negotiations are still continuing. He has spoken about the release of the royalty. We are also thinking that the royalty should be on the *ad valorem* basis. It will be settled very soon. It will give a boost to the States also. The Coal India management is already holding discussions with the unions to settle the wage issue. The Government will settle the issue as early as possible.

Hon. Member, Dr. B.B. Ramaiah, supported the Bill. He wanted the Government to certify that the Coal India shall continue to play an important role in the industry. He felt that pit-head washeries should be set up by Coal India to improve the quality of the coal. He also made a mention about the import of coal and coal mafia. He has also said that the Coal India is having 100 per cent share capital of subsidiary companies. Therefore, the Coal India is not diluted by transferring these properties to the subsidiaries.

Hon. Member, Shri Wadiyar, shown his apprehension that the Bill may be misused for transfer of tribal land to non-tribals and also the exploitation of the same by multinationals. He had also shown concern about the stamp duty losses to the States. He wanted that the electricity should be produced for agriculture and rural sectors by using coal. Hon. Member, Shri P.R. Khunte, supported the Bill.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, he is not replying. He is only narrating what the Members spoke. He should respond to the points raised. It is not a Vote of Thanks.

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: Sir, I will respond to that. He also wanted that the quality of the coal should be improved by setting up the washeries. He also felt that it will provide employment in the surrounding area. Sir, steps will be taken to produce diesel from coal. He asked about the steps taken by the Government to curtail the corruption in the Coal India.

Hon. Member, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, reflected on corruption and coal mafia. He felt that the coal workers are being exploited. He felt that the dependence on the thermal power should be reduced. He said that the quality of coal should be improved. He had also spoken about the increase in royalty. He has shown concern about the royalty not being given for the first three years.

Hon. Member, Shri Raghunath Jha, supported the Bill. He said that the displaced people should be provided relief. He wanted that the corruption and coal theft should be stopped.

The Member wanted implementation of the recommendations of the R.N. Mishra Committee Report. He said that the recommendations of the proposed Coal India Chairman was incorrect.

Hon. Member Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay welcomed the Bill. He wanted modernisation and said that the workers' problem be settled, pension be paid to the workers and other interests of the workers be protected. He also said that importing of coal should not affect CIL. About the bad condition of the cistern coal mines which are loss making, he wanted the Government to pay immediate attention.

Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi said that the Bill is meant to protect the coal sector. The Member wanted investigation into coal mafia activities and corruption to be controlled. He also spoke about the import of coal. In this context I would like to say that the import duty originally was 15 per cent. To reduce the import, we have increased it to 25 per cent. The rail freight concession of 10 per cent which was given earlier has now been withdrawn to promote our indigenous coal.

Shri M.V.V.S. Murthi wanted that the quality of coal be improved. He supported the Bill and wanted promotion of hydel energy and other forms of clean energy such as nuclear energy. He also said that corruption should be curtailed.

Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale supported the Bill and wanted welfare of the tribal people be taken into account. He also wanted improvement in the quality of coal.

I have carefully listened to the debate on the Coal India (Regulation of Transfers and Validation) Bill, 2000 in the House and the points raised by hon. Members during the course of the debate. Apprehensions have been raised that the Bill shall lead to privatisation or shall change the role of CIL as a holding company. Mention has also been made about loss of State's share in stamp duty or authority in grant of mining lease. Now I would like to address the important issues raised during the debate.

I may point out that the absence of formal legal title to the land, coke oven plant, mining rights and other properties in the subsidiary companies of CIL has exposed them to litigation and other legal infirmities. This matter was examined before the Committee on Public Undertakings. The Committee had directed that the transfer of rights in and over land and properties in favour of subsidiary companies, which are *de facto* managing the mines and properties vested in CIL, should be effected without any further delay. The two former Attorney-Generals had also advised that this situation should be rectified through appropriate legislative measures.

The Standing Committee on Industry also undertook a comprehensive examination of many of the issues raised during the course of the debate in the House. The Report of the Standing Committee, which was laid in the Lok Sabha on 27th July 2000 deals with these issues at length and, therefore, it may not be necessary for me to go into these again. The Committee has recommended adoption of the Bill.

It has been pointed out whether the same objective could have been achieved by effecting suitable amendments in the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, instead of introducing a fresh legislation. It needs to be appreciated that lands, mining rights and other properties have been acquired by CIL through different modes and statutes namely, Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Acts of 1972 and 1973, the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957, and Land Acquisition Act, 1894, and through direct negotiations etc. Amendment to the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act would not have covered the lands and properties acquired through other statutes and modes. Hence, the need for a separate law.

Apprehensions have been expressed by some State Governments that adoption of this Bill may infringe upon the Constitutional rights of the State Governments, particularly in respect to grant of mining lease, collection of stamp duty and registration fee etc.

May I reiterate that after the nationalisation of the coal mines in terms of the provisions of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, the Central Government became the deemed lessee of the State Government. When the Central Government, in turn, vested these coal mines in Coal India Ltd., the CIL became a deemed lessee of the State Government. The deemed leases are purported to be contractual leases granted under the Mines and Mineral Development and Regulation Act, 1957, read with the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960. Similar arrangement exists under the provisions of the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957, in relation to land and mining rights acquired under the said Act. Therefore, these statutes leave no scope of discretion with the State Governments in regard to grant of mining leases where the land and mining rights have been acquired under the aforesaid statutes.

In so far as the question of collection of stamp duty and registration fee is concerned, I may state again that the Bill, *inter alia*, seeks to validate, with retrospective effect, the transfers of properties from Coal India Limited to its subsidiary companies, as these transactions are not covered under the existing provisions of the Coal

[Shri N.T. Shanmugam]

Mines Nationalisation Act and the Coal Bearing Areas Act. Transfer of such nature cannot be validated through the Transfer of Property Act or the Companies Act, 1956, as they also do not allow retrospective measures. Therefore, no duty or fee is leviable on such transfers.

Moreover, the properties in question are national properties and in the national interest, their transfer should be exempted from the payment of stamp duty. The Standing Committee has also reached the same conclusion and endorsed the view that the proposed enactment would override the Acts of State Legislatures because it flows from the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act and Section 28 of the said Act has an overriding effect not withstanding anything inconsistent therewith in any other law for the time being in force.

Some hon. Members have expressed an apprehension that the Bill would facilitate privatisation of Coal India. Let me reassure the hon. Members that there is no ground for the same. The Bill merely seeks to legalise ownership of the coal mines being managed and operated by the coal producing subsidiaries of Coal India Limited. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: This is a step towards privatisation.

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: It is not so.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You may just tell us whether it is the policy of the Government or any policy pending to denationalise or privatise Coal India Limited. You may just answer to this point.

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: There is no idea to privatise Coal India. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Then why have you introduced a Bill in the Rajya Sabha? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am talking about the Government policy now. Can you assure the House that there will be no such action? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly allow him to reply first.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Can you assure the House that there will be no attempt to denationalise or privatise Coal India? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Why have you introduced Coal Mines Nationalisation (Amendment) Bill in Rajya Sabha? For what purpose have you introduced it there? If you have no intention to privatise Coal India, then why have you introduced it in Rajya Sabha? If that is so, then you withdraw the Bill...*(Interruptions)* Sir, he is misleading the House. He cannot be allowed to mislead the House...*(Interruptions)* Sir, the same Minister had introduced a Bill in Rajya Sabha to denationalise the Coal India. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may allow him to reply. Let him complete his reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, you must protect the Member. A Member has put a question to the Minister. Will he categorically say that there is no design to privatise or to denationalise Coal India? It is a simple question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wait for the completion of his reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You allow the Minister to complete the reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: The Bill merely seeks to legalise the ownership of the coal mines being managed and operated by the coal producing subsidiaries of the Coal India Limited. The Bill has no such provisions as would facilitate privatisation of coal mines. ...*(Interruptions)* For any disinvestment of equity or sale/transfer of coal mines to private parties, the subsidiary companies will have to obtain approval from not only CIL but the Central Government as well...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am not talking about this Bill. I am talking about the policy of the Government...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, Shri Dasmunsi and Shri Athawale, please sit down. Please allow the hon. Minister to reply. Let him complete it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: Questions were also raised on whether this Bill will affect the status of CIL as a

holding company. Here again, I may re-assure the august House that as far as control of CIL as a holding company is concerned, that is in no way diluted, because the Articles of Association of Coal India clearly stipulate that a subsidiary company, before it can transfer any substantial interest in its property, has to take the approval of Coal India...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What will be the role of Coal India Limited?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Acharia, this is not the way of doing things.

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: In any case, 100 per cent of the paid up capital of the subsidiaries is owned by CIL. It further stipulates that even for mobilising foreign loans or entering into joint ventures, a subsidiary company has to go "in and through" CIL only...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What is the policy of the Government? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot dictate to the hon. Ministers as to how they have to answer.

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: I have attempted to clarify the position on all major issues of concern raised by the hon. Members. The Bill essentially seeks to plug a lacuna in the statute. This measure will facilitate a clear delineation and consolidation of lands and assets of various subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited. This will avoid litigation and also enable the coal companies to mobilise resources from other sources..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What is the policy of the Government?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot cross-examine a Minister. You cannot prevent a Minister from replying. Please do not disturb the hon. Minister.

..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: I am thankful to the hon. Members for their participation in the debate, which illuminated various aspects of the Bill. The Rajya Sabha has already passed the Bill. May I now request the august House also to pass the Bill?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, with your permission, I want to seek only one clarification. Mr. Minister, can you assure the House that your Government has no plan to disinvest coal India and privatise coal India? I want only that assurance. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Dasmunsi and Shri Acharia, he has already answered that point.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: He has not answered it. I am sorry that this is not the way of conducting the business. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to empower the Central Government to direct the transfer of the land, or of the rights in or over land or of the right, title and interest in relation to a coal mine, coking coal mine or coke oven plant, vested in the Coal India Limited or in a subsidiary company to any subsidiary company of Coal India Limited or any other subsidiary company and to validate certain transfers of such land or rights, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill. The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long title added to the Bill.

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Since the hon. Minister has not clarified the position, in protest, we walk out.

18.23 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Basu Deb Acharia and some other hon. Members left the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, 30th November, 2000 at 11 a.m.

18.24 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, November 30, 2000/ Agrahayana 9, 1922 (Saka)

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