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Wednesday, July 17, 2002

Asadha 26, 1924 (Saka)

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(English Version)

Tenth Session

(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA

Wednesday, July 17, 2002/Asadha 26, 1924 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

DR. C. KRISHNAN (Pollachi): Sir, Shri Vaiko has been arrested in Tamil Nadu under POTA...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given Adjournment motion notice regarding arrest of Shri Vaiko, who is an hon. Member of this House, under POTA...*(Interruptions)* It is a very important issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, you sit down. You raise it in Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): It is an important matter, you can give your ruling on it. He is a senior member of the House. My charge is that POTA has been misused against Shri Vaiko with a political intent. I demand for his immediate release. It is a serious matter...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is certainly a serious matter but it can be raised in Zero Hour only. I will not allow anyone to raise such a matter during Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: He had supported it...*(Interruptions)* He is Minister of State for Communications...*(Interruptions)* He had supported POTA. First of all it is he who has been implicated under it. I request you to take this matter seriously...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singhji, you are well aquainted with all the rules. I am on my legs, you resume your seat. Now you raise it during the Zero Hour. Shri P.C. Thomas.

11.02 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

SPCA in All Districts

*41. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued directives to all State Governments to form Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCAs) in all districts;

(b) if so, the number of SPCAs formed so far; and

(c) the details of financial assistance given to the SPCAs during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the available records, the number of SPCAs formed in the country till date is 307.

(c) The financial assistance given to the SPCAs during the last three years is as follows:—

Year	Amount
1999-2000	69,97,405/-
2000-2001	38,32,740/-
2001-2002	93,27,440/-
Total	2,01,57,585

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, there is a small cruelty. The Prime Minister was to answer this question but I think the Department has been changed...*(Interruptions)* As per the list, the Prime Minister has to answer it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please go ahead, Shri Thomas.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS: The Prime Minister must answer it....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: I am happy that the answer has been given by the hon. Minister stating that there are in total 307 SPCAs in the country and more than Rs. 2 crore is being granted as assistance in the past three years. Though I would say that the amount is meagre yet at least the Central Government has a policy to give aid to SPCAs. Cruelty to animals is a very big subject, though cruelty to men is much more bigger subject. Sir, I would like to ask a pointed question which is like this.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do that.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Though 307 SPCAs are there in the country, yet in many States their number is meagre. I also find that in my State, Kerala, the number is meagre. Though there are 14 districts yet the number of SPCA is twelve. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how many SPCAs are there in the State of Kerala and how many are there in other States which are being aided by the Centre. I would also like to ask if there is any cruelty shown by the Centre in not giving any aid to any particularly State. I would like to know whether, particularly with regard to my State, the Minister at the Centre has been magnanimous enough to give some aid or has been cruel enough not to give any aid.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, first of all, I would like to reply to my friend that I would neither be cruel to him nor to any of my other friends. At the same, I would not be cruel to any of my enemies also.

Sir, he has asked some pertinent questions about the State of Kerala. Under the Prevention of Cruelty Act, 12 Societies have been set up in Kerala State. Six were funded by the Animal Welfare Board and about Rs. 2,41,518 have been funded in 1999-2000; about Rs. 15,000 were given in 2000 to Trisoor SPCA; and Rs. 25,000 were given in 2001-02 to Kollam SPCA. As far as 307 units are concerned, those units have been set up in 306 districts. So, for the information of the House, I could only say that two years ago, there were only 145 SPCAS, and within two years, there is an increase of more than hundred per cent. Now, there are 307 units. At the same time, the Government is in constant touch with the State Governments. If they come forward with the proposals for setting up more SPCA Units, will definitely encourage such activities.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, there is a lot of corruption at the bureaucratic level in giving proper feed to the animals which are tamed and which are in our zoos or in other places. For example, there was an allegation which I saw in the newspapers that in one zoo—I am sorry it is in Kerala—all the money which had been earmarked for the animal feed has been taken away and a paltry sum has really been spent for the animals. Sir, it is a real cruelty to the animals. I would like to ask the Minister whether this has come to his notice and if not, will he inquire into the matter?

Sir, I would also like to know whether he will take necessary steps in this regard to see that the amount which is earmarked for giving feeds to the animals in zoos and elsewhere also is properly spent. I would also urge upon the Minister to weed out corruption which has been alleged in this regard.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, the question does not relate to the main question. But since he is very much worried about a particular zoo, I would like to reply.

Sir, for the information of the House I would say that in Trivandrum zoo some malpractices are taking place. In that regard, we have received some information. But we have not yet exactly gone into this issue. For the upgradation of enclosures, in 1997-98, we had spent Rs. 30 lakh. In 2000-01, the Central Government has given Rs. 46.40 lakh, and in 2001-02, we had given Rs. 82.75 lakh. In all, Rs. 159.15 lakh have been provided. If Shri Thomas has got some specific report about some particular zoo, he can pass on that information to me. I would definitely inquire into it. If any malpractice is identified, it will be taken up seriously by the Central Government.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is some controversy regarding using animals for experimental purposes. There was a controversy between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Environment. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the policy of the Government in this regard.

Sir, as regards utilisation of funds, there are certain allegations and shortcomings.

I would like to know whether the Ministry of Environment will evaluate the performance of this unit to see whether the money has been properly utilised or not. I hope that the Government would examine this carefully.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: There are specific rules under which animals can be subjected to experiments. This particular act is not illegal; it is lawful. At the same time, cruelty to a particular animal or animals during the course of experiment should be as minimal as possible in order to see that they are given proper treatment and made good after some time.

As far as overseeing these experiments are concerned, a separate Committee for the purpose of control and supervision of experiments on animals has been set up. Almost all the senior Secretaries are there. The Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Secretary, Department of Education, Dr. Manju Sharma, the Secretary, Department of Bio-technology, the Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry are all there. Twenty experts and Secretaries who are responsible people are there in this Committee. They will supervise and exercise control over the experiments to see that there is no cruelty to animals. Definitely, if any cruelty is noticed, they will be brought to book.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister in reply to part (b) of question No.—41 has stated that 307 institutions are working for prevention of cruelty to animals. I would like to bring to his notice that several institutions under "Jeev Daya Mandal" have also been set up which work for prevention of cruelty to animals. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how much funds has been provided by the Government to various institutions set up under 'Jeev Daya Mandal'.

I would also like to bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister that an organisation for Protection of Tiger has been set up in Ranthambor National Park of Swai Madhopur. Similarly several organisations/institutions for protection of Tiger and other animals like "Zeev Daya Mandal" have been set up for prevention of cruelty to animals. I would like to apprise the House that the institution for protection of National Tiger receives foreign financial assistance through FCRA besides receiving funds from within the country.

As per the figures of the three years given by the hon. Minister, it becomes explicit that approximately Rupees two and a half crore have been given by the Union Government to various institutions for the prevention of cruelty to animals but is it in the notice of the hon. Minister that the institution set up for protection of tiger has been getting approximately Rupees five crore from abroad each year. If this Ministry is aquainted with this I would like to know the number and names of such institutions which receive funds from abroad and the details of the funds being received by each of those?

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, I cannot answer my sister's second part of the question because it pertains to National Parks and Sanctuaries. I can say that during 1999-2000, Rs. 69,97,405 had been given as financial assistance to the SPCA. In 2000-2001, Rs. 38,32,740 and in 2001-2002, Rs. 93,27,440, totalling Rs. 2,01,57,585 have been extended as financial assistance to the units set up throughout India. To the Northeast alone, we have given Rs. 1,16,29,441 in the year 2001-2002.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had also asked the hon. Minister as to how much money was provided by the Centre to the Jeev Daya Mandal Institution set up for prevention of cruelty to the animals but the hon. Minister did not reply. I would insist that he replies in this regard.

[English]

SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Mr. Speaker Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether such SPCA societies are facing financial difficulty even as on date. As the ex-Chairman of the Pune District SPCA, I have experienced that there is no single farthing for such societies. They will have to be run only on the amenities given by the donors. I would like to know whether the Government is thinking of giving enough publicity to such a venture wherein people will donate if some concessions under Section 80(G) of the Income Tax Act are given. In this way, I hope enough money will be accumulated and societies will be able to run properly. I would again ask whether the Government will give publicity and some concessions to the donors so that the stray animals which are caught an be fed properly, hospitals which are to be run for them can be well equipped and the medicines to be given to such animals can be bought. If yes, will the Government formulate a scheme in this regard?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, I would tell this august House that there is no paucity of funds. But at the same time, the Central Government would consider any specific proposal that would emanate from the State Government.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his reply to the question the hon. Minister has given information that the number of societies for prevention of cruelty to Animals is 307 and an amount of two and a half crore has been provided to those in the last three years. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any utilisation certificate in this regard has been received by him? Further, what are the details of the report prepared after the proper investigation of those utilisation certificates?

I hail from Bihar. In the second part of my question I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the number of these societies in Bihar and how much funds have been provided to Bihar in these three years. It is you who would preserve Bihar. As far I know no funds have been provided to Bihar so far. Bihar is being neglected in this regard also.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU: I do not have the figures as far as Bihar is concerned. But at the same time, as I had replied to the previous supplementary, money is not the problem. The only thing is that the proposal has to come.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: I have asked about the utilisation checking and report.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU: On receipt of the utilisation certificate and the proposal, the Central Government would definitely have no hesitation to extend funds.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: I have also asked about the societies in Bihar.

MR. SPEAKER: How can you ask questions repeatedly.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, the controversy which erupted between the former Minister for Animal Welfare and the former Health Minister is fresh in our minds. The point raised by Shrimati Maneka Gandhi was that when animals are used in our research laboratories, scientists are not following international stipulations. It seems that, following the controversy, both the Ministers have lost their jobs. Further, there are allegations that in different States, especially in Tamil Nadu, the Central Ministers and the Members of Parliament had been treated much more cruelly than guinea pigs. I would like to know whether the Central Government would intervene in this type of cruelties or not.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, this is Question Hour. I do not want to share my personal views...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, taking advantage of the Question Hour, it is not fair to cast aspersions on the State Governments. No Minister is above law. If a Minister has purchased the DIG, then he is liable to come under law...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Political questions cannot be answered during Question Hour. At some other time, we may settle political scores...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of great happiness that the Government is thinking in terms of preventing cruelty to the animals but there is an urgent need to set up such societies for prevention of cruelty to humans also. I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the work likely to be done by the societies set up for prevention of cruelty to animals? Besides I would like to say that the funds being provided to them are quite inadequate. I am of the view that Government bears as much responsibility of protecting the lives of animals as of humans. If the Government are to be kept intact, the protection of animals is necessary. If those are not protected and all the animals are forced to move out of their habitats then it will be difficult to run the Government.

I would like to submit to the Government that the ox should also be revered and respected like cows. But it is not being done. I want to say that it is the responsibility of the Government to protect the animals and merely setting up 307 societies would not protect the animals in the entire country. Hence there is a need to increase the number of societies and also to provide them more funds. The Government have tried to earn a lot of money through privatisation. I am of the view that more societies should be set up for this purpose and an arrangement for providing more money should also be evolved.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you need not reply to the later part of the question.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The question should be pointed. All have enjoyed your question. But the answer is not enjoyable.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, cruelty to animals especially the animals which are used

for various scientific experiments is really a matter of concern. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister in this regard. Wild animals like monkies, rabbits, rats and other species can be used for scientific experiment upto a certain age. After that age they no longer remain useful for that purpose. It has been observed and it is a scientifically proven fact that after the experiment such animals are not useful and are infected with various types of germs. Scientists have expressed great concern regarding arrangements made for the disposal, protection and providing food, water and shelter for such animals so that they could not spread the germs. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether any scheme has been formulated by his Department for the protection of such animals so that they could not disperse the germs and to check the cruelty being done to these animals. Please state in detail if any such arrangements has been made.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU: We have established five rescue centres throughout India with a capacity to have 300 animals. In the rescue centres, we rescue the animals which are subjected to cruelty. We take care of the animals and give medical assistance. After giving health-care if the animals are fit, they will be taken to same places. They will be freed and sent to their particular places after giving health-care...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: It does not answer my question.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had raised a very specific question...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I know what you had asked. He has replied that.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: He has not replied specifically to that question. My submission was that if proper arrangements are not made for infected animals they would spread those germs....*(Interruptions)* What is the policy or programme of the Government in this regard?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: It is a very serious question. It does not answer his question...*(Interruptions)*

Mobile Telephones by BSNL

+

*42. SHRI BHIM DAHAL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mobile telephones released by BSNL during the current year so far;

(b) the target fixed by BSNL for providing mobile phone connections during the year 2002-2003;

(c) the number of complaints received from the consumers for defective service; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the services?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) BSNL has not yet started mobile phone services on a large scale, however a C-DOT pilot project has been started. The number of mobile telephones released from this pilot project during the current financial year till 30.06.2002 is 8450.

(b) Target fixed for the current financial year by BSNL is 24 lakhs mobile phone connections countrywide on the Main GSM Cellular Project.

(c) and (d) Some complaints on network problems and service interruptions regarding this pilot project are being received from Bihar and West Bengal where the services are presently operational. BSNL is continually interacting with C-DOT and ITI for improving the software and hardware related problems. Significant improvements are there and further modifications are being carried out.

SHRI BHIM DAHAL: The hon. Minister's reply to part (c) and (d) has cleared my supplementary question which I intended to put. But with your permission, I want to go over to Sikkim for a while in a way of suggestion and not in a way of question. I must commend the people of Sikkim who have lauded the expansion work done by the Communications Department up to the village level in Sikkim. But the expansion had not been backed up with proper infrastructure and equipment That has resulted in deficiency in the telecommunications system.

In addition to that, the supervisory officers who are supposed to go to the villages and look into the system are not doing that and the same thing holds good in the case of Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, some other North Eastern States and also the Darjeeling District of West Bengal. May I suggest and request the Minister to have a proper survey and investigation done on the difficulties of the Department of Telecommunications in having a proper system set up there?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, this is a suggestion for action. We are always interested in improving the telecommunication services, particularly for people in the North Eastern Region, where telecommunication is the basic mode of transport for them.

Though I was expecting the hon. Member to ask the basic question as to when the mobile telephone service will start in Sikkim, he did not ask that question which should have come directly. So, I would like to take this opportunity of assuring him of improving the general telecommunication infrastructure. At the same time, I would like to inform the hon. Member that we are going to start mobile telephone service also in Sikkim, particularly in four cities, namely, Gangtok, Gayzing, Mangon and Namche. About 10,000 lines of mobile telephone will be given by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in these four cities and somewhere from 1st January, 2003 to 31st March, 2003, all these cities will have a mobile communication system. Further, we will take care of the hon. Member's suggestion about the infrastructure system.

SHRI. BHIM DAHAL: Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: I think the supplementary has also been replied to by the Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit that though deadline has been fixed and within that period mobile service will be introduced all over the country and BSNL has also acquired the status of independent corporation but services and performance level of mobile service does not match the international level. What steps are going to be taken to improve that level? At the same time, I would like to know about tariff also. The Standing Committee on I.T. has not only recommended but also expressed concern over the increase made in the earlier suggested tariff especially for WLL which is not feasible. What steps are being taken by the hon'ble Minister in this regard?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as first mobile service is concerned, Bharat Sanchar Nigam has not yet started this service. The mobile service which was being provided in Bihar and Bengal was just like a Pilot project. Bharat Sanchar Nigam will start its mobile service by the end of August and it would be endeavour of the Nigam to provide these services in 1000 main cities of the country by the end of March in the next year. Our endeavour is to provide this service to all the district headquarters at least by 31st March. As Bharat Sanchar Nigam will have to compete with Private Sector in this regard, the instruments which have been brought are of international level and they would be used in it.

I think second question which he has raised does not pertain to the main question. However, I would like to tell that earlier Telecom Regulatory Authority had made a norm that one can not charge less than the Floor Price of Rs. 450 for W.L.L Now it has been changed and the rates have been reduced by Rs. 200/-. Standing Committee on W.L.L.. service, several Members and Chief Ministers had also suggested the same. Even I also requested the Telecom Regulatory Authority to reduce the rates, they accepted it and hence W.L.L. service will also be available at cheaper rates. Tariff is being reduced in telecommunication sector and will continued to be reduced. Now there is no possibility of further increase in it.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I would like to ask a very small question.

MR. SPEAKER: If it is a small one, you should ask it later on. Several other members have given notices here.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mobile service has been provided in Bhind city of Madhya Pradesh, Etah, Kanpur and Firozabad in Uttar Pradesh but not in my Parliamentary Constituency, Etawah. Since I represent that area, this facility has not been provided there. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister by when the mobile service would be started in Etawah, Kannoj, Farrukhabad, Mainpuri and Orriya.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: The complaint regarding non-availability of mobile service in the Etawah should be against the private sector and not against my Department. All mobile services in the adjoining areas of Kanpur are provided by the private sector. Etawah also comes under their perview. When Bharat Sanchar Nigam will start the service, it would be provided in Etawah also.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Private sector can be pressurised in this regard.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Instead of pressurising the private sector, I would like to mention that mobile service of Bharat Sanchar Nigam would be started before 31st March and most probably by December, in Etawah and all other districts. Even if some places are left, you may inform us.

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. The hon. Minister has mentioned in his statement that the target fixed for the current financial year is 24 lakh mobile phones for the entire nation. I would like to know the target fixed for the State of Kerala. How much achievement has been made so far in this respect?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, the target fixed for Kerala is about two lakh telephones.

As I said, these services will start in phases sometime from August-end and would be completed in the entire country. There will be two phases. The first phase would be from August-end to December-end. The second phase would be up to March-end. In these two phases, two lakh subscribers could be serviced by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited as far as the State of Kerala is concerned.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Mr. Speaker Sir, as stated by hon'ble Minister, Government are planning to spread the communication network throughout the country and within the reach of every person. Under this plan, limited mobile service that is W.L.L. service has been started. This service has been provided in some villages also. I think the hon'ble Minister is aware that services of W.L.L. are extremely expensive. It is not within the reach of common villagers. It costs around Rs. 14,000. If this service is to be provided in villages, it should be made cheaper. Besides, I would also like to say that there is acute shortage of this service. If a villager wants to subscribe this service it is not available. Why it is so? Is the instrument for this service is being imported from a foreign company or a domestic company is manufacturing it or is there any problem due to which Government have failed to meet the demand? Will the Government make efforts to fulfil the demand?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, perhaps hon'ble member is indicating towards the cost of instrument used in W.L.L. service which is of Rs. 14,000. We all may recall that initially when G.S.M. service was introduced in the country, the cost of the set was Rs. 50,000. However, with the increase in demand, the prices continued to go down and now its prices are around Rs. 5000-7000 only. It's prices will be reduced further also. Government are not manufacturing this instrument. And they are not intending to give any subsidy to its purchasers. With the increase in its demand, the prices will be reduced definitely.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, when the Ministry disinvested the VSNL, then it was very much talk of the country that the hon. Minister is opposed to the idea of making disinvestment for Tata Group and he was annoyed with the decision.

Mobile phones are now becoming a very competitive matter as has happened in the case of airlines. The fare structure of Indian Airlines is becoming very competitive and private and Government airlines are gradually decreasing the rates. A target has been fixed up for 24 lakhs of Mobile phones will be provided country wide. I would like to have a State-wise break-up in that regard from the hon. Minister and would also like to know whether he has made a market assessment as to how long or how far it will be a profit-making emerging unit in comparison with the studies done by the private mobile sector which is very effectively functioning in this country.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, at the outset—though it is not related to this question—as the Member has said on the floor of the House, let me first say that I was not opposed to the disinvestment of VSNL or either VSNL going to Tatas because it went through a very transparent process. I have no objection about that. The dispute of Government with Tatas was on some investment made by Tatas after the disinvestment process, we being 26 per cent shareholders even in the new VSNL, but that is not a subject matter under discussion. But I think that let me make it crystal clear that I was not opposed to this disinvestment.

As I said, definitely market surveys are done before these things take place, but one must now understand that the telecom sector is the most liberalised sector in the country. One cannot say that anybody, anywhere can start any kind of service and those companies, private or semi-Government or corporations, who will give the best service will survive. So, naturally, the VSNL will have to compete in services and I am very sure that looking at the basic strength of VSNL, it will definitely survive in this cut throat competition. But our interest as Government or even our interest as parliamentarians should not be either in private companies or VSNL, our interest should be in the customers getting the most efficient service at the most affordable prices and that is the real telecom policy.

SHRI V.S SIVAKUMAR: Sir it was declared by the Government of India that BSNL's mobile coverage would be there in the entire NH-47 stretching from Kanyakumari to Kollam. But now it is understood that the length between Parassala and Neyyathinkara will not be fully covered.

I want to know from the hon. Minister, if the mobile coverage is not there, will the Central Government take action for installation of a new tower at Udiyankalangara Exchange.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, as far as general planning map of BSNL about the mobile services is concerned, the BSNL is trying its level best to cover, as I said, all district headquarters, about thousand cities, all national highways, all important tourist centres, and all religious centres. At this juncture, looking at the length of national highway, it is not possible for me to answer to the hon. Member's question whether a particular section of a particular national highway will come under mobile services or not. But definitely, I will look into this and see to it that all national highways will be covered and if there is any problem, we will try to solve it quickly.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my problem is same as stated by Shri Mulayam Singh. Mobile service has been provided in Sevan which is in south of Gopalganj, in Motihari which is in north of Gopalganj, in Muzaffarpur which is in east of it and in Gorakhpur also which is in west of Gopalganj. However, Gopalganj which is district headquarter is deprived of this service. I had written a letter to hon'ble Minister in this regard and he had assured me that 2600 connections would be provided. But no action has been taken in this regard till now. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister by when this target would be achieved.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mulayam Singh ji and hon. Raghunath Jha have a complaint against the private sector. There is no restriction in terms of areas in which the private sector is supposed to operate. They do all this work from business point of view. The Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. has decided to start this service in all the districts by 31st of March and definitely Gopalganj, would also be taken care of. He can congratulate me from this own mobile phone after first of April.

[English]

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Sir, I would like to put my question to the hon. Minister. In the present scenario in the country, from North to South, East to West, the entire country is covered by Cellular phone and WLL. But the Government of India has put some sort of a restriction in allowing WLL and mobile telephones to be used in the North-East. Now, my question to the Government is this. Can the Government give any certificate to any Zone that they are free from *mafia* activities, free from terrorist activities or insurgency activities? As a member of the Standing Committee, I cross-examined the Ministry of Defence and the Home Ministry on this point...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please put a straight question.

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: I am putting it. If I do not explain, then it will be difficult. Sir, it is very important. After the interview with these two Ministries, they have allowed a portion of Arunachal Pradesh, leaving Changlang and Tirap districts, Mizoram and Sikkim. But the remaining five States are still being restricted due to this security consideration. If that is the yardstick that you apply, then, in that case, you will have to ban even

Gujarat, Rajasthan, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. All these are near unfriendly countries and also in States, where these PWG and naxalite activities are going on. So, in order to give an equal chance to the people, you must give this chance for use of mobile phones to the North-East...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You must come to the question straight. I have to take up three more Questions.

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Sir, even recently, the Home Ministry has given me an assurance before I went to the North-East on the Standing Committee tour...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you not ask the Minister a question now?

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Sir, Shri Pramod Mahajan is very considerate for the North-East. Can he call an emergency meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security and ask them to lift the security restriction for the use of Cellular phone and even for the use of WLL in the North-East. which will make things very easy and the people in the North-East would feel very happy and satisfied.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset let me say that I share the concern of the hon. Member and I am in total agreement with him that the mobile services should be given to the entire country and not even an inch of this land should be deprived of the mobile services. So, naturally, mobile services should be...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: By when?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Would you wait, Shri Acharia? Sir, as you are aware, whether private or public sector, when they go for starting the mobile services, they need clearance from the security agencies. Unless the security agencies give their clearances, nobody can start these services...*(Interruptions)* I will come to that. Unless I develop my argument, how will you understand? Once I had gone to the Cabinet Committee on Security for seeking the permission but unfortunately I did not get it.

As far as the mobile services are concerned, I have already moved another Cabinet note to the Cabinet Committee on Security asking their permission for giving services in Jammu and Kashmir and North-East. I am, this time, more confident due to your efforts in both the Committees that the Cabinet Committee will give me the special permission and the moment permission comes—our instruments are already there—we will try our level best to start the services within minimum period.

[Translation]

Prices of Steel Material and Scrap

*43. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the existing rules for increasing/decreasing the prices of steel articles produced in steel plants;

(b) whether the prices of material/scrap and other articles being produced in steel plants especially in Bokaro Steel Plant have been increased recently;

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

(d) whether the prices of scrap and some articles produced in steel plants have not been increased during the last three years; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement

(a) After decontrol of steel items in 1991-92 as part of the process of economic liberalisation, Government does not fix prices for these items. Prices of various steel items are determined by respective steel producers based on the prevailing market conditions and other related factors.

(b) to (e) Scrap is not produced in steel plants, it is generated as a residual element during the processing of prime steel material. Prices of many steel items and scrap have increased in recent months in steel plants including Bokaro. Details of prices for various steel products, including melting scrap and re-rollable scrap, in major markets of the country during May, 2002 as compared to April, 2002 are indicated in the Annexure.

Annexure

Trend in Market Prices of Steel Products

(Prices in Rupees per metric tonne)

Sl. No.	Item	Kolkata		Delhi		Mumbai		Chennai		Hyderabad	
		May'02	Apri'02	May'02	Apri'02	May'02	Apri'02	May'02	Apri'02	May'02	Apri'02
1.	(a) Billets, 1000x1000 MM	11950	12000	12500	12500	11000	11000	13000	12800	12600	12000
	(b) Bloom, 150x1150 MM	12000	11700	12300	12300	10500	10500	12500	11800	12200	11000
2.	Wire Rods (Coil), 6 MM	15450	15300	15500	15500	15500	15200	16000	16000	15700	15000
	Wire Rods (Coil), 8 MM	14950	14600	15800	15800	15200	15000	15800	15800	15500	15500
3.	Plain Rounds, 12 MM	14550	14400	15300	15300	15500	14800	15500	15200	15200	15000
4.	Tor Steel, 10 MM	14800	13700	16000	16000	15800	15200	16000	15500	15300	15000
5.	Angles, 50x50x6 MM	15650	15300	15000	14800	15400	15200	15600	15400	15000	14900
	Angles, 1000x1000x8 MM	14600	14400	15000	14800	15000	15000	15400	15000	15000	14800
6.	Joists, 125x70 MM.	16700	16500	15500	15500	16800	15800	17400	17000	16000	16000
	Joists. 300x140 MM	18900	19700	16700	16700	19000	19000	18000	17500	16000	16000
7.	Channels, 75x40 MM.	15800	15000	15200	15200	15400	15200	16000	15800	15000	15000
	Channels, 100x50 MM.	15200	15000	15200	15200	15400	15200	15600	15500	15000	15000
8.	Plates, 6 MM.	15825	14300	15000	14500	17000	15000	16800	15400	15000	14600
	Plates, 8/10 MM.	15800	14300	15000	14500	17000	15000	16400	15000	15000	14600
9.	H.R. Coils, 2 MM	16600	15200	17000	16400	18000	15800	17200	15900	18000	15400
	H.R. Coils, 3.15 MM	15700	14200	15500	15000	17500	15200	17000	15900	16500	15100
10.	C.R. Coil, 0.63 MM.	19800	18800	20000	19500	20500	19000	23000	19500	19500	18500
11.	G.P. Sheets, 0.63 MM.	23600	20800	22000	21500	25500	25000	24000	24000	24000	24000
12.	G.C. Sheets, 0.63 MM.	24100	22300	23000	22500	25500	25000	24500	24000	24500	24500
13.	Pig Iron	9000	9000	9600	9500	9100	8500	9000	8800	8800	8800
14.	Melting Scrap	8000	7870	9000	9000	7200	6500	7200	7200	6500	6500
15.	HBI/Sponge Iron	6100	6000	7600/ 7300	7500/ 7200	7000	6500	7200	7200	6500	6500
16.	Re-Rollable Scrap	—	—	—	—	11200	10400	11000	11000	—	—

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not satisfied with the reply given by the hon. Minister and that is why through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to the number of times the production cost of steel material scrap and other articles of COBT have been increased as well as decreased in each month since the year 2001 till date due to imprudent management situation and negligence on the part of the management in Bokaro Steel Plant. I would like to know the details of prices of production material?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply to parts (b) and (e) of my question is totally baseless, in fact the House has been misguided in this regard. I request him to provide the details of increase or decrease made in the prices of steel scraps till July, 2002, to this House after conducting an enquiry in this regard.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Before liberalisation, steel was a controlled item with controls on capacity creation, pricing and distribution. After the de-control of steel items in 1991-92, the Government does not fix prices for these items. It depends mostly on the market conditions. When the market price is increase, automatically, the price of steel item increases. So far as the scrap in Bokaro is concerned, the price of scrap is determined by the Price Fixation Committee constituted by the Bokaro Steel Plant. After the prices are fixed, the scrap available is sold to all the applicant traders. It is true that in the meantime there is increase in the price of scrap because the international prices of scrap has also increased. The international price of scrap has also gone up from 117 US dollars to 120 US dollars during July-August, 2001 to 140 US dollars to 142 US dollars currently, which is the ruling price in the international market. So when the international market is picking up, naturally the price of steel products and scrap is also going up, and that is happening in our country. Bokaro Steel Plant has also increased it. In all the steel plants of the country, the prices of scrap and other items are also increased during the Ist three or four months.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a small question with regard to reply given by the hon. Minister that the basic price after inviting tender in this regard in June-July was Rs. 10,500/- per tonne. Then, under what circumstances a draw was held and it was distributed amongst 4-5 persons. In the entire world, price of Steel has been increasing and decreasing, but it is not going to increase in 2-3 days, then why is the price increasing or decreasing every hour there. There must be some limit for such an increase or decrease i.e. say in a month, in 15 days, or in 2 days.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my second supplementary question I would like to know whether details with regard to reconstitution of time limit for better profits since 2000-2001, would be provided. Thereafter, there would be a need for package. Even then there has been a loss of lakhs of rupees between April and December in the financial year 1999-2000.

There must be a system for every work in the present times. I, therefore request you to hold a CBI enquiry against the corrupt officers so that the business community could get these items properly.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member has a particular complaint, I would definitely have it enquired if he gives me in writing.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, for one reason or the other, all steel plants are situated in the northern parts of the country except one in Andhra Pradesh. Steel has to be brought to Kerala and to other southern parts by rail and other means. The SAIL used to have its stockyard in Kochi. They had specifically taken a stockyard in Kochi and railheads were to provided there. Now, the position is that there is no railhead. I wrote a letter to the hon. Minister asking whether the Steel Authority of India Limited or the Ministry of Steel would be kind enough to put up the railhead to facilitate that. The hon. Minister has replied to me stating that they are thinking of scrapping the whole thing and going in for consignment agency system in Kerala. Is it the policy of the Ministry of Steel to have consignment agency system throughout the country or is it meant only for a few States like Kerala?

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is completely a different question. After decontrol or decentralisation, etc., the SAIL or other Government agencies will not undertake all those matters that were previously being done through its Department. Now, it is the policy of the SAIL to go in for consignment agents wherever it is possible.

[Translation]

SHRI TARACHAND SAHU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given my name for this. I come from the Bhilai Steel Plant area...*(Interruptions)*

Visit of Foreign Dignitaries

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*44. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign dignitaries who visited India since April 2002 till date;

(b) the issues on which deliberations were held with each of the dignitaries;

(c) their reactions towards the tension on the Indo-Pak border;

(d) whether any bilateral agreements were signed with them; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (e) Sir, Visits of a number of foreign dignitaries have taken place during this period. A statement giving information with regard to the visits handled by the Ministry of External Affairs is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the dignitary with designation and dates of visit	Issues on which deliberations were held	Their reaction towards the tension on the Indo-Pak border	Details of bilateral agreements signed, if any
1	2	3	4	5
1.	H.E. Mrs. Megawati Soekarnoputri, President of the Republic of Indonesia (1-5 April, 2002)	President Megawati was accompanied by a large business delegation. President Megawati underlined the need to develop co-operation in various fields especially in trade, investment, health and human resource development, science and technology, agriculture, ecological conservation, information technology and other areas of common concern. India's interests in participation in railway projects in Indonesia, strengthening of bilateral co-operation between two countries in telecommunications, power projects and port development were conveyed. Co-operation in IT and Space were also discussed. India offered to extend support to Indonesia in their setting up of Film & Television Institute and Institute of Fashion Design in Indonesia. Proposal to set up chairs of Indonesian	Indonesia has traditionally shown understanding of our position.	1. Agreement on Visa Exemption for Diplomatic and Official Passport Holders. 2. MOU between the Indian Space Research Organisation and National Institute of Aeronautics and Space on-cooperation in the field of Outer Space Research and Development. MOU concerning setting up of Vocational Training Centre for construction sector. Besides, nine other business-to-business MOUs were also signed.

1	2	3	4	5
		and Indian studies in Universities in India and Indonesia respectively was mooted. India announced setting up of India-ASEAN Bio-Technology Centre and India-ASEAN Science & Technology Digital Library, both in Jakarta.		
2.	H.E. Mr. Vladimir Rushailo, Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation (2-5 April, 2002)	Bilateral matters and regional and international issues of mutual interest were discussed between India and the Russian Federation.	The Russian side reiterated its strong condemnation of continued acts of trans-border terrorism against India and expressed its understanding and support regarding India's justified demands that these activities from Pakistan and territories controlled by it cease completely.	A Joint Statement was issued at the end of the visit.
3.	H.E. Mr. Erkki Tuomioja, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland (16-17 April, 2002)	Bilateral issues, regional and global developments of mutual concern.	Concern was expressed.	Nil.
4.	H.E. Mr. Alexander Downer, Foreign Minister of Australia (20-23 April, 2002)	Both sides undertook a review of bilateral and regional issues, covering political, defence, economic, trade and strategic areas including co-operation in energy security and people-to-people contacts. Views were exchanged on international terrorism, Commonwealth and regional issues such as strategic involvement of major powers in the region, developments in South Asia, ASEAN and the Asia Pacific.	Appreciating the manner in which India was tackling the problem faced on account of terrorism in Kashmir, Dr. Downer noted that tension in Kashmir was lower. He also said that the Pakistanis seemed to be making some efforts.	MOU on Co-operation in the Area of Tourism.
5.	H.E. President Laurent Gbagbo of Cote d'Ivoire (21-23 May, 2002)	Transit Visit	—	—
6.	H.E. Mr. Joseph Deiss, Foreign Minister of Switzerland, (21-24 April 2002)	Bilateral issues, regional and global developments of mutual concern.	Concern was expressed.	Nil.

1	2	3	4	5
7.	H.E. President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga (22-26 April, 2002)	The discussions covered a broad range of bilateral issues and regional developments. She delivered the first Madhav Rao Scindia memorial lecture on April 23, 2002 on "Managing Change and Diversity".	The Sri Lankan Government agreed that global terrorism is a threat to international peace and security.	Nil.
8.	H.E. Mr. Per Stig Moller, Danish Foreign Minister (29-30 April, 2002)	Bilateral issues and regional and global developments of mutual concern.	Concern was expressed.	Nil.
9.	H.E. Mr. Sadok Fayala, Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs—in charge of Maghreb & African Affairs, Tunisia (05-07 May, 2002)	He co-chaired the 9th Session of Tunisian—India Joint Commission Meeting. All issues of mutual concern were discussed.	Issues not discussed since the agenda of this meeting was economic.	Protocol for cooperation between Foreign Service Institute of Ministry of External Affairs and the Institute for Diplomatic Studies of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tunisia. 2. MOU between Indian Investment Centre, New Delhi & The Foreign Investment Promotion Agency (FIPA), Tunis.
10.	H.R.H. Prince Ulukala Lavaka Ata, Prime Minister of Tonga (18-21 May, 2002)	Agriculture being the mainstay Tonga's economy, the visiting delegation expressed a keen interest in co-operation with India in agricultural sector. Both sides also exchanged views on India's interest in expanding relations with countries of the South Pacific.	The visit was economically oriented.	Nil.
11.	H.E. Dr. Kamal Kharazi, Foreign Minister of Islamic Republic of Iran (20-22 May, 2002)	He co-chaired the 12th India-Iran Joint Commission. The Joint Commission Meeting reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations including in the sphere of petroleum and natural gas, trade and industry, transport and communications, agriculture and rural development and consular, culture, information and science and technology.	Dr. Kamal Kharazi urged for de-escalation of tension on Indo-Pak border and peaceful resolution of all disputes between India and Pakistan through dialogue. He said that Iran condemns terrorism in all its forms.	MOU of the 12th India-Iran Joint Commission.

1	2	3	4	5
12.	H.E. Mr. Ruud Lubbers, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (22-24 May, 2002)	Deliberations focussed on co-operation between the UNHCR and India and the activities of the UN Organisation globally and in the country.	The issues was not raised in view of the nature of the visit.	Nil.
13.	H.E. Mr. Chris Patten, European Commissioner for External Affairs (24 May, 2002)	Bilateral and Regional issues.	Expressed concern over situation on the border.	Nil.
14.	H.E. Mr. Jack Straw, British Foreign Secretary (28 May, 2002)	Bilateral and Regional issues.	Expressed concern over situation on the border.	Nil.
15.	H.E. Mr. Seiken Suigura, Japanese Senior Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs (30-31 May, 2002)	His visit was in the context of the tension between India and Pakistan.	Mr. Suigura said that his message to Pakistan during his visit to that country before coming here was that Japan would like to see visible and concrete action by way of implementation of the assurances that President Musharraf gave to PM Koizumi about not exporting anywhere in the world and not allowing infiltration across the LOC. He also said that Pakistan should take appropriate measures against terrorist camps on Pakistan's side of the LOC.	Nil.
16.	H.E. Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka (June 8-12, 2002)	Broad range of bilateral issues and regional developments.	The Sri Lankan Government agreed that global terrorism is a threat to international peace and security.	Nil.
17.	H.E Mr. Morshed Khan, Foreign Minister of Bangladesh (16-17 June, 2002)	Broad range of bilateral issues and regional developments.	He conveyed the concern of Bangladesh over tensions on the Indo-Pakistan border.	Nil.
18.	His Majesty King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, King of Nepal (23-28 June, 2002)	Issues relating to terrorism, Maoist insurgency in Nepal as well as bilateral cooperation including in the trade and economic fields were discussed.	We explained our position and also our concern regarding the ISI misusing Nepalese territory for subversive activities against India. King Gyanendra reiterated that Nepal will not allow its territory to be misused for activities directed against India and assured co-operation in this regard.	Nil. (On the margins of the visit, two Joint Task Forces were set up by the business chambers of the two countries for developing cooperation in the fields of water resources and tourism development.)

In addition to the Statement attached to my reply to Q. 44 with regard to visits handled by the Ministry of External Affairs. I would like to add, with the permission of the Chair, one more visit of Mr. Richard Armitage, the US Under-Secretary of State on 7-8 June, 2002. His visit was in the context of tensions between India and Pakistan.

Mr. Armitage conveyed to the Government that during his visit to Islamabad, just preceding his visit to New Delhi, President Musharraf had given an assurance that he would take steps to end-cross-border infiltration into Jammu and Kashmir immediately and permanently and fulfil the commitment he made successively on 12 January, 2002 and 27 May, 2002.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the infiltration of terrorists on Indo-Pak border is a very important issue. In the reply, it has been stated that 18 foreign diplomats came to our country. Of course both the foreign Ministers in this department are new, they were not there at that time. They have come from the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Railways, but at that time the Ministry of External Affairs and its hon. Minister did not feel it necessary to talk to anyone nor could we impress them on our part. What are the reasons behind change in the statement received from there Head of the State or Foreign Minister after visiting Pakistan. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to under which American diplomat's pressure did India open her space for Pakistan which was earlier closed and under whose pressure are they appointing Ambassador here and the Ministry of External Affairs also changed its statement that there is no need of a war, since there is no danger now.

The army of this country as well as the entire country were in favour of war, but I want to know under whose pressure did you change your statement. And under whose pressure did you hold talks. And in fact all talks were related to economic issues whereas most important issue pertaining to India is terrorism, spread by Pakistan.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: The Hon. Member's question had many parts.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: His reply was also in several parts.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: The question was divided in many parts, obviously it had different answers. First of all we have not taken any decision under anybody's pressure. It is not so.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: The decision has been taken under American Pressure.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Decision has not been taken under pressure. The second thing that I would like to tell you is that I have just now mentioned about the commitment of the President of Pakistan. Mr. Armitage was also there. Even other people from their side said that Pakistan's comments were conveyed to us by them and that their comments should be taken into confidence. It is not correct to say that the Government did not consult other people of the country. In fact we held talks with all the respected leaders of the country, leaders of opposition and steps in this regard were taken in the larger interest of the country.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kharabela Swain.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would request the hon. Minister to make an amendment in his statement...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has not given any notice but he is continuously asking questions forcibly. Please let me ask first. How can he ask?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Sir, you asked me to put a question. How can he ask the question when you have called me?...*(Interruptions)* It is most surprising that he is asking a question...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: This is very important question.

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji, it is my request to you to please give notice if you intend to ask question, you are a leader of a party, I shall definitely give you permission but now I have called Shri Swain's name please ask your question after his question is over.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Is it true that the U.S. has stated that infiltration across the border is down significantly and they will not go any further to put pressure on Pervez Musharraf due to their own necessity? If that is true, in that case, what diplomatic measures our country is going to take in order to stop this cross-border terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): It is true, as the hon. Member has pointed out, that it is perception of the U.S. that cross-border infiltration has come down significantly. This is not a perception that we share in the Government of India.

As far as taking matters further is concerned, the U.S. Secretary of State Mr. Collin Powell is scheduled to visit India. He has already spoken to me twice on the phone, once when I had taken over this new assignment as Minister of External Affairs and again after the massacre in Jammu city. We will be taking the opportunity of his visit to discuss with him the issue of not only infiltration from across the border and perceptions relating thereto but also other issues which are the larger questions of cross-border terrorism.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since time is short, I shall therefore say only one thing, that the Hon. Minister should make an amendment in his statement. The hon. Prime Minister has said that we should have attacked Pakistan at the time when Parliament was attacked, but we could not do so due to the pressure of international community. What were the compulsions for the Government at that time, this may kindly be elucidated.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, so far I remember the hon. Prime Minister has not made any such statement that there was some pressure of international community...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring it into the notice of hon. Minister that it has been publicised in the media as also in newspapers, but it has not been rebuted till date...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, not every statement is rebuted and it is also not proper to do so, but as my colleague has said, India is not taking any step under some pressure. Yesterday, our hon. Deputy Prime Minister had emphatically said in this august House that we are free to take any action and India would take action, to fight terrorism, which it deems fit.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government should stop making such statements...*(Interruptions)*

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Violation of MCI Rules

*45. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rules/guidelines prescribed by the Medical Council of India (MCI) for running various medical courses at graduate/post graduate level by medical colleges;

(b) whether Government are aware that a number of medical colleges in various parts of the country are running courses in violation of these rules;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (d) The Medical Council of India with the approval of the Central Government has framed the following regulations under the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, for the purpose of maintaining uniform standard of medical education; for establishment of medical colleges; starting of postgraduate medical courses; increase of seats in undergraduate and postgraduate courses; and for prescribing the minimum standard requirements for medical colleges with prescribed number of admissions:—

(a) Graduate Medical Education Regulations, 1997

(b) Establishment of Medical College Regulations, 1999

(c) Opening of New or Higher course of study or training (including Postgraduate course of study or training) and increase of admission capacity in any course of study or training (including Postgraduate course of study or training) Regulations, 2000

(d) Regulations on the Minimum Standard Requirements for medical colleges for 50/100/150 admissions annually, 1999

(e) Postgraduate Medical Education Regulations, 2000

The Medical Council of India, for the purpose of maintaining a uniform standard of medical education in the country, has laid down the broad principles and minimum requirements of the Council to be observed by the Institutions/Universities in the Graduate Medical Education Regulations, 1997 and the Postgraduate Medical Education Regulations, 2000. These Regulations prescribe the broad objectives of the course, minimum eligibility requirement joining the course, selection criteria, period of training/internship, procedures relating to the conduct of examination, award of marks and the qualifications of the examiners etc. Besides, the Graduate Medical Education Regulations, 1997 contains the detailed syllabus of the MBBS course.

The medical colleges/institutions which are found violating these rules/regulations are issued notice by the Medical Council of India for fulfilling the requirements and in case of continued violation, the Council recommends for decrease in the number of seats or stoppage of further admissions. Under section 19 of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, the Council is also empowered to recommend to the Central Government for de-recognition of a medical degree in respect of the students being trained in a particular medical college.

[Translation]

Terrorists' New Bases

*46. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the terrorist organisations responsible for carrying out terrorist activities in the country have established new bases in other countries besides Pakistan;

(b) if so, the names of such terrorist organisations and the countries where their bases are in existence;

(c) since when these bases are functioning; and

(d) the names of the countries with whom the Government have taken up the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) According to the information available with the Government, the position is as follows:

Myanmar:

National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang) NSCN(K), National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN), People's Liberation Army (PLA), United National Liberation Front (UNLF), United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) are believed to have bases along India-Myanmar border. These have been functioning for some years but since they keep shifting their location it is not possible to indicate whether new ones have been established. Government of India has taken up the matter with the Government of Myanmar at various levels and are receiving good cooperation in tackling this problem.

Bangladesh:

Harkat-ul-Jehad-Al-Islami (HUJAI), Al Qaida, NSCN, ULFA, People's Liberation Army (PLA), All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF) and National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) reportedly have bases in Bangladesh. These bases have been functioning for some years but since they keep shifting their location it is not possible to indicate whether new ones have been established. Our concern over the presence of these terrorist elements has been shared with Government of Bangladesh.

Nepal:

The Government is concerned about ISI misusing the Nepalese territory and the open India-Nepal border for activities inimical to India's interest and is seized of the matter. The Government has noted the several instances of arrest of staffers of Pakistani Embassy in Kathmandu for being in possession of explosives and fake Indian currencies. Such officials have subsequently been asked to leave the country by the Government of Nepal.

Government of India has taken up issues relating to ISI activities in Nepalese territory and the misuse of the open India-Nepal border with the Government of Nepal. The Governments of India and Nepal have agreed that they would not allow their territory to be used for activities inimical to the interests of either country.

Bhutan:

The presence ULFA, National Democratic Federation of Bodoland (NDFB) and KLO militants on Bhutanese territory has been a subject of discussion with the

Government of Bhutan. Both sides share concern on the issues. The Government of Bhutan has reiterated that they would not allow their territory to be misused against the interests of India. Governments of India and Bhutan remain in constant touch and are extending co-operation to each other in this regard.

UK:

Six major terrorist organisations which have been operating in India viz. Lashkar-e-Toiba, Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, Jaish-e-Mohamed, Babbar Khalsa, International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF) and LTTE, have been prescribed in the UK under the Terrorist Act 2000.

The Netherlands:

There are reports which indicate that various terrorists/ secessionist organisations like NSCN (I-Muivah), Babbar Khalsa International, Hisbullah and the LTTE have presence in the Netherlands for quite some time, each with a well-established front organisation. After the terrorist attacks in the US on September 11, 2001, it is reported that Al Qaida has links with various Islamic organisations in the country. We have been taking up the matter with the Government of the Kindgom of the Netherlands on a regular basis, by expressing India's concerns over the presence of the above terrorist/secessionist organisations in the Netherlands; urging them to exercise greater caution in granting asylum/refugee status to the persons having links with such organisations; and emphasising the fact that these organisations should not use the soil of the Netherlands to work against India.

[English]

National Institute of Animal Welfare

*47. SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up National Institute of Animal Welfare for starting courses on animal welfare education;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of courses to be started at the Institute and the nature of degree to be awarded?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Institute would be a subordinate office of Ministry. The present sanctioned strength consists of 1 Director, 11 lecturers and 6 supporting staff. It is proposed to commence the academic session from July, 2003.

(c) It is proposed to have a four-years course leading to the Bachelor's Degree in Animal Welfare (BAW). In addition, Specialized Diploma Courses and short and medium-term training courses for governmental and non-governmental functionaries, organizations engaged in research and experimentation and industrial houses.

[Translation]

Illegal Bangladeshi Immigrants

*48. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently held any talks with Bangladesh for the repatriation of Bangladeshi nationals staying illegally in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government of India has been seriously concerned about large scale, illegal cross border movement from Bangladesh to India. India has been taking up the issue of illegal migration including, *inter alia*, the issue of repatriation with the Government of Bangladesh regularly. Both countries have established an institutionalised framework to discuss various issues related to border management through regular meetings of Directors General of the BSF and Bangladesh Rifles, Joint Working Group and Home Secretary level talks. This is in addition to regular field level meetings between civilian authorities and border forces. The problem of illegal immigration has also been regularly taken up by India with the Government of Bangladesh at the political level in addition to the institutional framework.

The issue was addressed in detail during the Director General-level talks held between BSF and Bangladesh Rifles on March 22-25, 2002 in Dhaka. Following detailed discussions, it was agreed that Bangladesh would take necessary steps to stop all types of illegal border crossing

including that of illegal migration. During the recent visit of Mr. M. Morshed Khan, Foreign Minister of Bangladesh on June 16-17, 2002, the need for tightening border control to prevent all kinds of illegal cross-border movement, was again discussed in detail. A tighter border control is expected to lead to decrease in the number of illegal migrants. The situation is being monitored by the Government.

[English]

Licences unused by Companies

*49. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that majority of the licences issued by the Government in telecommunications in the past year remained unused;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the total number of licences issued so far, the companies to whom the licences were issued and the present status of these licences?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The details of number of licence issued so far to the various companies and the present status of these licences is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

International Long Distance Service (ILDS) Licensee

Sl. No.	Name of the Licensee	Effective date of licence agreement	Present status of the License
1.	M/s Reliance Communications Limited	25.02.2002	As per clause 9.3 of the ILD license an ILD licensee is required to carry out minimum network roll-out plan within three years from the effective date of license agreement. So far three years have not been completed.
2.	M/s Bharti Telesonic Limited	14.03.2002	
3.	M/s Data Access (India) Ltd.	27.03.2002	

M/s Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd., now a private company, is also a licensee for providing ILDS.

National Long Distance Service (NLDS) Licensee

Sl. No.	Name of the Licensee	Effective date of licence agreement	Present status of the License
1.	M/s Bharti Telesonic Limited	29.11.2001	Service started
2.	M/s Reliance Communications Limited	28.01.2002	As per clause 9.2 of the License Agreement for NLD service an NLD licensee is required to fulfill the minimum roll-out obligations in four phases within two, three, four and seven years respectively from the effective date of the agreement. So far two years have not been completed.
3.	M/s Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited	08.02.2002	

M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd., a Public Sector Undertaking, is also a Licensee for providing NLD service.

Infrastructure Provider-II (IP-II) Licensee

Sl. No.	Name of the Licensee	Effective date of licence agreement	Present status of the License
1.	Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL)	15.01.2001	All have started operating their licenses.
2.	M/s Power Grid Corpn. of India Ltd.	29.01.2001	
3.	M/s Hughes Escorts Communications Limited	25.10.2001	
4.	M/s The Tata Power Company Limited	07.09.2001	
5.	M/s Rail Tel Corporation of India Limited	01.02.2002	

Basic Telephone Service Licences

Sl. No.	Service Area	Name of Licensee	Effective date	Present Status
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.	20.07.2001	*
2.	Andhra Pradesh	M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.	30.09.1997	Service commenced
		M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.	20.07.2001	*
3.	Assam	Nil		
4.	Bihar	M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.	20.07.2001	*
5.	Delhi	M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd.	29.10.2001	Service commenced
		M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.	20.07.2001	*
		M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.	31.08.2001	*
6.	Gujarat	M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.	30.09.1998	Service commenced
		M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.	31.08.2001	*
7.	Haryana	M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd.	08.10.2001	Service commenced
		M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.	20.07.2001	*
8.	Himachal Pradesh	M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.	20.07.2001	*
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	Nil		
10.	Karnataka	M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd.	29.10.2001	Service commenced

1	2	3	4	5
		M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.	20.07.2001	*
		M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.	31.08.2001	*
11.	Kerala	M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.	20.07.2001	*
12.	Madhya Pradesh	M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd.	30.09.1997	Service commenced
		M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.	20.07.2001	*
13.	Maharashtra	M/s Hughes Tele com Ltd.	30.09.1997	Service commenced
		M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.	20.07.2001	*
14.	North East	Nil		
15.	Orissa	M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.	20.07.2001	*
16.	Punjab	M/s HFCL Infotel Ltd.	30.09.1997	Service commenced
		M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.	20.07.2001	*
17.	Rajasthan	M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd.	04.03.1998	Service commenced
		M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.	20.07.2001	*
18.	Tamil Nadu	M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd.	29.10.2001	Service commenced
		M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.	26.09.2001	*
		M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.	31.08.2001	*
19.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.	20.07.2001	*
20.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.	20.07.2001	*
21.	West Bengal	M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.	20.07.2001	*

* As per Clause 9.3(a) of the Licence Agreement for Basic Telephone Service, the Licensee Company is required to fulfil the minimum network roll out obligations in four phases i.e. two, three, five and seven years respectively from effective date. The said period is not yet over.

M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. is a basic service licensee for all Service Areas except for Mumbai and Delhi where M/s MTNL is a Basic Service Licensee. Both are PSUs.

Radio Paging Service

A. City Paging (27 Cities)

S. No.	City	Name of the company	Effective Date	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ahmedabad	Microwave Communications Ltd.	27.06.94	Service commenced
		Hutchison Max Telecom.	05.08.94	Licence terminated
		DSS Mobile Communications	30.08.94	Service started
		RPG Paging Services Ltd.	11.08.94	Service started
		Eider PWI Communications	09.09.96	Service not started

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Amritsar	ABC Communications	24.06.94	Service started
		Beltron Telecommunications Ltd.	15.02.95	Service started
		Pun Wire Paging Services Ltd.	18.04.96	Service started
3.	Bangalore	Page Point Services (India) Ltd.	08.07.94	Service started
		Telesistem (India) Pvt. ltd.	24.06.94	Service started
		Hutchison Max Telecom.	03.08.94	Licence terminated
		DSS Mobile Communications Ltd.	30.08.94	Service started
		Eider PWI Communications	09.09.96	Service not started
4.	Bhopal	Easycall Communications (India) Pvt. Ltd.	08.07.94	Service started
		Telecom Informatics (India) Ltd.	27.10.95	Licence terminated
		Netherlands India Communications Enterprises	31.10.95	Service started
5.	Calcutta	Easycall Communications (India) Pvt. Ltd.	08.07.94	Service started
		Microwave Communications Ltd.	27.06.94	Service started
		Modi Korea Telecommunications Ltd.	05.04.95	Service started
		DSS Mobile Communications Ltd.	30.08.94	Service started
		Eider PWI Paging Services Ltd.	09.09.96	Service not started
6.	Chandigarh	ABC Communications	24.06.94	Service started
		Hutchison Max Telecom	05.08.94	Licence terminated
		Modi Korea Telecommunications Ltd.	19.08.94	Service started
		Weston Pagers Pvt. Ltd.	13.01.95	Licence terminated
		Eider PWI Communications	09.09.96	Service not started
7.	Chennai	Telesistem (India) Pvt. Ltd.	24.06.94	Service started
		RPG Paging Services Ltd.	11.08.94	Service started
		Modi Korea Telecommunications Ltd.	19.08.94	Service started
		DSS Mobile Communications Ltd.	30.08.94	Service started
		Eider PWI Communications	09.09.96	Service not started
8.	Coimbatore	Telesistem (India) Pvt. Ltd.	24.06.94	Service started
		Usha Martin Telekom Ltd.	17.05.94	Licence terminated
		Telecom Informatics (India) Ltd.	27.10.95	Licence terminated
9.	Delhi	Microwave Communications Ltd.	01.05.95	Service started
		ABC Communications	24.06.94	Service started

1	2	3	4	5
		RPG Paging Services Ltd.	11.08.94	Service started
		DSS Mobile Communications Ltd.	30.08.94	Service started
		Eider PWI Paging Services Ltd.	09.09.96	Service not started
10.	Ernakulam	Telesistem (India) Pvt. Ltd.	24.06.94	Service started
		BPL Systems & Projects Ltd.	29.06.94	Service started
		Usha Martin Telekom Ltd.	17.05.94	Licence terminated
		Eider PWI Communications Ltd.	09.09.96	Service not started
11.	Hyderabad	Easycall Communications (India) Pvt. Ltd.	08.07.94	Service started
		Hutchison Max Telecom	05.08.94	Licence terminated
		DSS Mobile Communications Ltd.	30.08.94	Service started
		Page Point Services (India) Ltd.	23.06.95	Service started
12.	Indore	Easycall Communications (India) Ltd.	08.07.94	Service started
		Usha Martin Telekom Ltd.	17.05.94	Licence terminated
		Modi Korea Telecommunications Ltd.	19.08.94	Service started
13.	Jaipur	ABC Communications Pvt. Ltd.	24.06.94	Service started
		Modi Korea Telecommunications Ltd.	19.08.94	Service started
		Weston Pagers Pvt. Ltd.	13.01.95	Licence terminated
		Usha Martin Telekom Ltd.	10.07.95	Licence terminated
		Eider PWI Paging Services Ltd.	09.09.96	Service not started
14.	Kanpur	ABC Communications Pvt. Ltd.	24.06.94	Service started
		Modi Korea Telecommunications Ltd.	19.08.94	Service started
		Weston Pagers Pvt. Ltd.	13.01.95	Licence terminated
		DSS Mobile Communications Ltd.	30.08.94	Service started
15.	Lucknow	Modi Korea Telecommunications Ltd.	19.08.94	Service started
		DSS Mobile Communications Ltd.	30.08.94	Service started
		Weston Pagers Pvt. Ltd.	13.01.95	Licence terminated
16.	Ludhiana	ABC Communications Pvt. Ltd.	24.06.94	Service started
		Hutchison Max. Telecom	04.05.94	Licence terminated
		Beltron Telecommunications Ltd.	15.02.95	Service started
17.	Madurai	Telesistem (India) Pvt. Ltd.	24.06.94	Service started
		Usha Martin Telekom Ltd.	17.05.94	Licence terminated

1	2	3	4	5
18.	Mumbai	Page Point Services (India) Ltd.	08.07.94	Service started
		Matrix Paging (India) Pvt. Ltd.	25.04.95	Service started
		Microwave Communications Ltd.	27.06.94	Service started
		DSS Mobile Communications Ltd.	30.08.94	Service started
		Eider PWI Paging Services Ltd.	09.09.96	Service not started
19.	Nagpur	Easycall Communications (India) Pvt. Ltd.	08.97.94	Service started
		Weston Pagers Pvt. Ltd.	13.01.95	Licence terminated
		Beltron Telecommunications Ltd.	13.01.95	Service started
		Netherlands India Communications Enterprises Pvt. Ltd.	31.10.95	Service started
20.	Patna	Easycall Communications (India) Pvt. Ltd.	08.97.94	Service started
		Beltron Telecommunications Ltd.	15.02.95	Service started
		Telecom Informatics (India) Ltd.	27.10.95	Licence terminated
21.	Pune	Matrix Paging (India) Pvt. Ltd.	20.07.94	Service started
		Hutchison Max Telecom	05.08.94	Licence terminated
		DSS Mobile Communications Ltd.	30.08.94	Service started
		Page Point Services (India) Ltd.	23.06.95	Service started
		Eider PWI Communications Ltd.	09.09.96	Service not started
22.	Rajkot	Matrix Paging (India) Pvt. Ltd.	20.07.94	Service started
		Microwave Communications Ltd.	27.06.94	Service started
		Usha Martin Telekom Ltd.	17.05.94	Licence terminated
		Weston Pagers Pvt. Ltd.	13.01.95	Licence terminated
23.	Surat	Microwave Communications Ltd.	27.06.94	Service started
		Weston Pagers Pvt. Ltd.	13.01.95	Licence terminated
		Beltron Telecommunications Ltd.	13.01.95	Service starated
		Matrix Paging (India) Pvt. Ltd.	20.07.94	Service started
24.	Trivandrum	Telesistem (India) Pvt. Ltd.	24.06.94	Service started
		BPL Systems & Projects Ltd.	29.06.94	Service started
		Weston Pagers Pvt. Ltd.	13.01.95	Licence terminated

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Vadodara	Microwave Communications Ltd.	27.06.94	Service started
		Hutchison Max Telecom	03.08.94	Licence terminated
		Weston Pagers Pvt. Ltd.	13.01.95	Licence terminated
		Matrix Paging (India) Pvt. Ltd.	20.07.94	Service started
		Eider PWI Communications Ltd.	09.09.96	Service not started
26	Varanasi	ABC Communications Pvt. Ltd.	24.06.94	Service started
		Modi Korea Telecommunications Ltd.	19.08.94	Service started
		Belton Telecommunications Ltd.	15.06.95	Service started
27	Visakhapatnam	Easycall Communications Pvt. Ltd.	08.07.94	Service started
		Usha Martin Telekom Ltd..	17.05.94	Licence terminated
		Weston Pagers Pvt. Ltd.	13.01.95	Licence terminated

B. Circle Paging (19 Circles)

S. No.	Name of the Circle	Name of the company	Effective Date	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	Matrix Paging (India) Pvt. Ltd.	05.06.95	Licence terminated
		Netherlands India Communications Enterprises Pvt. Ltd.	05.06.95	Licence terminated
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Punwire Mobile Communications Ltd.	18.08.95	Licence terminated
3.	Assam	Easy Call Communications Pvt. Ltd.	05.06.95	Licence terminated
		Netherlands India Communications Enterprises Pvt. ltd.	05.06.95	Service started
4.	Bihar	Nil	—	
5.	Gujarat	Punwire Mobile Communications Ltd.	31.08.95	Licence terminated
6.	Haryana	Punwire Paging Services Ltd.	18.08.95	Service started
7.	Himachal Pradesh	Punwire Paging Services Ltd.	05.06.95	Service started
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	ABC Communications Pvt. Ltd.	05.06.95	Licence terminated
		Netherlands India Communications Enterprises Pvt. ltd.	05.06.95	Service started
9.	Karnataka	India Paging	31.08.95	Service started
		Punwire Mobile Communications Ltd.	31.08.95	Licence terminated
10.	Kerala	India Paging	31.08.95	Service started
		Punwire Mobile Communications Ltd.	31.08.95	Licence terminated
11.	Madhya Pradesh	Punwire Mobile Communications Ltd.	31.11.95	Licence terminated
		Modi Korea Telecommunications Ltd.	30.11.95	Licence terminated

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Maharashtra	Punwire Mobile Communications Ltd.	18.08.95	Licence terminated
13.	North East	Easy Call Communications Pvt. Ltd.	05.06.95	Licence terminated
		Microwave Communications Ltd.	05.06.95	Licence terminated
14.	Orissa	Microwave Communications Ltd.	05.06.95	Licence terminated
		Telesistem (India) Pvt. Ltd.	05.06.95	Licence terminated
15.	Punjab	Punwire Paging Services Ltd.	25.08.95	Service starated
		Hutchison Max Telecom	06.11.95	Licence terminated
16.	Rajasthan	Punwire Mobile Communications Ltd.	27.11.95	Licence terminated
		Modi Korea Telecom Communications Ltd.	27.11.95	Licence terminated
17.	Tamil Nadu	India Paging	25.08.95	Service started
		Punwire Mobile Communications Ltd.	25.08.95	Licence terminated
18.	Uttar Pradesh	Punwire Mobile Communications Ltd.	25.08.95	Licence terminated
		Microwave Communications Ltd.	24.08.95	Licence terminated
19.	West Bengal	Modi Korea Telecommunications Ltd.	05.06.95	Licence terminated
		Easy Call Communications Ltd.	05.06.95	Licence terminated

Status of ISPS Licences issued as on 12.7.2002

Sl. No.	Name of the Licensee	Category & Service Area	Date of Licence	Status of Licence
1	2	3	4	5
1.	M/s Reliance Infocom Ltd.	'A' All India	09.11.98	Reported start of Service
2.	M/s Satyam Infoway Ltd	'A' All India	12.11.98	-do-
3.	M/s In2cable (India) Limited	'A' All India	04.12.98	-do-
4.	M/s Wipro Net Ltd.	'A' All India	04.12.98	-do-
5.	M/s Situcable Network Ltd.	'A' All India	07.12.98	-do-
6.	M/s GTL Ltd.	'A' All India	09.12.98	-do-
7.	M/s DISNETDSL Ltd.	'A' All India	23.12.98	-do-
8.	M/s Ircon International Ltd.	'A' All India	29.12.98	Licence terminated
9.	M/s Primus Telecommunications India Ltd.	'A' All India	05.01.99	Reported start of service
10.	M/s CMC Ltd.	'A' All India	12.01.99	-do-

1	2	3	4	5
11.	M/s Software Technology Parks of India	'A' All India	15.01.99	Reported start of service
12.	M/s ERNET India	'A' All India	15.01.99	-do-
13.	M/s Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	'A' All India	25.01.99	-do-
14	M/s Punjab Wireless Systems Ltd.	'A' All India	29.01.99	Not Reported start of service
15.	M/s Sprint RPG India Ltd.	'A' All India	12.02.99	Reported start of service
16.	M/s Bharti B.T. Internet Ltd.	'A' All India	03.03.99	-do-
17.	M/s Shivlink Services Pvt. Ltd.	'A' All India	22.3.99	Not started service
18.	M/s India Netexchange Pvt. Ltd.	'A' All India	154.99	Licence terminated
19.	M/s Sigma Online Ltd.	'A' All India	23.4.99	-do-
20.	M/s GOL India Internet Service Provider Private Limited	'A' All India	7.6.99	Reported start of service
21.	M/s Manipal Control Data Electronics Commerce Ltd., Bangalore	'A' All India	23.6.99	Licence Terminated
22.	M/s BPLNET, Com. Pvt. Ltd.	'A' All India	25.06.99	-do-
23.	M/s Pacific Internet (I) P. Ltd.	'A' All India	28.6.99	Reported start of service
24.	M/s Harita Finance Ltd.	'A' All India	13.8.99	-do-
25.	M/s Hathway Cable & Datacom Pvt. Ltd.	'A' All India	13.9.99	-do-
26.	M/s Tata Internet Ltd.	'A' All India	11.10.99	-do-
27.	M/s Swift Mail Communications Ltd.	'A' All India	12.10.99	-do-
28.	M/s Trident Net Com Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	'A' All India	05.11.99	-do-
29.	M/s Orbitel Communications Pvt. Ltd.,	'A' All India	12.11.99	Licence terminated
30.	M/s Jumpp India Pvt. Ltd.	'A' All India	24.11.99	Reported start of service
31.	M/s HCL Comnet Systems & Services Ltd.	'A' All India	02.12.99	-do-
32.	M/s Spectra Net Ltd.	'A' All India	10.12.99	-do-
33.	M/s Comsat Max Ltd.	'A' All India	24.12.99	-do-
34.	M/s Astro Network India Pvt. Ltd.	'A' All India	17.1.2000	-do-
35.	M/s L&T Netcom. Ltd.	'A' All India	18.1.2000	-do-
36.	M/s Interra Global Ltd.	'A' All India	31.1.2000	Licence terminated
37.	M/s Wilnet Communications Pvt. Ltd.	'A' All India	07.02.2000	-do-
38.	M/s Trak Online Pvt. Ltd.	'A' All India	23.2.2000	Reported start of service

1	2	3	4	5
39.	M/s Information Technologies (India) Ltd.	'A' All India	24.2.2000	Reported start of service
40.	M/s Jain Studios Ltd.	'A' All India	7.3.2000	Licence terminated
41.	M/s Patriot Automation Projects Pvt. Ltd.	'A' All India	7.3.2000	Reported start of service
42.	M/s Antrix Eapplications	'A' All India	8.3.2000	-do-
43.	M/s Videocon International Ltd.	'A' All India	21.3.2000	-do-
44.	M/s Global Telenet Ltd.	'A' All India	20.4.2000	Licence terminated
45.	M/s Kumars Online Ltd.	'A' All India	30.3.2000	-do-
46.	M/s Internet Promoters India Ltd.	'A' All India	31.3.2000	-do-
47.	M/s Navin. Com (India) Pvt. Ltd.	'A' All India	17.4.2000	Reported start of service
48.	M/s Atco Industries Ltd.	'A' All India	18.4.2000	Requested for surrender of licence
49.	M/s Data Infosys Ltd.	'A' All India	17.4.2000	Reported start of service
50.	M/s HCL Infinet Ltd.	'A' All India	13.4.2000	-do-
51.	M/s Lanco Net Ltd.	'A' All India	13.4.2000	Licence terminated
52.	M/s Paramount Communications Ltd.	'A' All India	4.5.2000	Not started service
53.	M/s Gateway Systems (India) Pvt. Ltd.	'A' All India	4.5.2000	Reported start of service
54.	M/s Excel Infotech Ltd.	'A' All India	15.5.2000	Not Reported start of service
55.	M/s Primenet Global Ltd.	'A' All India	17.5.2000	Reported start of service
56.	M/s Super Speed Services India Ltd.	'A' All India	19.5.2000	Licence terminated
57.	M/s BSES Telecom Ltd.	'A' All India	31.5.2000	Reported start of service
58.	M/s Dataaccess (India) Ltd.	'A' All India	1.6.2000	-do-
59.	M/s Total Network Solution Ltd.	'A' All India	14.6.2000	Licence terminated
60.	M/s Aircel Ltd Ltd.	'A' All India	28.6.2000	-do-
61.	M/s Hughes Escorts Communications Ltd.	'A' All India	30.6.2000	Reported start of service
62.	M/s Estel Communications Pvt. Ltd.	'A' All India	14.7.2000	-do-
63.	M/s Softeng Computers Pvt. Ltd.	'A' All India	14.7.2000	Not Reported start of service
64.	M/s Exatt Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	'A' All India	7.8.2000	Licence terminated
65.	M/s Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers Company Ltd.	'A' All India	8.8.2000	Reported start of service

1	2	3	4	5
66.	M/s Tata Power Company Ltd.	'A' All India	24.8..2000	Not started service
67.	M/s Easynet Global Pvt. Ltd.	'A' All India	30.8.2000	Licence terminated
68.	M/s iServ India Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	'A' All India	31.8.2000	Reported start of service
69.	M/s Cellnext Solutions Ltd.	'A' All India	31.8.2000	Licence terminated
70.	M/s Applitech Internet Services Pvt. Ltd.	'A' All India	1.9.2000	Not Reported start of service
71.	M/s Broad Band Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	'A' All India	5.9.2000	Reported start of service
72.	M/s Millennium Telecom. Ltd.	'A' All India	06.10.2000	-do-
73.	M/s Cyquator Technologies Ltd.	'A' All India	06.10.2000	-do-
74.	Gujarat Credit Corporation Ltd.	'A' All India	10.10.2000	-do-
75.	M/s Men Interactive Network Ltd.	'A' All India	13.10.2000	Licence terminated
76.	M/s Netkracker Ltd.	'A' All India	31.10.2000	Reported start of service
77.	M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	'A' All India	29.09..2000	-do-
78.	M/s Shyam Internet Services Pvt. Ltd.	'A' All India	6.11.2000	-do-
79.	M/s World Phone Internet Services Pvt. Ltd.	'A' All India	9.11.2000	-do-
80.	M/s Essel Shyam Communications Ltd.	'A' All India	27.12.2000	-do-
81.	M/s Smartnet Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	'A' All India	02.02.2000	Not started service
82.	M/s Teleweb Network India Pvt. Ltd.	'A' All India	05.02.2000	Reported start of service
83.	M/s Hughes Tele.com (India) Ltd.	'A' All India	19.02.2000	-do-
84.	M/s ACE Techcom Ltd.	'A' All India	17.04.2000	Not reported start of service
85.	M/s GUJ Info Petro Ltd.	'A' All India	16.05.2000	Reported start of service
86.	M/s Bharti Cellular Ltd.	'A' All India	10.10.2000	Not reported start of service
87.	M/s Bharti Aquanet Ltd.	'A' All India	10.10.2000	-do-
88.	M/s Bharti Telesonic Ltd.	'A' All India	10.10.2000	-do-
89.	M/s Empower. Com Ltd.	'A' All India	31.10.2000	-do-
90.	M/s Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.	'B' Delhi	06.11.98	Reported started of service
91.	M/s Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.	'B' Mumbai	06.11.98	-do-
92.	M/s Rolta India Ltd.	'B' Mumbai	18.11.98	-do-
93.	M/s Eleclipse Network Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Ahmedabad	12.11.98	Licence terminated
94.	M/s Weikfield MNEMONIX Infonet Works Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Pune	10.11.98	Reported start of service

1	2	3	4	5
95.	M/s Trikon Electronics Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Mumbai	11.11.98	-do-
96.	M/s Indusind Cable Television Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Mumbai	04.12.98	Licence terminated
97.	M/s Manipal Control Data Eletronic Commerce Ltd.	'B' Karnataka	07.12.98	Licence terminated
98.	M/s Southern Online Services Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Andhra Pradesh	10.12.99	Reported start of service
99.	M/s Punjab Communications Ltd.	'B' Punjab	11.12.98	-do-
100.	M/s Internet Promoters India Ltd.	'B' Delhi	11.12.98	Licence terminated
101.	M/s Ankhnet Informations Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Mumbai	11.12.98	Reported start of service
102.	M/s Swastik Netvision Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Gujarat	14.12.98	-do-
103.	M/s Willnet Communications Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Gujarat	24.12.98	Licence terminated
104.	M/s Cyberwave Internet Solutions Ltd.	'B' Chennai	11.01.99	Reported start of service
105.	M/s Mylai Karpagambal Systems Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Chennai	18.01.99	-do-
106.	M/s Kirloskar Computers Services Ltd.	'B' Karnataka	21.01.99	Not reported start of service
107.	M/s Growth Compusoft Exports Ltd.,	'B' Gujarat	25.01.99	Reported start of service
108.	M/s Blaze Net Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Gujarat	25.01.99	-do-
109.	M/s Pioneer Online Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Andhra Pradesh	28.01.99	-do-
110.	M/s Global Online Services Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Hyderabad	29.01.99	-do-
111.	M/s Nomus Internet Systems Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Andhra Pradesh	02.02.99	-do-
112.	M/s BSES Telecom Ltd.	'B' Mumbai	17.02.99	Licence terminated
113.	M/s Wilnet Communications Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Delhi	18.02.99	-do-
114.	M/s Wilnet Communications Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Rajasthan	18.02.99	-do-
115.	M/s E-Com Opportunities Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Gujarat	03.03.99	Reported start of service
116.	M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd.	'B' Madhya Pradesh	04.03.99	-do-
117.	M/s Value Health Care Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Mumbai	05.03.99	-do-
118.	M/s Jindal Online. Com Ltd.	'B' Gujarat	11.3.99	-do-
119.	M/s Data Link Impex Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Gujarat	22.3.99	-do-
120.	M/s ARM Ltd.	'B' Andhra Pradesh	23.3.99	-do-
121.	M/s Data Infosys Ltd.	'B' Rajasthan	23.04.99	Licence terminated
122.	M/s Netlink Ltd.	'B' Andhra Pradesh	6.5.99	Reported start of service

1	2	3	4	5
123.	M/s Rising Sun Infonet Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Gujarat	10.05.99	Not reported start of service
124.	M/s WWW Communications Ltd.	'B' Delhi	21.5.99	Reported start of service
125.	M/s Genesis Education Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Andhra Pradesh	25.5.99	Licence terminated
126.	M/s Solstice Networks Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Andhra Pradesh	26.5.99	-do-
127.	M/s Track Online Net India Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Delhi	8.6.99	-do-
128.	M/s Pukhya Technical Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Gujarat	14.6.99	Not reported start of service
129.	M/s Chandra Net Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Gujarat	15.6.99	Reported start of service
130.	M/s Rajkot Net Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Gujarat	13.7.99	Request for time extention
131.	M/s Data Access India Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Delhi	14.7.99	Licence terminated
132.	M/s Gujarat State Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.	'B' Gujarat	26.7.99	Reported start of service
133.	M/s Indian Quotation Systems P. Ltd.	'B' Mumbai	26.7.99	-do-
134.	M/s Spectra Net P. Ltd.	'B' Delhi	27.7.99	Licence terminated
135.	M/s Magnacorp India Ltd.	'B' Delhi	28.7.99	-do-
136.	M/s Nanda Net Com. Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Mumbai	10.8.99	-do-
137.	M/s Patriot Automation Projects (P) Ltd.	'B' Calcutta	11.8.99	-do-
138.	M/s Patriot Automation Projects (P) Ltd.,	'B' Chennai	13.9.99	-do-
139.	M/s Patriot Automation Projects (P) Ltd.	'B' Maharashtra	13.9.99	-do-
140.	M/s Wilnet Communications Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Mumbai	15.9.99	-do-
141.	M/s City Online Services Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Andhra Pradesh	14.9.99	Reported start of service
142.	M/s Karvy Consultants Ltd.	'B' Andhra Pradesh	15.9.99	-do-
143.	M/s Dataware Internet Works Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Kerala	20.9.99	Licence terminated
144.	M/s Direct Internet Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Delhi	29.09.99	Reported start of service
145.	M/s Jain Infonet Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Rajastahn	30.09.99	-do-
146.	M/s ICENET. NET Ltd.	'B' Gujarat	11-10-99	-do-
147.	M/s Shivam Datatech Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Delhi	27.10.99 09.03.2001	Licence terminated
148.	M/s SAB Infotechh Ltd.	'B' Punjab	05.11.99	Reported start of service
149.	M/s Dialnet Communications Ltd.	'B' New Delhi	05.11.99	-do-
150.	M/s Fascel Ltd.	'B' Gujarat	12.11.99	-do-

1	2	3	4	5
151.	M/s G.N.F.C. Ltd.	'B' Gujarat	15.11.99	Licence terminated
152.	M/s Allnet Systems Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Chennai	17.11.99	Licence terminated
153.	M/s Vertec Communications Ltd.	'B' Rajasthan	24.11.99	Reported start of service
154.	M/s PBC Ventures Ltd.	'B' Delhi	26.11.99	-do-
155.	M/s Condoor Infotech Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Karnataka	6.12.99	Not reported start of service
156.	M/s Paliwal Financial Services (P) Ltd.	'B' Delhi	14.12.99	-do-
157.	M/s ER&DC Technology Promotion Centre	'B' Kerala	21.12.99	-do-
158.	M/s Gujarat Informatics Ltd.	'B' Gujarat	23.12.99	Licence terminated
159.	M/s Blueweb Info System Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Mumbai	23.12.99	Reported start of service
160.	M/s Burgundy Tradings Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Delhi	11.1.2000	Licence terminated
161.	M/s S.S. Netcom Pvt. Ltd.	'B' North East	13.1.2000	Reported start of service
162.	M/s MX Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Kerala	13.1.2000	Time extension for start of service
163.	M/s MX Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Chennai	13.1.2000	-do-
164.	M/s World Tel Tamil Nadu Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Chennai	18.1.2000	Not reported start of service
165.	M/s World Tel Tamil Nadu Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Tamil Nadu	18.1.2000	-do-
166.	M/s Patriot Automation Projects Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Mumbai	28.1.2000	Licence terminated
167.	M/s Patriot Automation Projects Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Karnataka	28.1.2000	-do-
168.	M/s Bharti Comtel Ltd.	'B' Haryana	1.2.2000	-do-
169.	M/s Media Video Ltd.	'B' Delhi	1.2.2000	-do-
170.	M/s Mahaveer Leafin & Holdings Ltd.	'B' Karnataka	3.2.2000	Not reported start of service
171.	M/s Megabyte Infosys Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Karnataka		-do-
172.	M/s Netware Infosys Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Delhi		-do-
173.	M/s Informagic Services Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Mumbai		-do-
174.	M/s Wetware Infosys Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Andhra Pradesh	24.2.2000	-do-
175.	M/s Narmada Cyberzone Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Gujarat	25.2.2000	Reported start of service
176.	M/s On Line Media Solutions Ltd.	'B' A.P.	15.3.2000	-do-
177.	M/s Express Communications Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Calcutta	10.3.2000	Not Reported start of service

1	2	3	4	5
178.	M/s Netmagic Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Mumbai	10.3.2000	Reported start of service
179.	M/s MAC Info Pvt. Ltd.	'B' A.P.	14.3.2000	-do-
180.	M/s G&G Net Communications Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Maharashtra	15.3.2000	-do-
181.	M/s Finolex Technologies Ltd	'B' Karnataka	21.3.2000	Licence terminated
182.	M/s Access On Line Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Mumbai	23.2.2000	Reported start of service
183.	M/s Indice Net Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Chennai	24.3.2000	-do-
184.	M/s Ami Computers	'B' Calcutta	24.3.2000	Licence terminated
185.	M/s PrimeSoftex Ltd.	'B' Delhi	28.3.2000	-do-
186.	M/s Myguru Online Ltd.	'B' Andhra Pradesh	29.3.2000	Reported start of service
187.	M/s Emsons Infotech Ltd.	'B' Punjab	30.3.2000	Not reported start of service
188.	M/s Sumangali Publications Ltd.	'B' Chennai	30.3.2000	-do-
189.	M/s Pioneer Online Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Karnataka	31.3.2000	Reported start of service
190.	M/s Bhasinsoft India Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Karnataka	2.3.2000	-do-
191.	M/s Aum Infotech Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Karnataka	8.3.2000	Licence terminated
192.	M/s Sunray Computers Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Karnataka	5.4.2000	Not reported start of service
193.	M/s Bangalore Online (India) Ltd.	'B' Karnataka	17.4.2000	Licence terminated
194.	M/s Steadfast Construction & Engineering Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Rajasthan	13.4.2000	Not reported start of service
195.	M/s City Online Services Ltd.	'B' Karnataka	13.4.2000	Reported start of service
196.	M/s Bharat Connect Pvt. Ltd.	'B' New Delhi	20.4.2000	-do-
197.	M/s Response Informatics Ltd.	'B' Andhra Pradesh	24.4.2000	Not reported start of service
198.	M/s Orissa Network Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Orissa	27.4.2000	Reported start of service
199.	M/s M.P. Network Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Madhya Pradesh	27.4.2000	-do-
200.	M/s West Bengal Network Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Calcutta	27.4.2000	-do-
201.	M/s Uttar Pradesh Network Pvt. Ltd.	'B' U.P. (West circle)	27.4.2000	-do-
202.	M/s West Bengal Network Pvt. Ltd.	'B' West Bengal	27.4.2000-LR	-do-
203.	M/s Global Electroteks Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Delhi	20.4.2000	Licence terminated
204.	M/s Global Electroteks Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Mumbai	20.4.2000	-do-
205.	M/s Global Electroteks Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Calcutta	20.4.2000	-do-

1	2	3	4	5
206.	M/s Finolex Technologies Ltd.	'B' Maharashtra	18.4.2000	Licence terminated
207.	M/s Vidya Online Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Maharashtra circle	3.5.2000	Not reported start of service
208.	M/s Del DSL Internet Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Delhi	3.5.2000	Reported start of service
209.	M/s Neminath Infotech (India) Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Mumbai	4.5.2000	-do-
210.	M/s Vishakha Infotech Ltd.	'B' Delhi	8.5.2000	Not start of service
211.	M/s Saboo Itech. Com Ltd.,	'B' Delhi	19.5.2000	Licence terminated
212.	M/s Explora Sky-net Ltd.	'B' Gujarat circle	23.5.2000	Licence under termination
213.	M/s Hathway Cable Datacom (P) Ltd.	'B' Karnataka circle	23.5.2000	Licence terminated
214.	M/s Hathway Cable Datacom (P) Ltd.	'B' Delhi	23.5.2000	-do-
215.	M/s Applogic Systems Limited.	'B' Andhra Pradesh	19.5.2000	Reported start of service
216.	M/s Vedanth.Com Worldwide Ltd.	'B' Kolkata	25.5.2000	Licence terminated
217.	M/s GIGA Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Maharashtra circle	29.5.2000	Not reported start of service
218.	M/s Bihar Network Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Bihar circle	30.5.2000	Reported start of service
219.	M/s Haryana Cybernet Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Haryana circle	30.5.2000	-do-
220.	M/s Uttar Pradesh Network Pvt. Ltd.	'B' U.P. (East) circle	30.5.2000	-do-
221.	M/s Punjab Cybernet Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Punjab circle	30.5.2000	-do-
222.	M/s BGN Services Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Chennai	31.5.2000	Licence terminated
223.	M/s Excell Media Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Andhra Pradesh	31.5.2000	Reported start of service
224.	M/s VXL Instruments Ltd.	'B' Karnataka circle	2.6.2000	-do-
225.	M/s VXL Instruments Ltd.	'B' Andhra Pradesh	2.6.2000	Time extension for start of service requested
226.	M/s Yashnet Services Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Gujarat	12.6.2000	Reported start of service
227.	M/s Phoenix Overseas Ltd.	'B' Delhi	12.6.2000	Not reported start of service
228.	M/s India Online Network Ltd.	'B' Mumbai	12.6.2000	-do-
229.	M/s Titagarh Wagons Ltd.	'B' Calcutta	21.6.2000	Licence terminated
230.	M/s HFCL Infotel Ltd.	'B' Punjab	28.6.2000	Reported start of service
231.	M/s Systime Computers Ltd.	'B' Mumbai	29.6.2000	Licence terminated
232.	M/s Paliwal Financial Services Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Haryana	7.7.2000	-do-
233.	M/s Surana Telecom. Ltd.	'B' Andhra Pradesh	6.7.2000	Reported start of service

1	2	3	4	5
234.	M/s Micronet Technologies Ltd.	'B' Andhra Pradesh	14.7.2000	Not reported start of service
235.	M/s Stone Kore Info-tech Ltd.	'B' Andhra Pradesh	17.7.2000	Licence terminated
236.	M/s Seven Star DOT Com Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Mumbai	7.8.2000	Not reported start of service
237.	M/s Kerala Communication Network Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Kerala	8.8.2000	-do-
238.	M/s Global Electroteks Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Kerala	9.8.2000	Licence terminated
239.	M/s Evergreen Telecommunication (India) Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Mumbai	9.8.2000	-do-
240.	M/s Building Network Automation Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Karnataka	16.8.2000	-do-
241.	M/s IN Technet Limited	'B' Chennai	16.8.2000	Not reported start of service
242.	M/s Citymainstreet. Com India Ltd.	'B' Mumbai	18.8.2000	-do-
243.	M/s Asianet Satellite Communications Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Kerala	24.8.2000	Reported start of service
244.	M/s Del DSL Internet Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Karnataka	31.8.2000	-do-
245.	M/s Astra Infonets Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Andhrda Pradesh	1.9.2000	-do-
246.	M/s Astra Infonets Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Karnataka	1.9.2000	-do-
247.	M/s Hathway Bhawani Cabeltel & Datacom Ltd.	'B' Mumbai	13.9.2000	Reported start of service
248.	M/s n-Logue Communications Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Chennai	09.10.2000	Licence terminated
249.	M/s n-Logue Communications Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Tamil Nadu	09.10.2000	-do-
250.	M/s n-Logue Communications Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Andhra Pradesh	09.10.2000	-do-
251.	M/s Amber Online Services Ltd.,	'B' Andhra Pradesh	13.10.2000	Reported start of service
252.	M/s Descon Consultants & Investments Ltd.	'B' Calcutta	18.10.2000	Not reported start of service
253.	M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.	'B' Andhra Pradesh	18.10.2000	-do-
254.	M/s Karuturi. Com Ltd.	'B' Karnataka	31.10.2000	Reported start of service
255.	M/s BGN Services Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Andhra Pradesh	01.11.2000	Licence terminated
256.	M/s World Wide Wireless (India) Ltd.	'B' Chennai	01.11.2000	Not reported start of service
257.	M/s World Wide Wireless (India) Ltd.	'B' Bangalore	01.11.2000	-do-
258.	M/s World Wide Wireless (India) Ltd.	'B' Delhi	01.11.2000	-do-
259.	M/s World Wide Wireless (India) Ltd.	'B' Mumbai	01.11.2000	-do-

1	2	3	4	5
260.	M/s Space Online Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Gujarat	3.11.2000	Not reported start of service
261.	M/s Spectra Punjab Ltd.	'B' Punjab	7.11.2000	-do-
262.	M/s Spanco Telesystem and Solutions Ltd.	'B' Mumbai	8.11.2000	-do-
263.	M/s Inabling Technoloies Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Karnataka	8.11.2000	Reported start of service
264.	M/s Jeltron Electronics Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Delhi	8.11.2000	Not reported start of service
265.	M/s Gujarat Online Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Gujarat	02.02.2001	-do-
266.	M/s Swift Telecom India Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Mumbai	08.02.2001	Licence terminated
267.	M/s Banyan Networks Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Chennai	-do-	-do-
268.	M/s Innovative Cyber Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Andhra Pradesh	13.02.2001	Not reported start of service
269.	M/s Nextage Broadband Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Delhi	15.03.2001	-do-
270.	M/s Nextage Broadband Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Mumbai	15.03.2001	-do-
271.	M/s Nextage Broadband Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Andhra Pradesh	15.03.2001	-do-
272.	M/s Godrej Infotech Ltd.	'B' Mumbai	17.04.2001	Reported start of service
273.	M/s Rajasthan Telematics Ltd.	'B' Rajasthan	30.04.201	Not reported start of service
274.	M/s INIX Public Peering Point Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Mumbai	08.06.2001	Not reported start of service
275.	M/s Band-X (India) Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Mumbai	26.06.2001	Licence terminated
276.	M/s Viraj Telecom. Ltd.	'B' Karnataka	16.07.2001	Reported start of service
277.	M/s Spidernet Software Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Maharashtra	31.05.2001	Not reported start of service
278.	M/s Inabling Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Mumbai	30.07.2001	Reported start of service
279.	M/s Inabling Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Chennai	30.7.2001	Reported start of service
280.	M/s India Infoline Ltd.	'B' Mumbai	02.08.2001	Not reported start of service
281.	M/s International Telephone & Satellite Corp. India Ltd.	'B' Delhi	24.08.2001	-do-
282.	M/s International Telephone & Satellite Corp India Ltd.	'B' Mumbai	29.08.2001	-do-
283.	M/s Anipra Communications Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Delhi	13.09.2001	Reported start of service
284.	M/s Inabling Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	'B' A.P.	13.09.2001	Reported start of service
285.	M/s Inabling Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	'B' T.N.	13.09.2001	Reported start of service

1	2	3	4	5
286.	M/s Dialnet Communications Ltd.	'B' Mumbai	21.9.2001	Not reported start of service
287.	M/s VXL Instruments Ltd.	'B' Kolkotta	15.10.2001	Not reported start of service
288.	M/s Jain Studios Ltd.	'B' Delhi	22.10.2001	Reported start of service
289.	M/s In Technet Ltd.	'B' Andhra Pradesh	27.01.99	Not reported start of service
290.	M/s Ortel Communications Ltd.	'C' Bhubaneswar	06.11.98	Reported start of service
291.	M/s Surevin Internet Services Ltd.	'C' Ghaziabad	06.11.98	Reported start of service
292.	M/s United Internet Communications Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Jaipur	09.11.98	Not reported start of service
293.	M/s Bareilly Communications Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Bareilly	11.11.98	Reported start of service
294.	M/s Paliwal Financial Services Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Karnal	16.11.98	Licence Terminated
295.	M/s Somani Overseas Ltd.	'C' Surat	18.11.98	Under Termination
296.	M/s Arun Girija Communications Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Patna	23.11.98	Not reported start of service
297.	M/s Kinjaru Appliances Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Rajkot	19.11.98	Not reported start of service
298.	M/s SNC Infotech Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Ghaziabad	09.11.98	Licence Terminated
299.	M/s Zaverchand Cyber Infotech Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Vadodara	20.11.98	Under Termination
300.	M/s Sristhi Open Systems Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Trivendrum	12.11.98	Reported start of service
301.	M/s Suchibh Communications Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Satara	12.11.98	Not reported start of service
302.	M/s S.K. Digital Technology Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Asansol	19.11.98	Not reported start of service
303.	M/s C.S. Prosof TechInformatics Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Madurai	02.12.98	Reported start of service
304.	M/s Cosmos Link Network Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Baroda	04.12.98	Licence terminated
305.	M/s Cosmos Link Network Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Surat	04.12.98	-do-
306.	M/s Jain Studios Ltd.	'C' Ghaziabad	08.12.98	-do-
307.	M/s Gateway Internet Services Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Rajahmundri	17.12.98	-do-
308.	M/s Yog Kshem Communications Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Indore	22.12.98	-do-
309.	M/s Yog Kshem Communications Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Bhopal	22.12.98	-do-

1	2	3	4	5
310.	M/s Bharti Communications India Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Valsad	23.12.98	Licence under termination
311.	M/s Vasnet Communications Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Mangalore	28.12.98	Reported start of service
312.	M/s A-Team Information Technology (P) Ltd.	'C' Erode	29.12.98	-do-
313.	M/s Bohra Pratisthan Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Udaipur	05.01.99	-do-
314.	M/s Czars Oleoresin Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Mangalore	11.01.99	Licence terminated
315.	M/s Czars Oleoresin Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Gulbarga	11.01.99	Reported start of service
316.	M/s Master Chip Internet Services Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Nizamabad	12.01.99	-do-
317.	M/s Vintamass Network Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Salem	15.01.99	Licence terminated
318.	M/s Bytes Internet Services P. Ltd.	'C' Valsad	18.01.99	Not reported start of service
319.	M/s Data Securities Ltd.	'C' Jaipur	18.01.99	Licence terminated
320.	M/s Baldev Ship Breakers Ltd.	'C' Bhavnagar	27.01.99	Not reported start of service
321.	M/s Varada Electronics Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Nagpur	27.01.99	Licence Terminated
322.	M/s Vital Continuity Electronics Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Ranchi	10.02.99	Reported start of service
323.	M/s WEB Surf Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Kalyan	12.02.99	-do-
324.	M/s Vasavi Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Visakhapatnam	17.02.99	Licence Terminated
325.	M/s Spectrum Soft Tech Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Building	'C' Ernakulam	24.02.99	Reported start of service
326.	M/s Opto Network Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Ghaziabad	04.03.99	-do-
327.	M/s E-Connect Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Udaipur	8.3.99	Not reported start of service
328.	M/s Waaree Instrument Ltd.	'C' Valsad	10.3.99	Licence terminated
329.	M/s Gemini Communications Ltd.	'C' Coimbatore	19.3.99	Licence under termination
330.	M/s Swarnandra Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Vijayawada	19.3.99	Licence terminated
331.	M/s Vartek Communications Ltd.	'C' Jaipur	19.03.99	Reported start of service
332.	M/s Shah Net Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Nadiad	23.3.99	Licence terminated
333.	M/s Agarwal Internet Services Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Indore	26.3.99	Licence terminated
334.	M/s J&K State Indl. Development Corporation Ltd., Jammu	'C' Srinagar	05.3.99	Not reported start of service

1	2	3	4	5
335.	M/s Transport Corporation of India Ltd.	'C' Faridabad	07.3.99	Reported start of service
336.	M/s Transport Corporation of India Ltd.	'C' Kalyan	07.3.99	Not reported start of service
337.	M/s World Gate Networks Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Surat	29.4.99	Reported start of service
338.	M/s Future Consultants Ltd.	'C' Kanpur	29.4.99	Reported start of service
339.	M/s Future Consultants Ltd.	'C' Lucknow	29.4.99	Reported start of service
340.	M/s Satayasai Online Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Visakhapatnam	07.05.99	Reported start of service
341.	M/s Narmada Cyber Zone Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Bharuch	10.05.99	Licence terminated
342.	M/s Chiman Trade Link	'C' Nadiad	12.5.99	Reported start of service
343.	M/s IQ Infosystems	'C' Nagpur	13.5.99	Not reported start of service
344.	M/s T.C.I. Bhoruka Projects Ltd.	'C' Jaipur	17.3.99	Licence terminated
345.	M/s Scad Consultants Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Vadodara	20.5.99	Licence terminated
346.	M/s I-Ninety One Interconnect Ltd.	'C' Chandigarh	25.5.99	Reported start of service
347.	M/s Planet Internet Satellite (VVV) P. Ltd.	'C' Nadiad	25.5.99	Reported start of service
348.	M/s Compucom India Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Jaipur	28.5.99	Not reported start of service
349.	M/s Estel Communications Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Gurgaon	9.6.99	Licence terminated
350.	M/s SAB Infotech Ltd.	'C' Chandigarh	11.06.99	-do-
351.	M/s Bharat Network Ltd.	'C' Baroda	23.6.99	Reported start of service
352.	M/s Asianet Satellite Communication Ltd.	'C' Thiruvananthapuram	5.7.99	Reported start of service
353.	M/s Asianet Satellite Communication Ltd.	'C' Ernakulam	5.7.99	-do-
354.	M/s Kappa Infotech P. Ltd.	'C' Kota	14.7.99	-do-
355.	M/s N.S. Net Source (I) Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Visakhapatnam	21.7.99	Reported start of service
356.	M/s Lee & Nee Software	'C' Bhubaneshwar	21.7.99	Reported start of service
357.	M/s Spectra Net P. Ltd.	'C' Ghaziabad	27.7.99	Licence termianated
358.	M/s Spectra Net P. Ltd.	'C' Gurgaon	27.7.99	-do-
359.	M/s Millennium Internet Services Online Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Amritsar	2.8.99	Reported start of service
360.	M/s Infonet Services (I) Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Amritsar	6.8.99	Licence terminated
361.	M/s Independent Business Machines Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Chandigarh	12.8.99	Not reported start of service
362.	M/s RIDA Communication Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Aligarh	12.8.99	Reported start of service

1	2	3	4	5
363.	M/s Amoeba Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Coimbatore	19.8.99	Licence terminated
364.	M/s Online Internet Services Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Chandigarh	7.9.99	Not reported start of service
365.	M/s Kelnet Communication Services Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Trivandrum	15.9.99	Reported start of service
366.	M/s Kelnet Communication Services Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Ernakulam	15.9.99	Licence terminated
367.	M/s Kushagra Telecom. Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Ghaziabad	15.9.99	Reported start of service
368.	M/s Assured Web Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Bhopal	20.9.99	-do-
369.	M/s Bhaskar Multi Net Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Jaipur	20.9.99	Not reported start of service
370.	M/s Comat Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Shimoga	21.9.99	Licence terminated
371.	M/s EMTICI Engineering Ltd.	'C' Nadiad	29.09.99	Not reported start of service
372.	M/s Maxwell Tradelinks Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Kalyan	30.09.99	Not reported start of service
373.	M/s Sahajanand Internet Service Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Surat	01.10.99	Not reported start of service
374.	M/s My-Net Services India Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Salem	06.10.99	Reported start of service
375.	M/s Excell Media Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Visakhapatnam	08.10.99	Licence terminated
376.	M/s C.S. Prosoftech Informatics Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Tirunelveli	13.10.99	Reported start of service
377.	M/s Starnet Online Services Ltd.	'C' Visakhapatnam	27.10.99	Not reported start of service
378.	M/s Satyasai On-Line Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Rajamundry	05.11.99	Reported start of service
379.	M/s Netconnect (India) Ltd.	'C' Mysore	11.11.99	Not reported start of service
380.	M/s Shivam Infoways Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Jodhpur	22.11.99	Not reported start of service
381.	M/s Quest Consultancy Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Valsad	08.12.99	Reported start of service
382.	M/s Tandem Infotech Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Trivandrum	9.12.99	Not reported start of service
383.	M/s C J Online Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Ghaziabad	10.12.99	Reported start of service
384.	M/s Link Communications Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Gurgaon	15.12.99	Licence terminated
385.	M/s Tawi E. Com Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Jammu Tawi	23.12.99	Not reported start of service
386.	M/s Yenkay Network Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Hospet	23.12.99	-do-

1	2	3	4	5
387.	M/s Marvel Indenting Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Vadodara	5.1.2000	Licence terminated
388.	M/s Argosy Infotech Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Raigad	6.1.2000	Not reported start of service
389.	M/s Millennium Internet Services Online Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Jalandhar	10.1.2000	Reported start of service
390.	M/s Neptune Cyberworld Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Rajkot	13.1.2000	Not reported start of service
391.	M/s Direct Internet Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Gurgaon	17.1.2000	Reported start of service
392.	M/s Direct Internet Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Ghaziabad	17.1.2000	-do-
393.	M/s All India On-line Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Bhubaneshwar	19.1.2000	-do-
394.	M/s Patriot Automation Projects Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Jamshedpur	28.1.2000	Licence terminated
395.	M/s Patriot Automation Projects Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Guwahati	28.1.2000	-do-
396.	M/s Patriot Automation Projects Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Siliguri	28.1.2000	-do-
397.	M/s Multitech Computer Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Gurgaon	3.2.2000	Not reported start of service
398.	M/s SHELL Information Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Ahmednagar	25.2.2000	Licence terminated
399.	M/s Tulsi Infoways Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Kanpur	25.2.2000	Reported start of service
400.	M/s S FOUR Microsystems (P) Ltd.	'C' Eluru (22.5.02)	25.2.2000	Licence terminated
401.	M/s Vertec Communications Ltd.	'C' Dehradoon	7.3.2000	Under termination
402.	M/s Diksha Cyber City Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Sriganganagar		Reported start of service
403.	M/s Discovery Infoways Ltd.	'C' Patna	13.3.2000	Not reported start of service
404.	M/s Mudra Consultants Ltd.	'C' Ghaziabad	24.3.2000	Not reported start of service
405.	M/s Ortel Communications Ltd.	'C' Cuttack	29.3.2000	Not reported start of service
406.	M/s Salasar Data Com Tech. Ltd.	'C' Gurgaon	30.3.2000	Licence terminated
407.	M/s Salasar Data Com Tech. Ltd.	'C' Ghaziabad	30.3.2000	-do-
408.	M/s Suprabhat Technolink Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Bhopal	31.3.2000	-do-
409.	M/s Krisna Raghava On Line Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Eluru	28.2.2000	Reported start of service
410.	M/s Cadnet Info Services Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Surat	3.4.2000	Not reported start of service
411.	M/s Nandi Online Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Kurnool	4.4.2000	Reported start of service

1	2	3	4	5
412.	M/s Seraphic Systems Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Bhubaneswar	3.4.2000	Not reported start of service
413.	M/s Shimlets Infoways Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Dehradun	18.4.2000	Not reported start of service
414.	M/s Shreedhar Infosys Ltd.	'C' Varanasi	18.4.2000	Reported start of service
415.	M/s Skydot Communications Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Valsad	26.4.2000	Not reported start of service
416.	M/s Del DSL Internet Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Gurgaon	3.5.2000	Reported start of service
417.	M/s Del DSL Internet Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Ghaziabad	3.5.2000	Not reported start of service
418.	M/s Eureka Rapid Communications Ltd.	'C' Gurgaon	3.5.2000	-do-
419.	M/s Eureka Net. Com Ltd.	'C' Lucknow	3.5.2000	-do-
420.	M/s Quick Connect DOT COM Ltd.	'C' Ludhiana	3.5.2000	-do-
421.	M/s Manipur Electronics Development Corporation Ltd.	'C' Manipur	9.5.2000	-do-
422.	M/s Millennium Internet Services Online Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Ludhiana	11.5.2000	-do-
423.	M/s Worldwide Com Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Saharanpur	17.5.2000	Reported start of service
424.	M/s Saboo tech Com Ltd.	'C' Jaipur	19.5.2000	Licence terminated
425.	M/s Vedanth. Com Worldwide Ltd.	'C' Rourkela	25.5.2000	-do-
426.	M/s Vedanth. Com Worldwide Ltd.	'C' Siliguri	25.5.2000	-do-
427.	M/s Vedanth. Com Worldwide Ltd.	'C' Guwahati	25.5.2000	-do-
428.	M/s Naharwar Marketing Services Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Gurgaon	25.5.2000	-do-
429.	M/s iPath India Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Ernakulam	26.5.2000	Reported start of service
430.	M/s DLF infrastructure Ltd.	'C' Gurgaon	31.5.2000	Licence terminated
431.	M/s Saboo Itech. Com Ltd.	'C' Chandigarh	1.6.2000	-do-
432.	M/s Digital Nagpur On Line	'C' Nagpur SSA	2.6.2000	Not reported start of service
433.	M/s ICOM Systems Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Ratnagiri SSA	2.6.2000	-do-
434.	M/s Dreamzcraft Info Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Dehradun	2.6.2000	-do-
435.	M/s Phoenix Overseas Ltd.	'C' Ghaziabad 28.5.2002	12.6.2000	Licence terminated
436.	M/s Sky Sat India Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Gurgaon	12.6.2000	Not reported start of service

1	2	3	4	5
437.	M/s Swan Computech Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Kanpur Licence 20.03.02	12.6.2000	Licence terminated
438.	M/s Sanchar Telenetwork Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Bhavnagar	20.6.2000	Not reported start of service
439.	M/s Cocktel Internet Services Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Meerut	21.6.2000	-do-
440.	M/s Abhiyan Media Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Indore	21.6.2000	Licence terminated
441.	M/s Infinity.Com Financial Securities Ltd.	'C' Kalyan	26.6.2000	Not reported start of service
442.	M/s Compuware Resources Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Chandigarh	12.7.2000	Licence terminated
443.	M/s Capital Online Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Jaipur	14.7.2000	Reported start of service
444.	M/s Micky Online Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Muradabad	14.7.2000	Reported start of service
445.	M/s City Online Services Ltd.	'C' Pondicherry	18.7.2000	Licence under termination
446.	M/s CEC IN-COM Ltd.	'C' Chandigarh	18.7.2000	Licence under termination
447.	M/s Premier Internet Services Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Chandigarh	21.7.2000	Reported start of service
448.	M/s Kochar Infotech Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Ludhiana		Not reported start of service
449.	M/s Kochar Infotech Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Amritsar		-do-
450.	M/s Andaman and Nicobar Technology Lab (P) Ltd.	'C' Andaman and Nicobar	7.8.2000	-do-
451.	M/s Computers (India) Ltd.	'C' Patna	7.8.2000	-do-
452.	M/s Magnum Online Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Agra	12.8.2000	-do-
453.	M/s North East Online Services Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Guwahati	22.8.2000	Reported start of service
454.	M/s Delux Telecom. Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Mehasana		Not reported start of service
455.	M/s Spaceage Internet Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Ghaziabad	30.8.2000	Licence terminated
456.	M/s ISHAN Communications Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Jamnagar	31.8.2000	Not reported start of service
457.	M/s Uptron India Ltd.	'C' Lucknow	5.9.2000	-do-
458.	M/s Madhya Desh Global Network Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Nagpur	13.9.2000	-do-
459.	M/s Digital 2 Virtual ISP Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Vadodara	06.10.2000	Reported start of service
460.	M/s C.N. Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Shimla	09.10.2000	Not reported start of service

1	2	3	4	5
461.	M/s COM "O" Magic Internet Services Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Meerut	09.10.2000	-do-
462.	M/s Opto Network Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Meerut	13.10.2000	Reported start of service
463.	M/s Web Cable TV Ltd.	'C' Nagercoil	19.10.2000	Not reported start of service
464.	M/s Technocrews Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Saharanpur	31.10.2000	Not reported start of service
465.	M/s SAB Infotech Ltd.	'C' Dharamshala	31.10.2000	reported start of service
466.	M/s SAB Infotech Ltd.	'C' Karnal	31.10.2000	-do-
467.	M/s Sujan Engineering Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Vadodara	01.11.2000	Not reported start of service
468.	M/s World Wide Wireless (India) Ltd.	'C' Ludhiana	01.11.2000	-do-
469.	M/s Q-Net Infosystems Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Ernakulam	15.11.2000	-do-
470.	M/s DE Laila Industris Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Srinagar	17.11.2000	-do-
471.	M/s Electronics Research & Development Centre of India	'C' Ghaziabad	19.12.2000	Reported start of service
472.	M/s Forum Infotech Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Srinagar	27.12.2000	Not reported start of service
473.	M/s Qtel Comtech Ltd.	'C' Gurgaon	29.12.2000	-do-
474.	M/s Login Online Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Moradabad	03.01.2001	Licence terminated
475.	M/s Micky Online Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Nainital	09.01.2001	Reported start of service
476.	M/s Beacon Broadband	'C' Durg	02.02.2001	Not reported start of service
477.	M/s Banyan Networks Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Vellore	09.02.2001	Licence terminated
478.	M/s Banyan Networks Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Trichy	9.2.2001	-do-
479.	M/s Atlanta Infosys Ltd.	'C' Bharuch	18.04.2001	-do-
480.	M/s Orissa Connect Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Rourkela	18.04.2001	Not reported start of service
481.	M/s I.S.P. Solutions (India) Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Coimbatore	28.06.2001	reported start of service
482.	M/s Dombivli Internet Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Kalyan	3.7.2001	Not reported start of service
483.	M/s BG Broadband India Pvt. Ltd.	'B' Gujrat	07.09.2001	Reported start of service
484.	M/s Microamp Satcom Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Lucknow	11.09.2001	Reported start of service

1	2	3	4	5
485.	M/s Daizy Agrotech Ltd.	'C' Bhopal	12.09.2001	Not reported start of service
486.	M/s Descon Ltd.	'C' Burdwan	14.09.2001	Not reported start of service
487.	M/s Digital 2 Virtual ISP Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Khera	3.10.2001	Reported start of service
488.	M/s Asia Access Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Visakhapatnam	11.10.2001	Not reported start of service
489.	M/s Speed Online. Net Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Rajkot	15.10.2001	Not reported start of service
490.	M/s Jain Studios Ltd.	'C' Meerut	22.10.2001	Reported start of service
491.	M/s Jain Studios Ltd.	'C' Ghaziabad	22.10.2001	-do-
492.	M/s Bhupati Hotels Pvt. Ltd.	'C' Visakhapatnam	23.10.2001	Not reported start of service
493.	M/s Elgitread (India) Ltd.	Coimbatore	7.11.2001	Not reported start of service
494.	M/s n-Logue Communications Pvt. Ltd.	All India	29.11.2001	Reported start of service
495.	M/s Helm Consultants Pvt. Ltd.	Saharanpur	29.11.2001	Not reported start of service
496.	M/s Solfiaso Online Services Pvt. Ltd.	Burdwan	3.12.2001	-do-
497.	M/s Infotech Vision India Pvt. Ltd.	Ghaziabad	3.12.2001	Licence terminated
498.	M/s Sikkanet Services Pvt. Ltd.	Lucknow	10.12.2001	Not reported start of service
499.	M/s Ellargi Investments Pvt. Ltd.	Coimbatore	2.1.2002	-do-
500.	M/s Surevin Internet Services Ltd.	Indore	14.1.2002	Reported start of service
501.	M/s B.G. Broadband India Pvt. Ltd.	Mumbai	15.1.2002	Not reported start of service
502.	M/s ZERO WORRIES Pvt. Ltd.	Ranchi	24.1.2002	-do-
503.	M/s WILNET Communications Pvt. Ltd.	Gujarat	6.2.2002	Reported start of service
504.	M/s BRIDGEVIEW Broadband Network Pvt. Ltd.	Shimla	6.2.2002	Not reported start of service
505.	M/s Railtel Corp. of India Ltd.	All India	8.2.2002	-do-
506.	M/s Aksh Broadband Ltd.	Jaipur SSA	14.2.2002	-do-
507.	M/s Instant Cable Network Pvt. Ltd.	Gurgaon	1.3.2002	-do-
508.	M/s Star Cable Infonet Pvt. Ltd.	Mangalore	4.3.2002	-do-
509.	M/s Trans Virtual Pvt. Ltd.	Guwahati	4.3.2002	-do-

1	2	3	4	5
510.	M/s LENSEL Online Pvt. Ltd.	Rourkela	6.3.2002	-do-
511.	M/s CORFUSION Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	Karnal	20.03.02	-do-
512.	M/s ULTRA MICRO Consultancy Pvt. Ltd.	Jhansi	21.03.02	-do-
513.	M/s MANIPAL Control Data Electronic Commerce Ltd.	Karnataka	21.03.02	Reported start of service
514.	M/s SREE SREE Infotainment Pvt. Ltd.	Visakhapatnam	21.03.02	Not reported start of service
515.	M/s SILICON Mountains (India) Ltd.	Maharashtra	22.03.02	-do-
516.	M/s EXATT Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	Mumbai	11.04.02	Reported start of service
517.	M/s Samkhya Networks Pvt. Ltd.	Gurgaon	23.04.02	Not reported start of service
518.	M/s Surevin Internet Services Ltd.	Gwalior	29.04.02	Not reported start of service
519.	M/s Surevin Internet Services Ltd.	Jabalpur	29.04.02	-do-
520.	M/s Surevin Internet Services Ltd.	Nagpur	29.04.02	-do-
521.	M/s Gemplex Internet India Pvt. Ltd.	Bangalore	02.05.02	-do-
522.	M/s Gemplex Internet India Pvt. Ltd.	Mumbai	02.05.02	-do-
523.	M/s Worldcom Communications India Pvt. Ltd.	All India	09.05.02	-do-
524.	M/s Unity Electro Systems Pvt. Ltd.	Coimbatore	15.05.02	-do-
525.	M/s Spice Communications Ltd. Modicorp Tower	Karnataka	15.05.02	-do-
526.	M/s Spice Communications Ltd.	Punjab	15.05.02	-do-
527.	M/s Star Airnet Broadband Info Pvt. Ltd.	Nagercoil	22.05.02	-do-
528.	M/s Kap Utility Services Pvt. Ltd., Jallow Kharg Chowk, Kapurthala, (Punjab)-144 601	Chandigarh	27.05.02	-do-
529.	M/s Broadlane Networks Pvt. Ltd.	Dombivli	04.06.02	-do-
530.	M/s Broadband Infocom Ltd.	Lucknow	11.06.02	-do-
531.	M/s Non-Stop Internet Pvt. Ltd.	Udaipur	13.06.02	-do-
532.	M/s Kerala State Electronics Development Corp. Ltd.	Thiruvanantha-puram	14.06.02	-do-
533.	M/s ABT Ltd.	Coimbatore	19.06.02	-do-
534.	M/s Antriksh Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	Jammu	27.06.02	-do-

1	2	3	4	5
535.	M/s Broad Range Application Integrated Network Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	Bokaro Steel City	27.06.02	-do-
536.	M/s Gas Authority of India Ltd.	All India	27.06.02	-do-
537.	M/s Bhojak Infonet Pvt. Ltd.	Jaipur	03.07.02	-do-
538.	M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd.	Delhi	03.07.02	-do-
539.	M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd.	Karnataka	03.07.02	-do-
540.	M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd.	Haryana	03.07.02	-do-
541.	M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd.	Tamil Nadu	03.07.02	-do-

Close User Group (CUG) Commercial VSAT Licences

Sl. No.	Name of the Licensee	Status of Licence
1.	M/s Hughes Escort Communication Limited	Operational
2.	M/s Comsat Max Pvt. Ltd.	Operational
3.	M/s Bharti BT Pvt. Ltd.	Operational
4.	M/s HCL Comnet Pvt. Ltd.	Operational
5.	M/s Essel Shyam Communication Pvt. Ltd.	Operational
6.	M/s Telstra V. Com Pvt. Ltd.	Operational
7.	M/s H.F.C.L. Satellite Comm. Ltd.	Operational
8.	M/s RPG Satellite Comm. Ltd.	Operational
9.	M/s ITI Ltd.	Operational
10.	M/s GNFC Ltd.	Operational
11.	M/s Data Line and Research Technologies Ltd.	Operational
12.	M/s Satnet Communications	Operational
13.	M/s Marcsat Comm. Pvt. Ltd.	Operational
14.	M/s Punjab Wireless Comm. Pvt. Ltd.	Operational

Service Area-wise Status of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service Licences

S. No.	Service Area (Metro City/ Telecom Circle)	Name of Licensee	Effective Date	Service Commissioned
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Delhi	Bharti Cellular Ltd.	29.11.1994	Service commenced
		Sterling Cellular Ltd.	30.11.1994	Service commenced
		Mahanagr Telephone Nigam Ltd.	10.10.1997	Service commenced
		Birla Tata AT & T Communications Ltd.	05.10.2001	Not yet started

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Mumbai	BPL Mobile Communication Ltd.	30.11.1994	Service commenced
		Hutchison Max Telecom Ltd.	29.11.1994	Service commenced
		Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.	10.10.1997	Service commenced
		Bharti Cellular Ltd.	28.09.2001	Not yet started
3.	Kolkata	Bharti Mobitel Ltd.	30.11.1994	Service commenced
		Usha Maartin Telekom Ltd.	30.11.1994	Service commenced
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	29.02.2000	Service commenced
		Reliable Internet Services Ltd.	27.09.2001	Not yet started
4.	Chennai	RPG Cellular Services Ltd.	30.11.1994	Service commenced
		Bharti Mobinet Ltd.	30.11.1994	Service commenced
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	29.02.2000	Not yet started
		Hutchison Essar South Ltd.	26.09.2001	Not yet started
5.	A & N	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	29.02.2000	Not yet started
		Aircel Ltd.	07.05.2002	Not yet started
6.	Andhra Pradesh	Birla Tata AT & T Ltd.	19.12.1995	Service commenced
		Bharti Mobile Ltd.	22.12.1995	Service commenced
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	29.02.2000	Not yet started
		Hutchison Essar South Ltd.	26.09.2001	Not yet started
7.	Assam	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	12.12.1995	Service commenced
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	29.02.2000	Not yet started*
8.	Bihar	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	12.12.1995	Service commenced
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	29.02.2000	Service commenced
9.	Gujarat	Fascel Ltd.	11.01.1996	Service commenced
		Birla Tata AT and T Ltd.	12.12.1995	Service commenced
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	29.02.2000	Not yet started
		Bharti Cellular Ltd.	28.09.2001	Not yet started
10.	Haryana	Escotel Mobile Communication (P) Ltd.	12.12.1995	Service commenced
		Aircel Digilink India Ltd.	28.12.1995	Service commenced
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	29.02.2000	Not yet started
		Bharti Cellular Ltd.	28.09.2001	Service commenced
11.	Himachal Pradesh	Bharti Telenet Ltd.	12.12.1995	Service commenced
		Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	12.12.1995	Service commenced

1	2	3	4	5
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	29.02.2000	Not yet started
		Escorts Telecommunications Ltd.	20.10.2001	Not yet started
12.	J&K	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	29.02.2000	Not yet started*
13.	Karnataka	Spice Communications Ltd.	09.09.1996	Service commenced
		Bharti Mobiles Limited	18.10.1996	Service commenced
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	29.02.2000	Not yet started
		Hutchinson Essar South Ltd.	26.09.2001	Not yet started
14.	Kerala	BPL Cellular Limited	19.12.1995	Service commenced
		Escotel Mobile Communications Ltd.	12.12.1995	Service commenced
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	29.02.2000	Not yet started
		Bharti Cellular Ltd.	28.09.2001	Service commenced
15.	Maharashtra	BPL Mobile Cellular Ltd.	19.12.1995	Service commenced
		Birla Tata AT and T Ltd.	12.12.1995	Service commenced
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	29.02.2000	Not yet started
		Bharti Cellular Ltd.	28.09.2001	Not yet started
16.	Madhya Pradesh	RPG Cellcom Ltd.	15.12.1995	Service commenced
		Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	12.12.1995	Service commenced
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	29.02.2000	Not yet started
		Bharti Cellular Ltd.	28.09.2001	Service commenced
17.	N.E.	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	12.12.1995	Service commenced
		Hexacom India Ltd.	01.01.1996	Not yet started*
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	29.02.2000	Not yet started*
18.	Orissa	Reliance Telecom (P) Ld.	12.12.1995	Service commenced
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	29.02.2000	Not yet started
19.	Punjab	Spice Communications Ltd.	09.09.1996	Service commenced
		Bharti Mobile Ltd.	26.12.1995	Service commenced
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	29.02.2000	Not yet started
		Escorts Telecommunications Ltd.	20.10.2001	Not yet started
20.	Rajasthan	Aircel Digilink India Ltd.	01.08.1996	Service commenced
		Hexacom India Ltd.	16.09.1996	Service commenced
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	29.02.2000	Not yet started
		Escorts Telecommunications Ltd.	20.10.2001	Not yet started

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Tamil Nadu	BPL Mobile Cellular Ltd.	19.12.1995	Service commenced
		Aircel Ltd.	22.05.1998	Service commenced
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	29.02.2000	Not yet started
		Bharti Cellular Ltd.	28.09.2001	Service commenced
22.	UP (W)	Escotel Mobile Communications Ltd.	12.12.1995	Service commenced
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	29.02.2000	Not yet started
		Bharti Cellular Ltd.	28.09.2001	Service commenced
23.	UP (E)	Aircel Digilink India Ltd.	28.12.1995	Service commenced
		Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	12.12.1995	Service commenced
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	29.02.2000	Not yet started
		Escorts Telecommunications Ltd.	20.10.2001	Not yet started
24.	West Bengal	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	12.12.1995	Service commenced
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	29.02.2000	Not yet started

*Start of service has not been permitted on security considerations.

Service Area-wise Status of VMS/Audiotex/UMS Licences (As on 30.6.2002)

S. No.	Name of Company	Name of City	Effective Date	Service Commissioned	Name of Service
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	M/s. Dialnet Comm. Ltd.	New Delhi	27.06.97	Service started at all locations	VMS/Audiotex/UMS
		Mumbai	25.09.01		-do-
		Kolkata	25.09.01		VM&/Audiotex
		Bangalore	25.09.01		-do-
		Ahmedabad	25.09.01		-do-
		Ludhiana	25.09.01		-do-
		Kanpur	25.09.01		-do-
		Nagpur	25.09.01		-do-
		Indore	25.09.01		-do-
2.	M/s. Cyber Bazar (I) Pvt. Ltd.	Bangalore	21.10.97	Service started	-do-
		Delhi	19.10.01		-do-
		Mumbai	19.10.01	Not started	-do-

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	M/s. Navin. Com (India) Pvt. Ltd.	Mumbai	14.08.01	Service started at all locations	VMS/Audiotex/UMS
		Bangalore	14.08.01		-do-
		Pune	14.08.01		-do-
		Kolkata	14.08.01		-do-
		Ludhiana	14.08.01		-do-
		Baroda	14.08.01		-do-
		New Delhi	14.08.01		-do-
		Hyderabad	14.08.01		-do-
		Chennai	14.08.01		-do-
		Ahmedabad	14.08.01		-do-
		Kochi	14.08.01		-do-
4.	M/s. Phonologies (India) Pvt. Ltd.	Mumbai	27.11.01	Not started	VMS/Audiotex
5.	M/s. Hutchison Max. Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	Mumbai	13.05.96	Service started	(VMS/Audiotex)
		Kalyan	27.06.97		-do-
6.	M/s. Tata Tele Services Ltd.	Hyderabad	16.08.2000	Service started	-do-
7.	M/s. Voice Gate Technologies India Pvt. Ltd.	Hyderabad	19.06.02	Not started	-do-
8.	Net India Communications Pvt. Ltd.	Hyderabad	20.06.02	Not started	-do-

Service Area-wise Status of PMRTS Licensees (Status as on 30.6.2002)

S. No.	Name of Company	Name of City	Effective Date	Service Commissioned
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Aryadoot Transport Pvt. Ltd.	Visakhapatnam	1.11.95	Servic started
2.	Jet AIU Skyline Tpt. Pvt Ltd.	Indore	5.12.95	Service started
3.	ITI Ltd., Bangalore	Madurai	1.11.95	Service started at all locations
		Ahmedabad	29.3.96	
		Baroda	29.3.96	
		Hyderabad	29.3.96	
		Chennai	29.3.96	

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Iconet Communications, Chennai	Kotagiri Kodaikanal	16.11.95 16.11.95	Service started at all locations
		Yercand	16.11.95	
5.	Procall Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi	Chandigarh	8.3.96	Service started at all locations
		Jaipur	8.3.96	
		Delhi	8.3.96	
		Faridabad	8.3.96	
		Gurgaon	8.3.96	
		Ludhiana	8.3.96	
		Jalandhar	8.3.96	
6.	Bhilwara Telenet Services Ltd., Noida	Mumbai	14.3.96 14.3.96	Service started at all locations
		Delhi	14.3.96	
		Vadodara Kolkata	14.3.96	
7.	United Liner Agencies, New Delhi	Delhi Kolkata	11.3.96 11.3.96	Service started at all locations
		Jamnagar	11.3.96	
8.	German Express Shipping Agency Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai	Delhi Belapur	11.3.96 11.3.96	Service started at all locations
9.	Smartalk Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi	Surat	10.5.96	Service started at all locations
		Mumbai	10.5.96	
			10.5.96	
		Pune	10.5.96	
		Ahmedabad Vashi	10.5.96	
10.	The Arvind Mills Ltd.	Faridabad	10.5.96 10.5.96	Service started at all locations
		New Delhi	10.5.96	
		Mumbai	10.5.96	
		Chennai	10.5.96	
		Bangalore	10.5.96	
		Ahmedabad	10.5.96	
		Surat	10.5.96	
		Vashi	10.5.96	
		Vadodara		

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Container Movement Tpt Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai	Delhi	11.3.96	Service started
12.	Arya Offshore Services Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi	Mumbai Chennai	11.3.96 11.3.96	Service started at all locations
13.	India Satcom Ltd., Bangalore.	Bangalore	29.3.96	Service started
14.	Hofintel Ltd., Chennai	Chennai Hyderabad	8.4.96 8.4.96	Service started at all locations
15.	Quickcalls Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.	Chennai Bangalore Hyderabad	4.4.96 4.4.96 4.4.96	Service started at all locations

Denial of Permission in Medical/ Dental Institutions/Colleges

*50. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have denied permission to 76 medical and dental institutions/colleges for making admissions, as reported in 'Indian Express' dated June 17, 2002;

(b) if so, the details of such institutions/colleges, State-wise; and

(c) the reasons for denying permission to these institutions/colleges?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The news item relates to non-renewal of permission in respect of Medical and Dental Colleges for admitting students during 2002-03. As per provisions of Indian Medial Council (Amendment) Act, 1993 and the Dentists (Amendment) Act, 1993 and the Regulations framed thereunder, the Central Government permission is granted for starting of a Medical/Dental College for one year. This permission is renewed on yearly basis after verification of the achievements of annual targets in respect of creation of infrastructure facilities. In case of failure of the college authorities to meet the annual target of development of infrastructure, the annual renewal of permission is not granted. The college accordingly, cannot admit students unless they rectify the deficiencies to the satisfaction of the Professional Councils and the Government of India.

Further, this process of renewal of permission is a continuous one and the Government renews the permission as and when the recommendations of the Professional Councils are received. As on 11.6.2002, permission of 76 colleges (45 dental and 31 medical colleges) was not renewed. However, subsequently the permission of 9 dental and 4 medical colleges have been renewed till date. State-wise names of medical and dental colleges wherein permission for 2002-03 has not been renewed are given in the statement attached.

All the State Governments/Universities have been informed about the status of each college for admission during 2002-03. The State Governments have also been advised to check from Government of India before allotting students to a medical/dental college within their jurisdiction whether permission has been renewed in respect of that particular college. The status of admission in medical and dental colleges has also been made available on this Ministry's website *http://mohfw.nic.in* for information of the general public which is continuously updated. The concerned professional councils have also been advised to caution public in respect of the colleges, which are eligible for admission during 2002-03.

Statement

Names of New Medical/Dental Colleges wherein the permission has not so far renewed for 2002-03

Medical College		Dental College	
S. No.	Name of the Medical College	S. No.	Name of the Dental College
1	2	1	2
	Andhra Pradesh		
1.	Govt. Medical College, Anantpur	1.	CVS Krishna Murthy Teia Institute, Tirupati
2.	Alluri Sitarama Raju Medical College, Eluru	2.	Army College of Dental Sciences, Secunderabad
3.	MNR Medical College	3.	GITAM Dental College, Visakhapatnam
4.	SVS Medical College, Mehabolnagar	4.	Sri Sai College of Dental Surgery, Vikarabad
		5.	Kamineni Institute of Dental Sciences, Narketpally, Nalgonda
		6.	Mamtha Dental College, Khammam
		7.	Siber Institute of Dental Sciences, Guntur
	Chhattisgarh		
5.	Chhattisgarh Instt. of Medical Sciences, Bilaspur	8.	Chhattisgarh Dental College, Rajnandgaon
	Delhi		
6.	Vardhman Mahavir Medical College, Safdarjung Hospital		
	Gujarat		
7.	C.U. Shah Medical College, Surendranagar		
8.	Municipal Cooperation Medical College, Surat		
	Himachal Pradesh		
9.	Dr. Rajendra Prasad Medical College, Tanda	9.	Bhojia Dental College & Hospital, Nalagarh
	Haryana		
		10.	Baba Mastnath Dental College, Rohtak
		11.	Maharishi Markendeshwer College of Dental Sciences & Research, Mulana
	Karnataka		
10.	Khaja Banda Nawaj Medical College, Gulbarga		

1	2	1	2
11.	MVJ Medical College and Research Hospital		
12.	K.S. Hegde Medical Academy, Mangalore		
13.	Yenepoya Medical College, Mangalore		
14.	Basaveswara Medical College, Chitradurga		
			Kerala
15.	Co-operative Medical College, Kochi		
			Madhya Pradesh
16.	R.D. Gardi Medical College, Ujjain	12.	Modern Dental College & Research Centre, Indore
		13.	Vazdi Educational Society's Dental College, Indore
			Maharashtra
17.	Govt. Medical College, Kolhapur	14.	YMT Dental College, Navi Mumbai
18.	MAMER Medical College, Pune	15.	Dr. D.Y. Patil Dental College and Hospital, Pimpari
		16.	Pt. Din Dayal Upadhyay Dental College, Sholapur
		17.	SMBT Dental College, Ghulewadi, Sangammer (Amrut Nagar)
			Pondicherry
19.	Vinayaka Mission's Medical College, Karaikal		
20.	Aarupadai Veedu Medical College		
21.	Mahatma Gandhi Medical College		
			Orissa
		18.	VM Lord Jagannath Dental College, Bhubaneswar
			Punjab
		19.	Khalsa Dental College, Nangal Kalan
		20.	Baba Jaswant Singh Dental College, Ludhiana
		21.	Luxmibai Institute of Dental Sciences and Hospital, Patiala
		22.	Desh Bhagat Dental College, Mukatsar

1	2	1	2
		Rajasthan	
22.	Mahatma Gandhi Instt. of Medical Sciences, Jaipur	23.	Darshan Dental College, Udaypur
		24.	Jaipur Dental College, Jaipur
		25.	Pacific Dental College, Udaypur
		Sikkim	
23.	Sikkim Manipal University Medical College, Gangtok		
		Tamil Nadu	
24.	Govt. Medical College, Toothkudi	26.	SRM Dental College, Chennai
25.	KAP Vishwanathan Govt. Medical College, Trichy	27.	Sri Ramakrishna Dental College and Hospital, Coimbatore
		28.	Thai Moogambigai Dental College, Chennai
		Uttar Pradesh	
26.	Subharati Medical College, Meerut	29.	Vinayak Mission Dental College, Sitapur
27.	Era Lucknow Medical College, Lucknow	30.	D.J. College of Dental Sciences and Research, Modinagar
		31.	AMU Dental College, Aligarh
		32.	Avadh Institute of Dental Sciences, Lucknow
		33.	UP Dental College, Lucknow
		34.	Hasharan Dass Dental College, Ghaziabad
		35.	Kanti Devi Dental College, Mathura
		36.	Institute of Dental Studies and Technologies, Kadrabad, Modinagar

[Translation]

Outstanding Dues

*51. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications has to realise arrears from many companies;

(b) if so, the amount of arrears and company-wise details thereof, till date; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to realise the arrears?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Steps have been taken by the Government to recover the license fee dues by sending notices, encashment of Bank Guarantees, termination of licenses and also by initiating Arbitration proceedings. The Radio

Paging licensees were also offered a migration package for clearance of dues, which could not materialize.

As regards the dues pertaining to spectrum charges, it has been decided that no new assignment of frequencies or SACFA (Standing Advisory Committee on Frequency Allocation) clearance for new sites will be issued for such defaulting companies. A penalty clause of interest with effect from 1.4.2002 has also been imposed for delayed payments.

Statement

Details of Licence Fee and Spectrum Charges Outstanding

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Licensee	Service	Amount outstanding		
			Licence Fee	Spectrum Charges	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	M/s. Koshika	Cellular	290.78	33.30	324.08
2.	M/s. Birla AT&T	-do-	19.94**	0.95	20.89
3.	M/s. BPL Mobile	-do-	21.59**	68.74	90.33
4.	M/s. Aircel Digilink	-do-	—	21.20	21.20
5.	M/s. Spice	-do-	—	9.00	9.00
6.	M/s. Escotel	-do-	—	3.81	3.81
7.	M/s. H. Max	-do-	—	0.91	0.91
8.	M/s. Usha Martin	-do-	—	0.27	0.27
9.	M/s. Hexacom	-do-	—	5.71	5.71
10.	M/s. Pagepoint	Radio Paging	—	0.07	0.07
11.	M/s. BPL wireless	-do-	—	0.37	0.37
12.	M/s. ABC	-do-	6.40	0.50	6.90
13.	M/s. Beltron	-do-	0.94	0.08	1.02
14.	M/s. India Paging	-do-	50.60	0.12	50.72
15.	M/s. DSS	-do-	10.38	3.60	13.98
16.	M/s. Eider Com.	-do-	8.58	—	8.58
17.	M/s. Eider Paging	-do-	17.33	—	17.33
18.	M/s. Easycall	-do-	4.81	0.45	5.26
19.	M/s. Matrix	-do-	10.42	0.79	11.21
20.	M/s. Microwave	-do-	18.66	0.80	19.46
21.	M/s. Modi Korea	-do-	7.97	1.66	9.63
22.	M/s. NICE	-do-	2.58	0.01	2.59

1	2	3	4	5	6
23.	M/s. RPG	-do-	5.98	2.11	8.09
24.	M/s. Telesistem	-do-	2.20	0.44	2.64
25.	M/s. Punwire Mobile	-do-	144.86	1.60	146.46
26.	M/s. Punwire Paging	-do-	34.47	0.33	34.80
27.	M/s. Loral Orion	VSAT	1.73	—	1.73
28.	M/s. Essel Shyam	-do-	0.75	—	0.75
29.	M/s. SATNET	-do-	1.10	—	1.10
30.	M/s. DATALINE	-do-	1.00	—	1.00
31.	M/s. HFCL	-do-	0.25	—	0.25
32.	M/s. Microwave	Voice Mail	0.36	—	0.36
33.	M/s. INDCHEM	-do-	0.09	—	0.09
34.	M/s. ICNET	E.Mail	0.30	—	0.30
35.	M/s. DATALINE	-do-	0.21	—	0.21
36.	M/s. DATAPRO	-do-	0.16	—	0.16
37.	M/s. Archana	-do-	0.20	—	0.20
38.	M/s. Elnet	-do-	0.08	—	0.08
39.	M/s. Business India	-do-	0.10	—	0.10
40.	M/s. ITI Limited	PMRTS	—	0.01	0.01
41.	M/s. Linkwell	-do-	—	0.005	0.005
42.	M/s. Ushank	-do-	—	0.01	0.01
43.	M/s. Sab Info Ltd.	Internet	—	0.03	0.03
44.	M/s. C G Faxwell	-do-	—	0.03	0.03
45.	M/s. Applogic	-do-	—	0.02	0.02
46.	M/s. World Phone	-do-	—	0.03	0.03
47.	M/s. Asianet	TV uplinking	—	0.14	0.14
48.	M/s. Ushodaya	-do-	—	0.11	0.11
49.	M/s. Vijaya Broadc	-do-	—	0.11	0.11
50.	M/s. Asian Films	-do-	—	0.03	0.03
	Grand Total		664.82	157.345	822.165

**These are approximate current dues (on self estimation basis of the licensee) for the quarter ending 30.06.2002.

Note:

(a) In respect of the city Radio Paging licensees, the license fee as revenue share from the fourth payment year onwards is also due.

(b) The outstanding dues are principal amounts due only and interest is payable till the date of actual payment.

FIFA World Cup 2002

*52. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian team could not participate in FIFA World Cup 2002; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (KUMARI UMA BHARATI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Indian football team could not qualify for FIFA World Cup-2002. Only 32 countries, who had qualified for this event, have participated in it.

[English]

Revival of IISCO

*53. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government approved the proposal to revive Indian Iron and Steel Company;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has submitted revival proposal in respect of IISCO to Board of Industrial & Financial Reconstruction; and

(d) if so, whether BIFR has taken any decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Government has approved a revival package for Indian Iron and Steel Co. (IISCO) which *inter alia* includes grants for financing a Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in Kulti Works, which is to be closed down. In addition, it has been decided to provide Govt. guarantees to raise money for financing VRS in Burnpur Works, mines and collieries, as well as for capital expenditure in these units. This is, however, subject to the Government of West Bengal conveying its approval to provide waiver of past dues and also exemption from payment of sales tax (without any monetary ceiling), electricity duty, royalty & cess and municipal ax for the next five years.

(c) and (d) As directed by BIFR Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) has submitted a rehabilitation proposal based on the above Government approvals, to the IDBI, the Operating Agency for IISCO.

Difficulties in Getting Visas

*54. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to restrictions imposed by some foreign countries travellers recently faced great difficulties in getting visas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether now some countries including UK have eased visa restrictions to help the travellers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) After the issue of travel advisories by a few foreign missions cautioning foreign travellers, the consular staff in these missions had been scaled down which led to Indian travellers facing difficulties in getting visas, particularly for first time travellers.

(c) and (d) With the easting of such travel advisories, no fresh reports have been received of any restrictions in issue of visas to Indian travellers. The United Kingdom which had earlier restricted issue of visas to certain categories only, has also expanded the list and more travellers are getting visas to UK now.

Animal Welfare Boards

*55. DR. (SHRIMATI) ANITA ARYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up Animal Welfare Board in all States; and

(b) if so, the number of Animal Welfare Boards set up so far and the funds allotted to these Boards, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per available information, the State Animal Welfare Advisory Boards has been set up in 24 States. The Central Government has not allotted any funds to these Boards.

Polio Eradication Programme

*56. SHRI AMBAREESHA:
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:

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

(a) whether it has been declared in the meeting of the World Health Organisation held at Copenhagen that Polio is still in existence in Africa and some parts of Asia including India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States in the country which are afflicted by Polio even after 55 years of independence;

(d) whether any action plan has been chalked out by the Government for total eradication of Polio from the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan period;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated by the Union Government to each State for the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(f) the total external assistance received by the country for the purpose during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) The European region of the World Health Organization was certified as polio-free on June 21, 2002 at the meeting of the European Regional Commission for the Certification of Poliomyelitis Eradication in Copenhagen. The press release issued after the decision does not specifically refer to the status of eradication in Africa and Asia. However, the virus is still in active circulation in some countries in Asia and Africa.

(b) The information on polio cases in Africa and Asia is as under:

Africa	Polio Cases	
Countries	Year 2001	Year 2002*
Algeria	1	0
Angola	1	0
Ethiopia	1	0
Mauritania	4	0
Niger	6	0
Nigeria	56	37
Zambia	3	2
Egypt	5	0
Somalia	7	2
Sudan	1	0

Asia	Polio Cases	
Countries	Year 2001	Year 2002*
India	268	86
Afghanistan	11	2
Pakistan	116	22

*Date as of 11th July, from WHO, NPSP.

(c) The States still affected by polio is as under:

Name of States	No. of Polio Cases
Bihar	6
Delhi	1
Haryana	2
Maharashtra	2
Uttaranchal	1
Uttar Pradesh	72
West Bengal	2
Total	86

(d) and (e) The national goal is to eradicate polio in the country and obtain polio-free certification by 2005. Every year, the annual strategy for achieving this goal is formulated and implemented on the basis of advice of national and international experts. The proposed outlay for Pulse Polio Eradication in Tenth Plan is Rs. 1450 crores (Rs. 870 crores for vaccine procurement and Rs. 580 crores as Operating Cost). Vaccine procurement for Pulse Polio Programme is done by UNICEF on behalf of donors and the World Bank and the vaccine is supplied to the States as assistance in kind. Funds towards operating cost are given to the States on the basis of the number of immunization rounds envisaged in the annual strategy. Funds given to the States during the last three years towards operating cost are indicated in the statement enclosed. In addition to the Pulse Polio Programme, polio vaccination also forms part of the Universal Immunization Programme. Under this programme, vaccine is procured centrally by the Government and supplied to the States.

(f) External assistance during the last three years is as under:—

1999-2000	Rs. 545 crores
2000-2001	Rs. 396 crores
2001-2002	Rs. 398 crores

Statement

PPI Funds released to the States/UTs during last three years i.e. 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	25.85	2.09	7.45
2.	Andhra Pradesh	945.84	457.09	707.86
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	146.65	8.02	46.43
4.	Assam	527.61	326.52	309.25
5.	Bihar	1160.05	2206.53	1585.33
6.	Chandigarh	28.00	5.42	8.00
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	23.86	1.56	2.54
8.	Daman and Diu	31.13	0.98	2.04
9.	Delhi	102.90	275.02	226.55
10.	Goa	678.90	5.99	9.26
11.	Gujarat	32.02	590.06	542.72
12.	Haryana	270.96	343.79	246.33
13.	Himachal Pradesh	222.38	66.07	100.44
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	240.86	96.06	152.59
15.	Karnataka	476.17	437.20	539.07
16.	Kerala	452.41	130.25	196.24
17.	Lakshadweep	22.43	0.60	1.52
18.	Madhya Pradesh	1725.43	1334.82	736.02
19.	Maharashtra	1064.78	516.61	903.66
20.	Manipur	89.58	9.52	58.17
21.	Meghalaya	72.68	13.45	73.10
22.	Mizoram	40.04	3.59	21.50
23.	Nagaland	70.14	7.59	42.33
24.	Orissa	683.04	411.89	318.00
25.	Pondicherry	44.42	4.91	8.46
26.	Punjab	292.10	312.18	243.46
27.	Rajasthan	890.45	939.58	720.77

1	2	3	4	5
28.	Sikkim	37.01	2.45	13.85
29.	Tamil Nadu	723.46	329.70	492.88
30.	Tripura	60.64	12.80	68.48
31.	Uttar Pradesh	1834.19	3544.13	3186.89
32.	West Bengal	740.90	1104.74	884.50
33.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	129.11
34.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	196.63
35.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	323.64
	Total	13762.84	13501.21	13105.09

Development of Waterways

*57. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether ten major waterways were identified for the development by the National Transport Policy Committee in 1980;

(b) if so, the progress made by the Government in developing these waters so far;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up monitoring Committee for proper development of these waterways;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to develop waterways as per schedule?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI VEDPRAKASH GOYAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) So far three waterways have been declared as National Waterways viz. the Ganga from Allahabad to Haldia (1620 Kms) National Waterway No. 1, the Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya (891 Kms) National Waterway No. 2 and the West Coast Canal along with Champakara and Udyogmandal Canals (205 Kms) National Waterway No. 3 and their phased development depending on allocation of resources, is in progress. The Government during the Tenth Plan is working for declaring more waterways from out of those identified by the National Transport Committee as national waterways subject to availability of resources.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Government set up the Inland Waterways Authority of India in 1985 to develop and regulate the national waterways. Various Schemes for provision of infrastructure in these Waterways are in progress. Feasibility Studies regarding new waterways are also undertaken from time to time.

[Translation]

Atrocities on Minority in Bangladesh

*58. YOGI ADITYA NATH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of atrocities on minority have increased in Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Since the elections in Bangladesh in October 2001, the Government has noted with serious concern reports of a number of attacks on minorities in Bangladesh. However, recent reports do not indicate an increase in such attacks. Our High Commission in Dhaka is continuing to monitor the situation closely.

Following the reports of attacks on minorities, our High Commissioner in Dhaka immediately took it up with Bangladesh Government. He met Bangladesh State Minister for Religious Affairs Mr. Mosherref Hossain Shahjahan on October 16, 2001 and discussed this issue.

The Government also issued a Statement on 23rd October 2001 expressing its concern on the reports of attacks on minorities.

Shri Brajesh Mishra, Principal Secretary to PM and National Security Advisor visited Dhaka from 26-27 October 2001 as Special Envoy of PM and took up the matter during his meetings with Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Bangladesh.

India's concern was conveyed by Hon'ble Prime Minister when Mr. Saifur Rehman, Bangladesh Finance Minister had called on him on 4th December 2001. Hon'ble Prime Minister had again raised the issue during his meeting with Begum Khaleda Zia, Prime Minister of Bangladesh when the latter had called on him on 4th January, 2002 on the sidelines of SAARC Summit at Kathmandu. During the meeting Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh had stated that a number of cases were filed after investigations. It was also informed that an independent Human Rights Commission was also being set up to look into all reports of violations of Human Rights.

The Government of Bangladesh has portrayed the attacks as political and a law & order problem, rather than a communal one, but assured us that it was seized of the matter and has given instructions for taking strong action against culprits indulging in violence against the minorities.

Various foreign governments including those of donor countries, which provide developmental assistance to Bangladesh, have taken up the matter with Bangladesh authorities through their Diplomatic Missions in Dhaka. Various national and international non-governmental agencies and Human Rights Groups have also called upon the Government of Bangladesh to fulfil their responsibilities in regard to protection of minorities.

[English]

Visit of Iranian Dignitary

*59. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Head of the National Security Council of Iran had visited India recently and held talks with Indian leaders;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether any agreement had been signed on that occasion; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council of Iran, H.E. Mr. Hasan Roohani visited India from June 24-28, 2002. Mr. Roohani held talks with Principal Secretary to Prime Minister and National Security Adviser and called on Prime Minister, External Affairs Minister and Raksha Mantri.

(b) During the discussion, the two sides reviewed the current state of bilateral relations, including economic and commercial relations, issues related to investment and trade as well as political issues. Security related matters were also discussed in the context of the international and regional security environment. The two sides agreed to institutionalize periodic consultations between the National Security Councils of the two countries on topical issues.

The two sides condemned terrorism in all its forms and agreed to cooperate for combating international terrorism in the region They also emphasised the need for early finalisation of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. On Afghanistan, the sides agreed to continue their bilateral cooperation and stressed the need for accelerating the rehabilitation and reconstruction process in Afghanistan. They reiterated the importance of Afghan people deciding their future free from external interference.

India and Iran supported cooperative approaches to deal with the challenges posed to their common security environment and to international peace and security. They stressed the importance of their cooperation in the context of security and stability in Asia. The two sides also expressed their principled support for the Palestinian cause and the legitimate rights and aspirations of the Palestinian people.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

SCI Agreement with HPCL and BPCL

*60. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Shipping Corporation of India has signed an agreement with HPCL and BPCL to lift crude oil from foreign shores;

(b) if so, the main features of the agreement; and

(c) the extent to which the Shipping Corporation of India is likely to be able to lift the crude oil from foreign shores?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI VEDPRAKASH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) has entered into a contract with BPCL. The contract covers carrying of crude oil for BPCL and KRL from foreign shores and for coastal transportation of Bombay high crude. The contract is for the year 2002-03 and is for a period of 6 months with 2 extensions of 3 months each of BPCL's option. The freight and demurrage rates are market related and mutually agreed between SCI and BPCL. SCI has also decided to enter into a contract with HPCL for carrying of crude oil from foreign shores and for transportation of indigenous crude (RAVVA CRUDE). The contract will be for the year 2002-03 and will be for a period of 6 months with 2 extensions of 3 months each at HPCL's option. The freight and demurrage rate will be market related and as mutually agreed between SCI and HPCL.

(c) With its diversified tonnage, SCI can cater to the requirement of imports as well as coastal transportation requirements of all the Indian PSU refineries. With 5 vessels to be added in 2002 and 4 in early 2003, the deadweight of SCI's Tanker fleet shall be further enhanced.

[English]

Misconduct by an IAS Officer

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to news-item captioned "IAS officers tender apology to House" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated May 28, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether there is a provision in the CCS (Conduct) rules that non-replying to letters of MPs or showing discourtesy to them is a serious misconduct; and

(e) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken against such officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The news item relate to conduct of IAS officers of the AGMUT cadre serving in connection with the affairs of the Government of NCT of Delhi. The Ministry of Home Affairs is the disciplinary Authority in respect of members of All India Services serving in the AGMUT cadre.

(d) Members of All India Services are governed by the All India Services (Conduct) Rules 1968 and the CCS (Conduct) Rules. Though the rules do not contain any specific provision regarding non-replying of letters of MPs, Central Government have issued instructions from time to time emphasizing the need for observance of proper procedure in regard to dealings with Members of Parliament/State Legislatures which *inter-alia* contains provisions relating to prompt replies to communications from Members of Parliament.

(e) It is for the Ministry of Home Affairs, as the Disciplinary Authority, to examine the matter and take appropriate action against the erring officers.

Pharmacists Colleges

402. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Degree/Diploma holder registered Pharmacists in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of approved/non-approved Degree/Diploma pharmacy colleges in the country, State-wise;

(c) the number of Degree/Diploma Pharmacists come out every year from approved/non-approved pharmacy colleges in the country, State-wise during the above period; and

(d) the conditions laid down in GATT for minimum requirement of qualification as a pharmacist?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) As per information received from the PCI, the number of registered Pharmacists is given in statement-I enclosed.

(b) The State-wise lists of approved Degree/Diploma Pharmacy Institutions are given in Statement-II and III respectively. The State-wise lists of Degree/Diploma Institutions, which have approached the PCI for approval and the matter is under consideration of PCI is given in statements-IV and V enclosed.

(c) 9391 Degree and 21,451 Diploma Pharmacists come out of approved Pharmacy Institutions every year, as per details contained in Statement II and III enclosed.

(d) GATT is not concerned with services. In General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), there is no provision laying down the minimum requirement of qualification of Pharmacist.

Statement I

List of Registered Pharmacists in the country as on 31-07-2000

S. No.	State Pharmacy Council	Registered Pharmacists
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	31087
2.	Assam	8260
3.	Bihar	22672
4.	Chandigarh	Data not submitted by the State Pharmacy Council
5.	Chhattisgarh	New State. State Pharmacy Council does not exist
6.	Delhi	13,597
7.	Goa	Data not submitted by State Pharmacy Council
8.	Gujarat	19508**
9.	Haryana	11560
10.	Himachal Pradesh	3715
11.	Karnataka	25780
12.	Kerala	23564
13.	Madhya Pradesh	18030
14.	Manipur	Data not submitted
15.	Maharashtra	54610
16.	Mizoram	189#
17.	Nagaland	1515
18.	Orissa	10792
19.	Pondicherry	1623
20.	Punjab	23155
21.	Rajasthan	14804
22.	Sikkim	Data no submitted by the State Pharmacy Council
23.	Tamil Nadu	39148
24.	Tripura	3250
25.	Uttar Pradesh	23823
26.	Uttaranchal	New State. State Pharmacy Council does not exist
27.	West Bengal	65920
28.	Jammu & Kashmir	No State Pharmacy Council

** As in 1996. The updated data has not been received from the State Pharmacy Council.

As on 31-03-2001.

Statement II

Number of Approved Institutions imparting Degree in Pharmacy

S. No.	State	No. of Institutions	Admissions per annum i.e. No. of Pharmacists coming out per annum
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15	820
2.	Assam	1	20
3.	Bihar	5	130
4.	Goa	1	60

1	2	3	4
5.	Gujarat	8	460
6.	Haryana	2	105
7.	Karnataka	45	2400
8.	Kerala	3	140
9.	Madhya Pradesh	3	140
10.	Maharashtra	37	1890
11.	Orissa	6	360
12.	Punjab	1	20
13.	Rajasthan	4	200
14.	Tamil Nadu	31	2061
15.	Uttar Pradesh	3	145
16.	Uttaranchal	3	180
17.	Chandigarh	1	50
18.	Delhi	3	150
19.	West Bengal	1	60
		173	9391

Statement III

Number of Approved Institutions imparting Diploma in Pharmacy

S. No.	State	No. of Institutions	Admissions per annum i.e. No. of Pharmacists coming out per annum
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	20	1010
2.	Assam	2	160
3.	Bihar	7	420
4.	Chandigarh	2	100
5.	Chhattisgarh	1	30
6.	Delhi	8	500
7.	Goa	1	60
8.	Gujarat	9	640
9.	Haryana	10	605
10.	Himachal Pradesh	2	60
11.	Karnataka	81	5061
12.	Kerala	21	1310
13.	Madhya Pradesh	6	350
14	Manipur	1	30
15.	Maharashtra	67	4000
16.	Mizoram	1	30
17.	Orissa	23	1217
18.	Punjab	16	860
19.	Pondicherry	1	20
20.	Rajasthan	10	600
21.	Sikkim	1	60
22.	Tamil Nadu	44	2963
23.	Tripura	1	60
24.	Uttar Pradesh	13	680
25.	Uttaranchal	8	250
26.	West Bengal	9	335
27.	Jammu and Kashmir (u/s 14)	1	40
	Total	366	21,451

Statement IV

List of Institutions which have approached the PCI for approval of Degree in Pharmacy course and matter is under process

S. No.	States	No. of Institutions
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13
2.	Assam	2
3.	Bihar	2
4.	Gujarat	1

1	2	3
5.	Haryana	5
6.	Himachal Pradesh	4
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	4
8.	Karnataka	5
9.	Kerala	26
10.	Madhya Pradesh	8
11.	Maharashtra	8
12.	Orissa	7
13.	Pondicherry	1
14.	Punjab	8
15.	Rajasthan	5
16.	Sikkim	1
17.	Tamil Nadu	18
18.	Tripura	2
19.	Uttar Pradesh	20
20.	Delhi	5
21.	West Bengal	2
		147

Statement V

List of Institutions which have approached the PCI for approval of Diploma in Pharmacy course and matter is under process

S. No.	States	No. of Institutions
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
3.	Assam	1
4.	Bihar	3
5.	Delhi	12
6.	Gujarat	3
7.	Haryana	2
8.	Himachal Pradesh	6
9.	Karnataka	15
10.	Kerala	3
11.	Madhya Pradesh	8
12.	Maharashtra	5
13.	Orissa	9
14.	Pondicherry	2
15.	Rajasthan	3
16.	Tamil Nadu	12
17.	Tripura	1
18.	Uttar Pradesh	10
19.	West Bengal	1
20.	Jammu and Kashmir (u/s 14)	4
		104

PMGY

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

(a) the details of additional central assistance allocated to North Eastern States, particularly Assam, Tripura and Manipur for the year 2002-2003 as compared to 2001-2002 under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana;

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

(c) the details of amounts released under the PMGY to each State alongwith the development work carried out thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Additional Central Assistance (ACA) under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana is allocated to States for development works to be carried out under the six components of Primary Education, Primary Health, Safe Drinking Water, Rural Shelter, Nutrition and Rural Electrification. The

details of ACA allocated and released to North-Eastern States particularly to Assam, Tripura and Manipur are given hereunder:

ACA for PMGY

(Rs. in lakh)

States	Allocation 2001-02	Release 2001-02	Allocation 2002-03
Assam	20112.00	20112.00	19000.00
Tripura	7084.00	7084.00	5000.00
Manipur	5439.00	3602.42	4800.00
North-Eastern States (Total)*	57363.00	54594.40	51238.00

* Includes NE-States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.

Commuted Pension

404. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pensioners who had commuted one-third portion of their pension have not got restoration benefit on expiry of 15 years of their retirement; and

(b) the reasons for not getting restoration benefit on expiry of 15 years of their retirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Department of Pensions is the nodal Department for formulation of pension policy for Central Government employees. Pension payment/disbursement is however completely decentralised. In view of this the Department of Pensions does not maintain centrally, data relating to number of pensioners who had commuted one-third portion of pension and whether they have got the benefit of restoration or not after the expiry of 15 years.

[Translation]

Electronic Attack on Information Technology

405. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the possibility of electronic attack on Information Technology;

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Government propose to issue multi-purpose National citizen cards to ensure safety of information technology;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) Government is aware of threats associated with information technology applications in the country. Based on the level of threat perceptions, appropriate defence mechanisms to tackle such threats are ensured by concerned user organizations and Government Departments.

(c) No, Sir. However, a proposal for compulsory registration of citizens and for issuing them multipurpose National Identity Cards is under consideration by Ministry of Home Affairs.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Pending Passport Applications

406. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRI AMBAREESHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passport applications pending in various Passport Offices/Regional Passport Offices as on June 30, 2002, Passport/Regional Passport Office-wise;

(b) whether a large number of passport applications have been pending in these offices beyond the stipulated period as fixed by the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof, Passport Office/Regional Office-wise;

(d) the reasons therefor;

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to speed up the process of issuing Passports;

(f) whether any proposal has been received by the Union Government to open new Passport Offices in the country;

(g) if so, the criteria laid down for opening new Passport Offices in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) The information is placed on the Table of the House as statement.

(d) The Government endeavours to issue passports within 35 days provided the application is complete in all respects and a clear police verification report has been received. Delay in issuance of passports is caused when either a clear police verification has not been received or the information/documentation submitted by the applicant is incomplete. The other reason for delay in issuance of passports is substantial increase in the number of applications without commensurate increase in the number of staff in the passport offices. The number of passport applications rose from 25,88,520 in the year 2000 to 28,89,577 in 2001, an increase of 12%.

(e) Several steps have been taken to speed up the process of issuance of passports, such as computerisation of processing procedures, provision for despatch of passport by speed post, introduction of machine writing of passports and expediting police verification reports with the Passport Officers holding regular consultation with the police authorities in their respective areas. The pendency situation in each Passport Office is monitored on a weekly basis.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) The Standing Committee of Parliament on the Ministry of External Affairs has recommended that new passport offices should be governed by objective criteria and new passport offices should be opened where a minimum of 50,000 applications be expected per annum. The Committee had recommended that a Passport Office should be located as centrally as possible in contiguous districts/states, which, on an average generate 50,000 applications per year.

(h) Steps have recently been taken to open new Passport Offices at Dehradrun (Uttaranchal), Ranchi (Jharkhand), Raipur (Chhattisgarh), Shimla (Himachal Pradesh) and Surat (Gujarat).

Statement

Number of Passport Applications Pending at various Passport Offices As on 30.6.02

Passport Office	No. of Applications Pending **
Ahmedabad	27195
Bangalore	1274
Bareilly	454
Bhopal	13
Bhubaneshwar	0
Chandigarh	2860
Chennai	486
Cochin	742
Delhi	2292
Ghaziabad	4998
Guwahati	59
Hyderabad	219
Jaipur	2352
Jalandhar	3145
Jammu	15
Kolkata	194
Kozhikode	4024
Lucknow	270
Mumbai	1681
Nagpur	44
Panaji	210
Patna	1000
Pune	0
Srinagar	352
Thane	1496
Trichy	0
Trivandrum	37
Vishakhapatnam	1760
Total	57172

**An application is considered pending after a clear police verification report has been received and the application is complete in all respects.

[English]

Telephone Connection in Uttaranchal

407. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applicants waiting for telephone connections in Uttaranchal particularly in Rudraprayag; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to clear the waiting list early?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Total waiting list for telephone connections in Uttaranchal as on 30.6.2002 is 8509. Waiting list in Rudraprayag District as on 30.6.2002 is 40.

In order to clear the waiting list, it has been planned to augment the capacity of the existing land lines and WLL networks, so as to enable provision of 32000 connections during the current year subject to availability of materials.

IAS Officers

408. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of IAS officers in the country as on date; and

(b) the number of IAS officers deputed in various foreign countries during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) There are 4935 IAS officers in the country.

(b) The number of IAS officers posted against foreign and captive posts of the Government of India abroad as also deputed to various foreign countries on foreign assignment terms during the years 2000 and 2001 are 31 and 19 respectively.

U.S. Offer to Check Incursions

409. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. Defence Secretary has stated that there are 'indications' of Al-Qaida terrorists operating near the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir and offered to provide ground sensors to monitor the militant incursions from across the LoC; and

(b) if so, the details of issues which figured prominently in his talks with the Indian leadership?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The U.S. Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld stated in New Delhi on 12 June 2002 that he had seen "indications that there in fact are Al Qaeda operating in the area that we're talking about near the Line of Control. I do not have hard evidence of precisely how many or who or where".

Secretary Rumsfeld reiterated the U.S. offer of providing technology tools, including sensors, for border management, which is being discussed by India and the United States in the context of their counter-terrorism cooperation through the bilateral Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism.

(b) Secretary Rumsfeld reaffirmed President Musharraf's pledge to the United States on immediate, visible and permanent end to cross-border infiltration and his assurance to take action against terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. He also expressed hope for de-escalatory steps from India on the basis of progress in the implementation of President Musharraf's pledge. The two sides also reviewed bilateral relations, especially in the area of defence cooperation.

[Translation]

Post Offices in Maharashtra and Jharkhand

410. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices functioning in the rural areas of Maharashtra and Jharkhand States;

(b) the number of villages in the above States where facility of Post Office has not been provided so far; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to open Post Offices in such villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) The number of Post Offices functioning in rural areas of Maharashtra and Jharkhand are 11168 and 2776 respectively.

(b) 28857 villages in Maharashtra State and 20182 villages in Jharkhand State are not provided with Post Office. However, the facility for sale of stamps, collection and delivery of mails exists in all the villages in these States.

(c) Target for opening of 30 Extra Departmental Branch Offices (EDBOs) and 5 Departmental Sub Offices (DSOs) for Maharashtra and 10 EDBOs for Jharkhand has been fixed. The opening of the Post Offices is subject to fulfilment of prescribed norms and availability of requisite resources.

Assistance of World Bank in J&K

411. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank is providing funds for the establishment of hospitals and dispensaries in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, whether Jammu and Kashmir Government has received any grant or assistance from the World Bank for the establishment of such hospitals and dispensaries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Ayurvedic Medical Colleges in Kerala

412. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Kerala Government to adopt Ayurvedic medical colleges in Kerala as Centres of Excellence and help in improving the infrastructure of the colleges; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) A proposal for establishment of a Central Ayurveda University at Kottakkal was received from the Government of Kerala. However, in a meeting with the Officers of Kerala Government, it has been agreed to develop this Institution as a Centre of excellence in the first instance.

[Translation]

Telephone Adalats

413. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details and dates of telephone Adalats were held in each district of Bihar and Jharkhand during the last two years;

(b) the number of cases received in these Adalats during the last two years, district-wise;

(c) the number of cases disposed of, district-wise; and

(d) the details of incentives provided to telephone subscribers alongwith the rules and regulations laid down for holding telephone Adalats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Telephone Connections in Orissa

414. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of applicants waiting for telephone connections in the scheduled districts of Orissa particularly in Keonjhar have not been provided with telephone connections for the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite telephone connections to the applicants in those districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There are 543 waitlisted applicants in Keonjhar district of Orissa due to non-availability of adequate exchange capacity and external plant which will be cleared by upgradation/new exchanges/WLL connections by 31.3.2003 subject to availability of materials.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections in Jharkhand

415. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons in waiting list for telephone connections in Jharkhand as on February 2002, district-wise; and

(b) the time by which these wait listed persons are likely to be get telephone connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) There were 14,138 persons in waiting list for telephone connections in Jharkhand as on February, 2002. The district-wise waiting list is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) All wait listed subscribers are likely to be provided telephone connections by March, 2003 subject to availability of materials.

Statement

District-wise waiting List in Jharkhand Telecom Circle as on February, 2002

Sl. No.	Name of District	Waiting List
1	2	3
1.	Bokaro	1762
2.	Chatra	215
3.	Daltonganj	383
4.	Deoghar	1309
5.	Dhanbad	1958
6.	Dumka	69
7.	Garhwa	101
8.	Giridih	139
9.	Godda	243
10.	Gumla	91
11.	Hazaribagh	3508
12.	Jamtara	39
13.	Kodarma	99
14.	Latchar	57
15.	Lohardaga	74
16.	Pakur	12
17.	Saraikela Kharswagarh	380
18.	Simdega	111
19.	Singhbhum East	1309
20.	Singhbhum West	518
21.	Ranchi	1646
22.	Sahibganj	115
	Total	14138

[English]

A2 Status to Andhra Pradesh

416. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given A2 status to Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Andhra Pradesh Government to upgrade the status of Andhra Pradesh to A1 and give it international Internet gateway; and

(d) if so, the action taken/being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Internet node of Andhra Pradesh located at Hyderabad is of A-2 status based on projected internet demand.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Augmentation of Node equipment at Hyderabad will be carried out in National Internet Backbone Phase-II Project, if the required traffic is there.

[Translation]

Shortage of Staff in Telecom Circle in Maharashtra

417. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of manpower in Maharashtra Telecom Circle;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fill vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) In Maharashtra Telecom Circle there is a shortage of manpower in certain cadres compared to the sanctioned strength. In the way of changing technology, the staffing norms are being reviewed. To ensure that shortages do not affect telephone services in field units of Maharashtra Telecom Circle vacant posts in certain selected technical cadres are being filled up.

[English]

Phone Plus Facilities

418. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) have made changes in the charges for its various Phone Plus facilities;

(b) if so, which of the phone plus facilities available to the public at the reduced rates and from which date; and

(c) the revied rates decided as against the existing rates for these facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) When taken as separate individual facilities, rates for following services have been reduced with effect from 01.09.2001:-

(i) Call Transfer Facility—Rate reduced from Rs. 20 per month to nil.

(ii) Calling Line Identification Presentation (CLIP)—Rate reduced from Rs. 50 per month to Rs. 20 per month.

However, a package of following services is offered at a reduced rate of Rs. 75 per month with effect from 01.09.2001.

1. Call Transfer Facility.
2. Hot Line.
3. Three Party Conferencing.
4. Abbreviated Dialing.
5. Calling Line Identification Presentation (CLIP).

Earlier only first four services were offered as a package for Rs. 60 per month and CLIP service was offered for Rs. 50 per month.

[Translation]

Family Welfare Programme in Rajasthan

419. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the targets fixed by his Ministry during the last three years for effective implementation of Family Welfare Programmes in Rajasthan;

(b) whether the State Government has been successful in achieving the targets;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the total amount allocated as loan and as subsidy by his Ministry under family welfare programmes during each of the last three years alongwith details of the amounts allocated for each such programme in Rajasthan;

(e) the details of the amount spent out and the outstanding amount left with the State Government;

(f) whether his Ministry has reviewed the reasons of the failure of Family Welfare Programmes in Rajasthan; and

(g) if so, the reaction of the State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Centrally defined specific targets under the National Family Welfare Programme have been replaced by a

community based need assessment approach together with decentralized planning and implementation to address these identified needs. This constituted a paradigm shift in the National Family Welfare Programme.

The achievements on key parameters during the last three years (as per Sample Registration Surveys—SRS) in respect of Rajasthan is given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(d) and (e) The total amount released scheme-wise to the State of Rajasthan during the last three years under Family Welfare Programmes is given in the statement II. The releases made by Government of India to the State always falls short of the expenditure incurred by the State. Additional expenditure incurred is claimed by the State Government by way of reimbursement and released as arrears on submission of audited statement of expenditure.

(f) and (g) An Empowered Action Group (EAG) constituted under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare has reviewed the progress of implementation of Family Welfare Programme in Rajasthan in its meetings held on 18th June, 2001 and 13th December 2001. The EAG is giving focused attention to improving the coverage and outreach of services in eight demographically weaker performing State including Rajasthan involving voluntary associations, community organizations and Panchayati Raj Institutions in the effort towards achieving goals mentioned in National Population Policy, 2000.

Statement I

No.	Parameter	1998	1999	2000
1.	Crude Birth Rate (CBR) per thousand population	31.6	31.1	31.2
2.	Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) Per thousand live births	83	81	79
3.	Crude Death Rate (CDR) per thousand population	8.8	8.4	8.4*
4.	Safe Deliveries (%)	22.0@	35.8**	N.A.
5.	Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (%)	31.8@	40.3**	N.A.

@ National Family Health Survey-I (1992-93)
** National Family Health Survey-II (1998-99)
* Provisional.

Statement II

Scheme-wise Grants-in-Aid released to the State of Rajasthan during the period 1999-2000 to 2001-2002

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Year	Dir. & Admn.	Training			Rural F.W. Service				Urban F.W. Service		
			Trg. of ANM/ LHV	H&FW Trg. Centres	Trg. of MPWs (Male)	Rural F.W. Centres	Sub-Centres	VHG Scheme	PP Prog. at sub-div. Level	Urban F.W. Centres	Revamp. of Urban F.W. Services	PP at Distt. Level
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	1999-2000	761.35	302.00	41.00	—	1480.00	3630.00	27.95	685.00	130.00	139.00	278.00
2.	2000-2001	715.00	402.00	33.30	24.90	1488.00	4500.00	13.98	685.00	133.00	144.00	278.00
3.	2001-2002	755.00	468.41	45.00	32.00	1733.00	4520.00	13.29	808.00	157.00	160.13	345.00

Sl. No.	Year	CSSM Project	POL	Compen-sation	I.E.C.	Area Projects	Sterili-sation Beds	Arrears	Cold Chain Equip-ment	Total (Cash Grants)	Supplies (Kind Grants)	Grand Total (Cash+ Kind)
1	2	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1.	1999-2000	341.74	58.80	563.32	60.03	—	1.35	5794.97	12.69	14307.20	3238.37	17545.57
2.	2000-2001	—	64.65	512.64	57.30	500.00	1.35	4953.43	—	14506.55	4039.05	18545.60
3.	2001-2002	—	57.99	493.50	—	300.00	1.25	2765.69	—	12655.28	3624.75	16280.01

Promotion of SSI in Rajasthan

420. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken during the last three years to promote small scale industries in Rajasthan and the year-wise amount spent thereon; and

(b) the future plan of the Government to promote small scale industries in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) For the promotion of Small Scale Industries (SSI) in the country including Rajasthan, the Government is implementing various schemes/programmes viz., Integrated Infrastructure Development (IID) Scheme, Entrepreneurial, Managerial Training Programmes and Technical Skill Development Programmes through Small Industries Service Institutes (SISIs), Tool Rooms, etc. Besides, Government has also announced a Comprehensive Policy package on 30.08.2000, which, *inter-alia*, includes enhanced fiscal and credit support, better infrastructure, marketing facilities and incentives for Technology Upgradation. A Credit Guarantee Trust Fund has also been created which provides guarantee for bank loans to SSI units upto Rs. 25.00 lakhs without collaterals. A scheme to provide 12% back ended capital subsidy on projects of Technology Upgradation by SSI units in the specified sectors/sub-sectors is also being implemented. In the State of Rajasthan, there is one SISI, one Field testing Station at Jaipur and one Hand Tools Design and Development Training Centre, at Nagaur. The SISI provides the Entrepreneurship/Managerial/Skill Development training, consultancy, project profiles, extension services and common facilities to the Small Scale Entrepreneurs. The IID Scheme aims at creation of necessary physical infrastructure for setting up small/tiny units. Under this Scheme, 4 centres in the Districts of Jodhpur, Udaipur, Tonk and Nagaur have been sanctioned and central grant of Rs. 5.22 crores has been released. Funds are allocated/spent, Scheme/Programme-wise and not State-wise.

[English]

Slown Down in IT

421. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's IT industry is being badly hit by travel advisories by some western nations urging their citizens to avoid trips to India due to the border crisis with Pakistan;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) The deferred customer visits result in delayed decision making which to some extent may affect the exports component of the IT software industry. Government of India has taken up with the concerned countries through Ministry of External Affairs Missions to remove any apprehensions and re-build the confidence level. The situation is improving.

[Translation]

Transfer of Land of Bokaro Steel Plant

422. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that so far 825 acre land has not been transferred to Bokaro Steel Plant out of the

land acquired by them for developing their township though compensation has already been paid for it; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Even after several requests and reminders from Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL), the State Government has not yet handed over the said land and to reason for the same has been communicated by them to SAIL.

[English]

Wasteful Expenditure

423. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that Ministry of Finance have taken steps to minimize wasteful expenditure in Government Departments and have already identified that there are certain sectors in which wasteful expenditure is maximum in various Government Departments;

(b) if so, details of such sectors of the Ministry/ Departments under him, which have been identified by the Ministry for the purpose and quantum of wasteful expenditure identified therein during each of the last three years (as on 31.12.2001); and

(c) the corrective steps taken so far by his Ministry to curtail/stop such wasteful expenditure, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Information pertaining to Department of Atomic Energy is as follows: During the last three years, Department had only one para on Wasteful Expenditure in the C and AG Report. Action Taken Report on the same has already been sent to Ministry of Finance.

Lay Out Plan for North-Eastern States

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

(a) whether the lay out plan for the Assam and North-Eastern States for the Tenth Five Year Plan have been finalized; and

(b) if so, the lay out demanded by the States and accepted by the Union Government alongwith the Industrial, Agriculture and overall average growth rate, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The plan Outlays for Assam and the North-Eastern States for the Tenth Plan have been finalized. The projected plan outlays for the Tenth Five Year Plan for Assam and other North Eastern States as agreed at plan discussions between Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and the Chief Ministers of the State concerned are given in the enclosed statement. State-wise growth targets for Industrial, Agriculture and overall growth rate for the Tenth Five Year Plan are yet to be finalised.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Tenth Plan Agreed Outlay at 2001-02 prices
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	3,888.32
2.	Assam	8,315.24
3.	Manipur	2,804.00
4.	Meghalaya	3,009.00
5.	Mizoram	2,300.01
6.	Nagaland	2,227.65
7.	Sikkim	1,655.74
8.	Tripura	4,500.00
	Total	28,699.96

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Hospital

425. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Tripura had submitted a proposal for upgradation of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Hospital, Hapania and to increase its bed capacity by adding another 100 beds in the Phase-I;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that a certain amount of fund has been earmarked for the N.E. Region; 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 Health being a State subject under the Constitution of India and it is the responsibility of the concerned State Government to provide necessary medical facilities to the people according to their need and resources available with them.

(c) There is no such scheme of upgradation of hospitals.

(d) Does not arise.

Control of Blindness

426. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:
SHRI AMBAREESHA:

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

(a) whether the Government have initiated any fresh action plan for the control of blindness in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States which have been identified by the Union Government where this programme needs to be taken up on war footing;

(d) whether the Government have received any proposals from State Governments for financial assistance to control blindness or setting up of Regional Institute of Opthalmology in their respective States;

(e) if so, financial assistance provided so far during the last three years and this year, State-wise; and

(f) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Plan of Action for implementing National Programme for Control of Blindness during X Plan has been prepared and being submitted for approval of EFC/CCEA. It has been prepared in accordance with outlines of Global Vision 2020: The Right to Sight initiative launched by WHO and numerous countries. The Plan includes controlling blindness due to cataract, glaucoma, diabetes and refractive errors. Special focus will be on prevention and control of blindness in children.

(c) National Programme for Control of Blindness is being implemented throughout the country. Special attention is required in Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Jammu and Kashmir and Orissa where eye care services are not fully developed and performance is low.

(d) Physical targets and budget allocation are made in accordance with requirements of the States. No proposal has been received from State Governments for setting up new Regional Institute of Ophthalmology.

(e) and (f) Funds released during last three years and budget allocated during current financial year 2002-03 is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

National Programme for Control of Blindness Released during IX Plan

State	Release (1999-2000)	Release (2000-2001)	Release (2001-2002)	Total Release	Allocation for 2002-2003
1	2	3	4	5	6
North Eastern States					
Arunachal Pradesh	15.00	31.50	28.65	75.15	19.00
Assam	81.50	182.90	57.50	321.90	105.70
Manipur	9.00	41.60	36.15	86.75	24.00
Meghalaya	21.00	60.10	66.00	147.10	24.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
Mizoram	26.50	55.40	25.30	107.20	29.00
Nagaland	14.00	40.58	47.15	101.73	24.00
Sikkim	15.25	26.60	5.60	47.45	13.00
Tripura	35.39	68.80	372.20	476.39	45.65
Sub Total	217.64	507.48	638.55	1,363.67	284.35
Other States					
Bihar	154.58	329.92	86.00	570.50	260.00
Punjab	199.61	117.60	55.20	372.41	135.00
Goa	14.50	41.20	18.70	74.40	30.00
Gujarat	404.50	384.00	142.04	930.54	215.00
Haryana	169.27	178.00	102.00	449.27	119.05
Himachal Pradesh	86.25	131.00	37.00	254.25	83.00
Jammu & Kashmir	40.75	106.50	80.80	228.05	83.00
Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	15.30	15.30	160.00
Karnataka	352.20	290.20	259.20	901.60	273.00
Kerala	263.39	270.50	124.50	658.39	160.00
West Bengal	194.10	275.00	123.40	592.50	210.00
Sub Total	1,879.15	2,123.92	1,044.14	5,047.21	1,728.05
UTs					
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	10.67	3.75	8.10	22.52	8.00
Chandigarh	11.44	11.00	8.00	30.44	8.00
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2.50	3.75	5.80	12.05	8.00
Daman & Diu	9.40	4.75	4.50	18.65	8.00
Lakshadeep	5.72	3.75	4.60	14.07	8.00
Pondicherry	20.82	14.50	5.75	41.07	13.00
Delhi	42.40	38.13	13.00	93.53	42.00
Sub Total	102.95	79.63	49.75	232.33	95.00
World Bank Project States					
Andhra Pradesh	434.40	521.00	835.80	1791.20	615.00
Madhya Pradesh	880.81	806.13	498.00	2184.94	405.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
Maharashtra	664.88	581.00	836.00	2081.88	365.00
Orissa	420.25	1,107.00	300.00	1827.25	310.00
Rajasthan	314.18	856.00	912.00	2082.18	291.00
Tamilnadu	1,009.82	857.00	1,742.25	3609.07	815.00
Uttar Pradesh	839.32	603.00	2,098.23	3540.55	415.00
Chhattisgarh	—	—	127.00	127.00	230.00
Uttaranchal	—	—	100.00	100.00	160.00
Sub Total	4563.66	5331.13	7449.28	17344.07	3606.00
Grand Total	6763.40	8042.16	9181.72	23987.28	5713.40

UN Convention on Genocide

427. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is a signatory and contracting party to the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of action taken with respect to required legislation in case India has acceded to the United Nations Convention?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Convention was signed by India on 29th November 1949 and ratified on 27th August 1959.

(c) The question does not arise.

(d) No implementing legislation has been enacted for this convention as the statute and existing laws such as Constitution of India, Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code, etc., have adequate provisions to prevent and punish those committing crimes such as murder including mass murder.

Suspension of Suppliers

428. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the MPs had written to the Chairman, Kendriya Bhandar, making allegations against some registered supplier of the Bhandar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the supplies of the suppliers were suspended arbitrarily without giving any opportunity to explain their position and informing the suppliers of the allegations against them; and

(d) if so, the reasons for denial of principles of natural justice to those suppliers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the allegations include operating from a false addressed, threatening Kendriya Bhandar employees, involvement in criminal cases etc.

(c) and (d) The supplies made to Kendriya Bhandar are based on a contract between the suppliers and Kendriya Bhandar and is a commercial transaction between the two parties. In the present case no terms of contract appears to have been violated and thus the principles of natural justice do not come into play.

Lending Transponders

429. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to lend its transponders to private organisations produced through ISRO's INSAT-4 series;

(b) if so, the number of transponders will be pressed for commercial service and the amount expected through the lease;

(c) the fields where these transponders can be utilized and the life of these transponders; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) INSAT transponders are already being leased for commercial services to private service operators. Some part of the INSAT-4 capacity will also be earmarked for such services. Amount expected through the lease will depend on the capacity leased.

(c) and (d) The life of the INSAT transponders is roughly 12 years. These transponders can be utilised for data and telephone service through Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs), internet service and TV broadcasting.

Cross Border Infiltration

430. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are satisfied with the steps taken by Pakistan to end cross border infiltration from across the LoC; and

(b) if not, the further steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) After the commitment of President Musharraf to end cross border infiltration on a permanent basis, there has been some reduction in infiltration. However, infiltration and Pakistan sponsored terrorist violence continue at a significant scale.

(b) Government are firmly resolved to continue taking all necessary measures to end cross border infiltration including from across the LoC.

Financial Irregularities in Kendriya Bhandar

431. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 2745 dated March 20, 2002 and state:

(a) whether proceedings of the departmental enquiries in the matter are over; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Two statements indicating the position are enclosed as statement-I and II.

Statement I

Financial Impropriety Cases (Earlier Pending Cases)

S. No.	Name of the Store	Name of Responsible person	Nature of irregularity	Action Taken
1	2	3	4	5
1.	R.K. Puram-IX A	Shri Tameshwar Singh	Cash shortage to the extent of Rs. Rs. 2,25,859.00	(a) The charged employee had been reverted to next lower post i.e. Helper. (b) Till 30.06.2002 amount of Rs. 1,65,388.05 has already been

1	2	3	4	5
				recovered. Balance amount of Rs. 60,470.95 would be recovered in monthly instalment of Rs. 3200.00.
2.	Andrews Ganj	Shri R.N. Saxena, Sr. Salesman	Alleged false theft	The individual has been dismissed from service.
3.	Nauroji Nagar	Shri Anoop Singh Sr. Salesman	Shortage of stock to the extent of Rs. 7 lakhs.	(a) The entire amount has been recovered.
				(b) A penalty of reduction of lower grade has been imposed.
4.	Stationery Division	Shri D.K. Jain Sr. Manager	Purchase of a specific item being posted under various heads in the stock register.	The Competent Authority has decided to remit the inquiry against Shri D.K. Jain, in July, 2002 for further inquiry into charges.

Statement II

Financial Impropriety Cases for 2000 and 2001

S. No.	Name of the Person	Name of the store	Nature of irregularity	Action Taken
1.	Shri Mahinder Lal Jr. Salesman	Incharge R.K. Puram-II	Shortage of stock to the extent of Rs. 1.85 lacs in physical verification was detected.	Penalty of reducing his pay by stage from Rs. 4550/- to Rs. 4470/- in the time scale of Rs. 3260-5470 for a period of two years has been imposed by the Competent Authority. Recovery of Rs. 81,197.40 has been made & balance is being recovered in monthly instalments.
2.	Shri Rajpal Upadhaya Sr. Salesman	Incharge, Krishi Vihar	Shortage of stock amounting to Rs. 1.98 lacs detected in physical verification.	Inquiry has been completed and inquiry report is under examination. Recovery of Rs. 59,585/- has been made & balance is being recovered in monthly instalments.
3.	Sh. M.C. Acharya Sr. Salesman	Stationery Counter-II	Shortage of Rs. 41,600/- in the stock during physical verification.	Inquiry is in progress. Entire amount has since been recovered.

Number of SSIs in Gujarat

432. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small scale industries in Gujarat;

(b) the number of small scale industries adversely affected by the recent riots in the State;

(c) the number of small scale industries declared sick, industry-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to rehabilitate/revive these industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) As per the information received from the State Government of Gujarat, the number of small scale industries registered upto 31.03.2002 is 1,92,032.

(b) As per the information received from the Government of Gujarat, 753 SSI units have been affected by the recent riots in the State.

(c) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) compiles data on sick SSI units financed by scheduled commercial banks. As per the latest information available with the RBI, there were 5408 sick units in the State of Gujarat at the end of March, 2001. Industry-wise break-up for the State of Gujarat is not maintained centrally.

(d) 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 the RBI for extending rehabilitation assistance to eligible units. Based on the recommendations of the Working Group constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri S.S. Kohli, the then Chairman of Indian Banks' Association, the RBI has drawn up revised guidelines for rehabilitation of sick SSI units, which include *inter-alia* change in the definition of the sick SSI units, norms for deciding on their viability, etc. The RBI has circulated the revised guidelines on 16th January, 2002 to all the banks for implementation.

Further, for the units affected by the recent riots, assistance is provided in the form of 4% interest subsidy, 20% cash subsidy with ceiling limit of Rs. 50,000/- for replacement and repair, sales tax and electricity duty deferment, speedy settlement of insurance claim, need based fresh finance from banks on liberalized terms etc.

Review of OM of DOPT

433. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI ARUN KUMAR:
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether DOP and T issued an order in 1987 and 1994 authorising the Super Bazar and the NCCF to supply stationery and other items without consulting the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure) as was done in the case of Kendriya Bhandar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Ministry of Finance has asked DOP&T to review their OM of July 14, 1981 and adopt the GFRs provisions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the OM is likely to be reviewed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Instructions were issued in July 1981, in consultation with Ministry of Finance, making it mandatory for Central Government Department/bodies controlled or financed by the Central Government, to make local purchase of stationery and other items from Kendriya Bhandar. The instructions issued in 1987 and 1994 were merely to bring Super Bazar and NCCF also under the purview of this arrangement.

(c) to (e) The provisions of OM dated 14.07.1981 are under review and a decision will be taken soon.

Construction of Stadia in the Country

434. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government grants/financial assistance are given for construction of stadia in the country;

(b) the number of stadia have been completed in the year 2001-2002;

(c) the number of stadia are under construction presently in the country with the assistance of Government;

(d) whether there are plans to expand these programmes; and

(e) if so, the details of terms and conditions for participation of NGOs and sports bodies in these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 16 stadia have been completed during 2001-2002.

(c) 213 stadia, located in various States, are presently under construction.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Registered NGOs who are active in the field of sports, and sports bodies are eligible to receive central assistance on matching share basis. The NGOs should not have restricted/closed membership on caste, sex, race or religion etc.

CBI Raids

435. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN:
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI has conducted nation wide raids on Government Officials, Industrialists etc. recently as reported in all the newspapers of June 12, 2002 for commission of crime viz. assets disproportionate to their known sources of income;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of corruption cases registered by the CBI against them during the last three years, separately, year-wise; and

(d) the number of petitions filed by the CBI in various courts and the number of bureaucrats punished during the period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes. The CBI has conducted nationwide raids on 11.6.2002 against Government officials, Industrialists etc. for commission of crime viz. assets disproportionate to their known sources of income. As a result of this 24 cases registered by the CBI against Government officials working in different organizations. The CBI also unearthed disproportionate assets from these officials ranging from few lakhs of Rupees to Rs. 1.5 crores.

(c) and (d) The number of cases registered under Prevention of Corruption Act (P.C. Act) during the last 3 years, number of cases resulting in conviction under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and number of cases sent for trial during same period are given below:-

Year	Total No. of cases registered under the PC Act.	Cases sent for Trial	Total No. of Cases Convicted Under the PC Act
1999	609	378	125
2000	663	297	181
2001	700	173	207
Total	1972	848	513

Cyber Crimes

436. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the online offences have increased in the past few months and the steps taken to check such crimes have proved ineffective;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government have been actively considering to set up a cell to check the growing cyber crimes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the setting up of cyber crime cell is likely to check the growing online offences in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) Considering the rate of growth of Information Technology applications in the country there has been no significant increase in on-line offences.

(c) to (e) Cyber Crime Investigation Cell is already functioning in Central Bureau of Investigation since the year 2000 and it is investigating cases pertaining to cyber crimes.

Burns Department of Safdarjung Hospital

437. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Safdarjung burns ward machines defunct" appearing in the *Times of India* dated June 29, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details as reported in the news item are as under:—

(1) Non-functioning of ventilators of ICU.

(2) Non-functioning of bedside monitors.

(3) Non-functioning of cubicles in the ICU.

(4) Incubators for infants and new borns are not used.

(5) Non-functioning of some of the overhead lamps attached to each ICU bed.

(6) Non completion of renovation of OT.

(7) Inadequate lighting in OT.

(8) Congestion of the ward.

(c) Improvement is a continuous process. However, the status on the observations made in the news item is enclosed as statement.

Statement

Status Report with regard to news-item

- Respiratory burns department has got two ultra modern ventilators. Both these ventilators are in working order. As and when there is any problem with these ventilators it is rectified by the company's representatives.

- There are 7 monitors in the department. All are fully working and in 2 monitors one parameter is defective but rest of the parameters are fully functional. Process is on to rectify them.

- The department has a 13 bedded ICU ultra modern air-conditioning system having 100% fresh air with 20 cycle change per minute and hypa-filters. In addition to this, in 5 cubicles there is provision for individual control of temperature and humidity. System is working and functional and is maintained by CPWD (Elect.) Wing of the hospital.

- Each cubicle of ICU is provided with dressing light having a halogen bulb. Bulbs being a consumable item need changing as and when they go out of order. these are procured by the normal hospital process. 30 New bulbs were procured for these lights and all these lights are functioning.

- The Burns O.T., which was previously in shabby state, is now a ultra modern O.T. complex with Central Oxygen supply recovery room and 3 separate operating rooms. O.T. is now fumigated and will be put to full use in a few days.

- The department started scientific management of burns, which consists of 3-step ladder ICU, step down ICU and finally a recovery ward. Present ward 22-A is the final ladder of this burns management. This ward is in the process of renovation. As Burn patient were continuously taken and at no stage admission was stopped, renovation work is going on in a phased manner. Nearly 2/3rd of the ward has been renovated and occupied.

- The department has taken all steps to decongest the burns ward. The new ward 22-A was opened for the first time and each patient has got a separate cubicle and for less serious patients a common cubicle is for 2 patients. All cubicles have their own window type air-conditioners while a process is on to provide Central Air Conditioning system.

Huge Losses in SAIL

438. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI G. GANGA REDDY:
SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU:
SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the Steel Authority of India Limited has suffered a whopping loss of Rs. 1,707 crore during the year ended March, 2002;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that this was more than double of previous year's figure of Rs. 729 crore;

(c) if so, the main reasons for the loss; and

(d) what steps the Government proposes to take to help the Steel Authority of India Limited to overcome this loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir/Madam.

(c) The main reasons for losses incurred by SAIL are:

- Stagnation in steel consumption due to slowdown in the economy;
- Low sales realization;
- Sluggish exports due to protectionist policies of various countries;
- High capital investment in the modernization projects leading to increased expenditures on interest and depreciation; and
- High manpower costs.

(d) Government of India had approved a financial cum business restructuring package for SAIL in February, 2000. SAIL is currently undertaking the following steps to improve its performance:

- Intensive cost control drive which envisages improvement of yield, reduction in consumption of coking coal and other raw material, reduction in consumption of power and fuel, reduction in consumption of stores and spares, improvement in other key techno-economic parameters, etc.
- Implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS).
- Market oriented product-mix, increasing sales network and more focus on customer satisfaction etc.
- Quality improvement to meet customer requirements and schemes relating to statutory requirement like safety, environment etc.
- Restriction on fresh investment proposals except ongoing schemes.

[Translation]

Arrest of Pak High Commission Official

439. DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Pakistan High Commission official was arrested on May 31, 2002;

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

(c) the action taken against him;

(d) whether Pakistan in retaliation kidnapped an Indian High Commission official and thrashed him badly;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government had taken up the matter with Pakistan; and

(g) if so, the reaction of Pakistan thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) An official of the Pakistan High Commission was apprehended on May 31, 2002 while receiving classified information/documents from an Indian national. He was handed over to Pakistan High Commission as required under the recognised norms of international law. He was subsequently declared persona-non-grata and asked to leave India.

(d) and (e) In retaliation, operatives of Pakistani intelligence agency forcibly kidnapped a staff member of Indian High Commission in Islamabad on June 1, 2002 and detained him illegally for over six hours. He was tied and beaten and kicked during the detention. He was later declared persona-non-grata and asked to leave Pakistan on totally false and baseless allegations.

(f) Government lodged a strong protest with Pakistan Government at the blatant, inhuman violation of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961 and bilateral Code of Conduct for Treatment of Diplomatic/Consular Personnel in India and Pakistan, 1992 and reminded Pakistan of its obligations towards the safety and security of Indian personnel.

(g) As it routinely does, Government of Pakistan rejected Indian protest as baseless.

[English]

Anti Malaria Drug

440. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether chloroquine, the popular drug used to fight malaria has become ineffective due to the malaria parasite developing resistance;

(b) if so, whether the World Health Organisation has recommended artemisinin-based combination therapies;

(c) whether the new therapy kills the malaria parasite fast, allowing the patient to recover rapidly and with few side-effects; and

(d) if so, the details of 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) to (d) Chloroquine has been used as one of the most important anti-malaria drugs in the country for decades and still the mainstay for treatment of uncomplicated malaria cases.

Studies are carried out in different parts of the country through P.f. monitoring teams of the Directorate of National Anti Malaria Programme (NAMP) for identifying Chloroquine resistant areas.

The drug policy under the National Anti Malaria Programme (NAMP) envisages use of antimisinin and its derivatives alone in injectable and oral forms for treatment of severe and complicated P. falciparum malaria case as the same are fast acting on P. falciparum and helping patients to recover early with low side effects.

There is no specific recommendation from World Health Organisation in this regard.

US Visa Regulations

441. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new visa regulations by the US Immigration and Naturalisation Service have affected India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India has sought any US assurance in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) As per the information available with the Government, there has been no change in the visa regulations of the United States except in the category of students. For student visa, an application can now no longer apply from within United States and has to apply from a country outside United States.

This change in US visa policy is applicable to the nationals of all countries including India.

(c) and (d) Since there are no reports of any restrictive visa policy by United States for Indian nationals the question of any US assurance does not arise.

[Translation]

Office memoranda Relating to Reservation

442. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the remaining office memoranda pertaining to reservation in which amendments are yet to be made through a Bill;

(b) the present status of each of these office memoranda;

(c) the time by which a Bill is likely to be introduced in this regard; and

(d) the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) There is no proposal under consideration to amend any office memorandum pertaining to reservation through a Bill.

(b) Out of five office memoranda issued in 1997, three have been neutralised by making suitable amendments to the Constitution. Remaining two pertaining to post based rosters and for carrying forward of reservation in promotion beyond 15.11.1997 are in force.

(c) and (d) In view of reply to part (a), question does not arise.

Telephone Exchanges

443. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telephone exchanges in various districts, including Samstipur, Rajgir, Bihar Sharief, Motihari of Bihar are working to their full capacity;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the details of steps being taken for overall improvement therein; and

(c) the number of pending applications for telephone connections in the said exchanges and the time by which all pending applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details of equipped capacity, working connections and waiting list of Samastipur, Rajgir, Bihar Sharief and Motihari are given in the statement enclosed. (Rajgir and Bihar Sharief are part of Nalanda district). The waiting list is likely to be cleared by March 2003.

The details of steps being taken for overall improvement are as follows:

1. Additional cable is laid in areas which are technically non feasible due to non availability of cable pairs.

2. The applicants are being offered new telephone connections on WLL, if area is not feasible and cable laying may take more time.

3. In case, where capacity is available in the exchanges but waiting list is not there or is limited, special advertisement are being made to generate more demand.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the District/Exchange	Capacity	Working Connections	Waiting List
1.	Samastipur	33108	26586	3835
2.	Rajgir	1000	698	25
3.	Bihar Sharief	9500	8027	150
4.	East Champaran (Motihari)	44212	31240	7390

[English]

Condition of C.G.H.S. Dispensaries

444. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN:
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the news-item captioned "Health check: CGHS arteries blocked" appeared in the "Hindustan Times" dated June 7, 2002 wherein deplorable condition of various C.G.H.S. dispensaries in the Capital have been reported;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been examined by the Task Force constituted by the Government;

(c) if so, findings of the investigation; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to streamline the working of C.G.H.S. dispensaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A news-item captioned "Health check: CGHS arteries blocked" had appeared in the Hindustan Times on 17th June, 2002 which had referred to the findings of the Task Force constituted by the Government to visit CGHS dispensaries.

Based on the report of the Task Force, instructions have been issued to the CGHS dispensaries to maintain punctuality, cleanliness and responsiveness.

Telephone Exchanges in Andhra Pradesh

445. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new telephone exchanges installed in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the details thereof, district-wise; and

(c) the telephone exchanges proposed to be installed during the year 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) 993 numbers of new telephone exchanges have been commissioned in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years.

(b) District-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) It is proposed to install 150 numbers of new telephone exchanges during 2002-2003.

Statement

District-wise Exchanges Set-up during the last 3 years in Andhra Pradesh

Name of District	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4
Adilabad	20	14	12
Ananthapur	12	9	13
Chittoor	13	16	7
Cuddapah	10	9	7
East Godavari	24	8	10
Guntur	25	20	14
Hyderabad	9	13	6
Karimnagar	17	35	12
Khammam	21	14	13
Krishna	15	13	7
Kurnool	29	17	5
Mahabubnagar	16	27	20
Medak	11	14	17
Nalgonda	23	29	22
Nellore	12	21	19
Nizamabad	11	25	16
Prakasam	20	27	9
Rangareddy	3	5	10
Srikakulam	21	5	10
Visakhapatnam	9	6	5
Vizianagaram	10	8	10
Warangal	10	25	22
West Godavari	17	7	2
Total	358	367	268

CGHS Dispensaries

446. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the deteriorating condition of various Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) dispensaries;

(b) if so, the details of deficiencies in such establishments;

(c) the action taken to remedy the position;

(d) whether there is any alternative proposal to provide medical cover to the Government employees and pensioners; and

(e) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The services provided by CGHS dispensaries throughout the country satisfy its beneficiaries to a large extent and there is no deterioration in the condition of CGHS dispensaries in the country.

(c) In view of (a) and (b) above, the question does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) In view of (d) above, the question does not arise.

[Translation]

Postal Network in Rural Areas

447. SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the postal-network in the rural areas of the country is working unsatisfactory;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

Indo-Bangladesh Ties

448. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently held negotiations with Bangladesh and signed some agreements;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these agreements are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Discussions have been held with Bangladesh at various levels including between Directors General of BSF and Bangladesh Rifles and more recently between Bangladesh Foreign Minister and our political leadership. However, no agreements were signed during these talks.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Eradication of T.B.

449. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

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

(a) whether T.B. cases are increasing in various States in an alarming manner; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and number of TB cases during the last three years till date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir. The number of TB cases reported under National TB Control Programme (NTCP) have been more or less static during last few years.

(b) A statement indicating the State-wise details of sputum positive TB cases detected and put on treatment under National TB Control Programme during the last three years is enclosed.

Statement

The State-wise number of sputum positive TB cases detected and put on treatment during 1999-2000 to 2002 under the National TB Control Programme

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24892	28562	30850
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	414	410	446
3.	Assam	209	2059	3037
4.	Bihar	6980	8325	11532
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	3213

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Goa	515	561	495
7.	Gujarat	34911	30981	32212
8.	Haryana	9226	8444	10942
9.	Himachal Pradesh	512	924	1132
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	533	830	4862
11.	Jharkhand	—	—	878
12.	Karnataka	20244	26133	31099
13.	Kerala	1534	2314	4473
14.	Madhya Pradesh	23683	25037	28942
15.	Maharashtra	64966	63797	53410
16.	Manipur	1012	1385	1473
17.	Meghalaya	508	665	915
18.	Mizoram	299	336	369
19	Nagaland	643	314	571
20.	Orissa	12106	4480	6004
21.	Punjab	9783	10670	9336
22.	Rajasthan	22953	23584	33814
23.	Sikkim	417	489	589
24.	Tamilnadu	25756	24533	22502
25.	Tripura	981	5555	928
26.	Uttaranchal	—	—	3909
27.	Uttar Pradesh	65596	62802	80666
28.	West Bengal	15595	3721	3688
29.	A & N Islands	210	265	209
30.	Chandigarh	23	35	0
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	187	182	113
32.	Daman & Diu	153	170	101
33.	Delhi	26911	17518	18521
34.	Lakshadweep	0	5	1
35.	Pondicherry	1303	1436	1511
	Total	373055	356522	402743

[Translation]

Pak Assurance to Militants

450. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pak President has assured Kashmiri militants of his help as reported in the 'Dainik Jagran' dated June 8, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) It was reported in the press that Pakistani President met Hurriyat leaders from PoK and assured Pakistan's diplomatic and moral support for the "cause of Kashmir".

(b) and (c) Such statements are a part of Pakistan's futile efforts to justify is sponsorship of cross border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and in other parts of India.

The State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. Government are firm in their resolve to take all necessary measures to defeat Pakistan's sponsorship of cross border terrorism and preserve the security and territorial integrity of the country.

[English]

Scrapping of Labour Welfare Programmes

451. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has suggested to the Government for scrapping of some labour welfare programmes;

(b) if so, the details of the labour welfare programmes suggested for scrapping; and

(c) the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) As a follow up of Finance Minister's Budget Speech for 2001-02 and in order to implement the decision of the National Development Council, the Planning Commission has undertaken the Zero Based Budgeting exercise. As a part of this exercise, the schemes of the Ministry of Labour, which have lost their significance, have been recommended for weeding out and those with similar objectives, have been recommended for merger.

[Translation]

Trilateral Agreement on Sea-Route

452. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia, India and Iran have signed an agreement to set a sea-route; and

(b) if so, the date on which the said agreement was signed and the date from which this agreement is likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) India, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation signed the Inter-Governmental Agreement on International "North-South" Transport Corridor in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, on 12 September, 2000. This Agreement will be used for the transportation of goods by utilization of the transport corridors from ports of India to the Russian Federation passing through the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Caspian Sea. The Agreement entered into force on 16 May, 2002.

[English]

Grant to Schools

453. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to sanction a grant of Rs. 50,000 per district for the promotion of sports and games in schools and their participation in the inter school competition;

(b) if so, the details of the districts which have been given this grant in the State of Maharashtra during the last three years;

(c) the criteria being followed in giving this grant and whether it is being given on year to year basis or only as a one time grant;

(d) if so, whether the grant has been fully utilized by all the districts; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No grants have been given during the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 as no request for such assistance was received from the State Government of Maharashtra. However, Govt. of Maharashtra was sanctioned a grant of Rs. 17.50 lakhs for organization of Distt. Level inter-school competitions @ Rs. 50,000/- per Distt. for 35 districts of the State and a grant of Rs. 2.00 lakhs has been sanctioned for organization of State level competition during 2001-2002.

(c) To receive grants under the scheme of 'Promotion of Sports and Games in Schools' a State/UT has to send a formal proposal to the Government of India. The District and the State level tournament will be organized by the District and State level Committees. Grants are released once in each financial year on receipt of viable proposal alongwith the accounts and UC of previous year's released grants, if any, from the States/UTs.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

US-Russia Agreement for Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

454. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the treaty signed between US and Russia to prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction; and

(b) if so, the terms of the treaty and the Government's assessment about its effectiveness to prevent proliferation and elimination of the risk to global peace and security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. President Putin and President Bush concluded the Strategic Offensive Reductions (SOR) Treaty and the Declaration on New Strategic Relations in Moscow on 24 May 2002.

(b) Under the Treaty, Russia and the US have agreed to reduce and limit their strategic nuclear warheads to aggregate numbers not exceeding 1700-2200 for either side by 31 December 2012. India has assessed these deep cuts in nuclear weapons' stockpiles as a major step in the direction of nuclear disarmament and as a signal contribution to the elimination of nuclear weapons and genuine non-proliferation. India expects that the establishment of a new strategic relationship between Russia and the United States would pave the way for the creation of enduring structures of cooperative international security and global strategic stability.

Pak Playing Host to Militants

455. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any information that Pakistan has been playing host to north-east militants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this information has been passed on to USA, UK and other countries who have extended support to India's fight against cross border terrorism; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) It is a well known fact that as a part of its overall policy of destabilising India, Pakistan has been sponsoring cross border terrorism in India, including in the north east.

(c) and (d) Government has been appropriately and effectively bringing to the attention of the international community facts pertaining to Pakistan's continued sponsorship of cross border terrorism in India, and sponsorship and support provided by it to terrorists and fugitives from law.

[Translation]

Production of Iodised Salt

456. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of domestic and foreign companies producing iodised free flow salt are not following prescribed criteria;

(b) if so, the number of companies detected, till date, State-wise; and

(c) the action 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) No foreign company is engaged in the production of iodised free flow salt. All the domestic companies producing free flow salt are required to adhere to the provisions contained in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and its Rules. Suitable action is initiated for violation of the prescribed criteria. Suspension of registration was resorted to in respect of three companies in the State of Gujarat, and wagon quota was denied to a firm in the State of Rajasthan.

Telephone Facility in Post Offices, Rajasthan

457. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether public telephone facility is available in all the post offices and sub-post offices in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the number of such post offices/sub-post offices, district-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Out of 1451 departmental post offices, public telephone facility is available at 655 Post Offices. No public telephone facility is available at Extra Departmental Sub Post Offices and Extra Departmental Branch Offices in the State.

(b) The district-wise figures are given in enclosed statement.

(c) Public Telephone Facility to the Post Offices is provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited on case to case basis as per justification.

Statement

District wise details of Post Offices having/not having Public Telephone Facility in Rajasthan

Sl. No.	Name of District	Total No. of Department Post Office	With telephone PCO facility	Without PCO facility
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Alwar	72	41	31
2.	Jaipur	140	88	52
3.	Dausa	29	26	3
4.	Bharatpur	60	35	25
5.	Dholpur	19	13	6
6.	Karauli	27	2	25
7.	Sawaimadhopur	30	2	28
8.	Ajmer	108	34	74
9.	Bhilwara	48	2	46
10.	Dungarpur	30	22	8
11.	Banswara	23	18	5
12.	Chittorgarh	47	2	45
13.	Bundi	21	17	4
14.	Tonk	25	17	8
15.	Udaipur	59	52	7
16.	Rajsamand	23	19	4
17.	Kota	50	7	43
18.	Jhalawar	22	2	20
19.	Baran	15	1	14
20.	Barmer	35	28	7
21.	Bikaner	45	20	25
22.	Churu	50	37	13
23.	Jhunjhunu	69	—	69
24.	Jodhpur	71	51	20
25.	Jaisalmer	17	14	3
26.	Nagaur	61	9	52

1	2	3	4	5
27.	Pali	61	8	53
28.	Sikar	75	—	75
29.	Sirohi	28	25	3
30.	Jalore	26	24	2
31.	Sriganganagar	39	24	15
32.	Hanumangarh	26	15	11

Per Capita Income

458. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita income in the rural areas as compared to the urban areas;

(b) whether the gap between the per-capita income of these two areas is widening; and

(c) the measures contemplated to be taken by the Government to minimise this gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) According to the information available from Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (National Accounts Division), the per capita Net Domestic Product (NDP) was Rs. 1245 for the rural and Rs. 2888 for urban areas respectively in 1980-81, at current prices. The corresponding incomes were Rs. 5783 and Rs. 13525 for 1993-94, at current prices. No information giving the rural-urban differences in income level is available after 1993-94.

(b) The per-capita NDP for urban areas was 2.32 times higher than in the rural areas in 1980-81. The corresponding ratio was 2.34 for the year 1993-94.

(c) The priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty and accelerating the growth rate of the economy with stable prices is likely to reduce the disparity between the rural and urban areas.

[English]

Wireless in Local Loop

459. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government scheme of promoting telephone connectivity in rural India by distributing wireless in local loop (WLL) handsets to residents of remote villages has succeeded in promoting naxalism as reported in 'Hindustan Times' dated June 14, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts to matter reported and reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check that these handsets are not used by the naxalites?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education/Research

460. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up Post-graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research at various Hospitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the required infrastructure for setting up of Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research has been built up;

(d) if so, the expenditure incurred thereon so far;

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(f) the funds required therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (f) There is a proposal to upgrade Dr. Ram Manohar

Lohia Hospital, New Delhi to Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences and Research. A detailed Project Report in this regard is being prepared.

Basic Health Care

461. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any in-depth assessment of the management of the city's Government hospitals as also of the CGHS dispensaries to identify the shortcomings in providing the basic health care by the various departments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; 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) to (c) Assessment of the management of Central Government Hospitals as also CGHS dispensaries providing basic health care through various departments is a continuous process. As and when any shortcomings are noticed, immediate corrective steps are initiated.

Facilities to Hospitals on National Highways

462. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any financial assistance is being provided to States for upgradation of emergency facilities at the State Hospitals located on National Highways;

(b) if so, the details of the assistance provided during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the criteria for providing this financial assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. Under a Pilot Project for upgradation and strengthening of Emergency facilities for State Hospitals of towns/cities located on National Highways, financial assistance/grants-in-aid upto a maximum of Rs. 150.00 lakhs is provided to the States/Union Territories for this purpose.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) The following eligibility conditions have to be fulfilled for availing of the financial assistance/grants-in-aid:

(i) The application is to be forwarded through the Government/UT Administration.

(ii) The State Government/UT Administration is to ensure that the existing relevant facilities are inspected by a responsible officer and deficiencies, if any, pointed out.

(iii) The State PWD is to prepare preliminary estimates for execution of capital works including renovation, addition, alteration of the existing structure.

(iv) The cost of equipments to be purchased is to be indicated and it is to be ensured that the equipments are purchased as per the prescribed procedure and are entered into an Assets Register maintained by the hospital.

(v) The State Government is to give an undertaking that specialist manpower i.e. Anaesthtist, Surgical Specialist, Ortho-Specialist and supporting staff shall be posted in the Accident and Emergency Services in addition to other facilities.

(vi) The State Government is to give an undertaking that the expenditure on the maintenance of equipments will be borne by them.

(vii) The scheme will be implemented by the State Government.

(viii) The funds sanctioned are to be utilized only for the purpose for which sanctioned.

(ix) The accounts of the hospital will be audited by the Accountant General of the State Government/ UT Administration and its utilization certificate forwarded to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare within a period of six months after the closure of the financial year during which the grant is sanctioned.

(x) Additional expenditure to execute the scheme and on account of salary of staff, training etc. would be borne by the State Government.

Statement

1999-2000

Bihar

1. Rs. 53.00 lakhs for modernizing and updating the Indira Gandhi Central Emergency Unit of Patna Medical College Hospital, Patna.

Haryana

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for setting up of Trauma Centre at General Hospital, Karnal.

Madhya Pradesh

1. Rs. 97.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Trauma Centre at Maharaja Yashwant Rao Hospital, Indore.

2000-2001

Arunachal Pradesh

1. Rs. 59.00 lakhs for establishment of accident and emergency care unit at Pasighat General Hospital, Arunachal Pradesh.

Pondicherry

1. Rs. 78.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities in General Hospital, Mahe.

Sikkim

1. Rs. 70.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Emergency Care Unit at S.T.N.M. Hospital, Gangtok.

Tripura

1. Rs. 70.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at Tripura Sundari Hospital (South District), Udaipur.

Uttar Pradesh

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for setting up of Trauma Centre at King George Medical College, Lucknow.

2001-2002

Arunachal Pradesh

1. Rs. 116.97 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at General Hospital, Naharlagun.

Bihar

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for establishment of a Trauma Centre at Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna.
2. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at Model Bikram Referral Centre with Highway Trauma Centre at Patna.
3. Rs. 62.71 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Trauma Services at Aunsi, District Madhubani.

Gujarat

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at General Hospital, Nadiad, District Kheda.

Jammu & Kashmir

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for development of emergency/ trauma services on Srinagar-Leh National Highway at Margund, Kangan.

Kerala

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at General Hospital, Ernakulam.

Mizoram

1. Rs. 58.30 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at Civil Hospital, Lunglei.
2. Rs. 74.30 lakhs upgradation and strengthening of accident and emergency services at Civil Hospital, Aizawl.

Tamil Nadu

1. Rs. 105.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Accident and Emergency Services in the District Headquarters Hospital, Perambalur.

Research Project at AIIMS

463. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated June 11, 2002 captioned: "Research work at AIIMS being hampered for want of animals";

(b) if so, whether any law exists prohibiting the use of animals for conducting experiments for medical research;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any talks have been held with the authorities with a view to permanent solution to the problem being faced by the scientists in conducting their research work so essential for saving not only the human lives but also of the animals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960 does not prohibit the use of animals for conducting experiments on animals for bio-medical research. On the other hand, Section 14 o the Act specifically provides that "nothing contained in this Act shall tender unlawful the performance of experiments (including experiments involving operations) on animals for the purpose of advancement by new discovery of physiological knowledge or of knowledge which will be useful for saving or for prolonging life or alleviating suffering or for combating any disease, whether of human beings, animals or plants". However, the rules framed under Section 17 of the Act which are adversely affecting scientific research are as under:

(i) Procurement of animals only from breeders.

(ii) Not allowing import of animals required for research.

(iii) Banning contract research.

(iv) Prior permission of CPCSEA needed for all experiments including diagnostic testing activities and the time taken in obtaining the permission.

All the issues relating to the role of CPCSEA on medical research and amendments to rules, procedures etc. that may be needed, have been taken up with Committee of Secretaries.

Medical Care Facilities

464. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have chalked out any time-bound programme to provide medical care facilities in the remote areas of the country particularly in Gujarat;

(b) whether the Government are aware that health care industry has a potential of creating 30 million jobs in the country; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government so far to harness the potential of health care industry in generating employment besides health checking programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. Health Care Services in Rural and remote areas of the country including Gujarat are provided through a system of Primary Health Care Infrastructure including Sub-centres, Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments to strengthen Health Care services with the following interventions.

Area Development Projects are being implemented with financial assistance from external agencies for addressing gaps in integrated service delivery through the construction of buildings for sub-centres, primary health centres and community health centres:

Under the reproductive and Child Health Programme, the following steps are being taken to strengthen the primary health services in the country:

- Major Civil Works for repair/construction of OT/ Labour Room
- Provision of equipments/medicine for emergency obstetric care at first referral units
- Financial assistance for contract appointments/ hiring of Anesthetists Gynaecologists/Safe Motherhood consultants/Staff Nurses/Lab. Technician, Additional, ANMs etc.
- Skill based in-service training for capacity building of ANMs and other health functionaries.

Efforts are also being made to increase the outreach of health care services through Swasthya Melas and Reproductive and Child Health camps etc. Rs. 74.38 crores were released to the State Government of Gujarat during 2001-2002 under various RCH Schemes.

"Earthquake release funds to the tune of Rs. 61.85 crores were released during 2001-2002 for reconstruction of damaged/destroyed health facilities in Gujarat.

Under Sector investment programme total funds of Rs. 63.44 crores have been released since 1997-98 for health sector management reforms in Gujarat.

Major NGO's like Chetna, SEWA and Gujarat Voluntary Association have been receiving the funds for various activities.

It is further envisaged that village self help groups be utilized to organize and provide basic services for Reproductive and Child Health Care, combined with the ongoing Integrated Child Development Scheme. Aanganwadi Centres could become the centre for discriminating basic health centre activities, contraceptive counseling as well as supply, nutrition, education and supplementation as well as pre-school activities. These could also function as depots for ORS/basic medicines and contraceptives.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Government are aware that health care industry has a potential of creating a large number of jobs in the country. The Government alone cannot meet all the health needs of the people. With this in view, collaboration with the industry is proposed. The following operational strategies have been envisaged which would also generate employment besides improving health care:

The corporate sector and industry could, for instance, take on the challenge of strengthening the management information systems in the seven most deficient states, at district hospitals and primary health centre levels by introducing electronic data entry machines to lighten the tedious work load of ANMs and the multi-purpose workers at sub-centres and the doctors at the primary health centres, while targeting wider coverage and outreach.

Collaborate with non-government sectors in running professionally sound advertisement and marketing campaigns for products and services, targeting all segments of the population, from village level upwards, in other words, strengthen advocacy and IEC, including social marketing of contraceptives.

Provide markets to sustain the income-generating activities from village levels upwards. In turn, this will ensure consistent motivation among the community for pursuing health and education-related community activities.

Help promote transportation to remote and inaccessible areas from village levels upwards.

The social responsibility of the corporate sector in industry must, at the very minimum, extend to providing preventive reproductive and child health care for its own employees (if 100 workers are engaged).

Create a national network consisting of voluntary, public, private and non-government health centres, identified by a common logo, for delivering reproductive and child health services, free to any client. The provider will be compensated for the service provided, on basis of a coupon system, duly counter-signed by the beneficiary and paid for by a system that will be fully articulated. The compensation will be identical to providers, across all sectors. The end user exercises choices in the source of service delivery. A committee of management experts will be set up to devise ways of ensuring that this system is not abused.

Form a consortium of the voluntary sector, the non-government sector and the private corporate sector to aid government in the provision and outreach of basic reproductive and child health care and basic education.

In the area of basic education, set up privately run/ managed primary schools for children up to age 14-15. Alternately, if the schools are set up/managed by the panchayat, the corporate sector could provide the mid-day meals the text-books and/or the uniforms.

Family Planning Programme

465. SHIR B.V.N. REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi has discovered a male contraceptive to control over population of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this contraceptive has been supplied to all States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. IIT, Delhi jointly with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences has developed a new drug molecule, "RISUG" for male contraception.

(b) RISUG is a male intra vas deferens injection drug with long term contraceptive action with potential for reversal. Phase-I and Phase-II Clinical Trials have been completed. Restricted Phase-III Clinical Trial is in progress as coordinated by ICMR, New Delhi.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Identification of Backward District

466. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared some new guidelines to identify backward districts in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these guidelines are likely to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) No new guidelines have been prepared for identification of "backward districts"' per se in the country. However, the Working Group on rural poverty alleviation programmes for the formulation of the Tenth Five Year Plan had desired that a Task Force to be set to identify districts where wage and self-employment programmes could be implemented in a focused manner. The Ministry of Rural Development has accordingly set up the Task Force.

Family Welfare Programme

467. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds released to each State under the family welfare programmes, during the last three years;

(b) whether in comparison to other States Madhya Pradesh has been allocated less funds under this programme;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) 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) Funds are provided by Central Government broadly under three Heads viz. Infrastructure (in cash for salary, rent, contingency, etc.) in kind (supply of contraceptives, drugs, etc.), and grants for implementation of various Programmes e.g. Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme, Immunisation, Information, Education and Communication (IEC), Area Projects, etc. The amounts released under these Heads during the last three years, State-wise, are given in the statement-I and II.

(b) to (d) The release of funds to the States for infrastructural units depends on the existing infrastructure such as Sub-Centres, Rural Family Welfare Centres etc. set up by the State for delivery of Family Welfare services.

The release of funds during 2001-2002 to Madhya Pradesh has been less due to release of funds to Chhattisgarh separately.

Moreover, the excess expenditure incurred by the States over and above the grants released by Govt. of India are reimbursed to the States on submission of the audited Statement of Expenditure from the concerned Accountant General (AG). Further, it is mentioned that Government of Madhya Pradesh has not submitted audited Statements of Expenditure for the year 1991-92 and since 1995-96 to claim arrears for additional expenditure incurred, if any.

Statement I

State-wise releases of Grants-in-aid to Infrastructural units (in cash), supplies (in kind) for the period 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 (Excluding Arrears)

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State	1999-2000			2000-2001			2001-2002		
		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	10022.22	3023.31	13045.53	9410.36	3458.96	12869.32	10751.15	3329.24	14080.39
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	231.20	103.35	334.55	256.18	130.72	386.90	418.00	160.67	578.67
3.	Assam	6270.57	1421.68	7692.25	5875.41	1817.62	7693.03	9719.47	1458.50	11177.97
4.	Bihar	11864.89	4868.39	16733.28	12106.72	5957.71	18064.43	8917.47	4959.26	13876.73
5.	Goa	243.44	82.50	325.94	269.68	125.61	395.29	273.11	68.21	341.32
6.	Gujarat	7205.78	2600.21	9805.99	7201.05	3335.35	10536.40	8433.92	3032.43	11466.35
7.	Haryana	2613.45	1019.59	3633.04	2745.98	1420.10	4166.08	2951.71	1269.71	4221.42
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1956.60	338.33	2294.93	1962.77	470.20	2432.97	2271.34	386.99	2658.33
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1803.64	458.21	2261.85	1913.98	539.43	2453.41	2124.31	537.45	2661.76
10.	Karnataka	8673.53	2107.70	10781.23	13002.34	2640.17	15642.51	14594.34	2439.98	17034.32
11.	Kerala	5487.87	1376.24	6864.11	5478.14	1575.88	7054.02	6115.68	1060.67	7176.35
12.	Madhya Pradesh	11373.95	4988.02	16361.97	10820.86	5477.07	16297.93	8246.15	4130.38	12376.53
13.	Maharashtra	11668.70	3924.85	15593.55	12117.03	4423.30	16540.33	15382.24	4243.32	19625.56
14.	Manipur	907.39	147.96	1055.35	978.87	118.94	1097.81	1424.82	211.66	1636.48
15.	Meghalaya	598.21	152.50	750.71	641.79	139.93	781.72	983.37	202.41	1185.78
16.	Mizoram	368.47	75.80	444.27	456.13	70.32	526.45	794.30	79.50	873.80

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
17	Nagaland	402.78	97.73	500.51	457.72	90.13	547.85	640.38	155.96	796.34
18.	Orissa	6053.65	1765.56	7819.21	6005.45	1630.78	7636.23	6921.94	2013.89	8935.83
19.	Punjab	2941.14	1246.95	4188.09	3122.93	1284.46	4407.39	3307.57	1303.63	4611.20
20.	Rajasthan	8512.23	3238.37	11750.60	9553.12	4039.05	13592.17	9889.57	3624.75	13514.32
21.	Sikkim	350.35	68.33	418.68	411.51	38.73	450.24	665.77	73.45	739.22
22.	Tamilnadu	11656.63	1833.16	13489.79	13746.89	1708.95	15455.84	11758.88	2330.52	14089.40
23.	Tripura	823.48	177.00	1000.48	899.21	211.06	1110.27	1458.12	219.87	1677.99
24	Uttar Pradesh	19055.43	10356.72	29412.15	19950.77	11338.42	31289.19	18102.52	12322.12	30424.64
25.	West Bengal	8391.11	2944.78	11335.89	10813.82	3140.07	13953.89	11469.41	3499.66	14969.07
26.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	3661.06	1432.44	5093.50
27.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	—	—	5578.31	1392.54	6970.85
28.	Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—	—	—	2615.07	1163.12	3778.19
	Total (States)	139476.71	48417.24	187893.95	150198.71	55182.96	205381.67	169469.98	57102.33	226572.31

Statement II

State-wise Releases & Expenditure on other programmes (RCH, Area Projects, Etc) for the period 1999-2000 to 2001-2002

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		Releases	Expenditure	Releases	Expenditure	Releases	Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2254.12	2219.19	5385.98	3394.51	3425.45	1837.68
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	155.24	233.21	159.11	86.07	152.14	126.17
3.	Assam	3175.18	2699.68	2775.74	584.72	2912.66	4118.97
4.	Bihar	1179.34	1084.041	2535.90	1620.14	1675.19	38.92
5.	Goa	32.33	39.78	9.15	18.61	21.26	5.02
6.	Gujarat	1212.41	824.33	1118.04	1221.12	7737.26	522.13
7.	Haryana	691.81	588.67	1559.08	1031.91	1222.35	343.64
8.	Himachal Pradesh	367.44	310.58	385.83	455.89	276.80	58.95
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	246.46	919.77	430.62	129.13	320.33	241.69
10.	Karnataka	1330.17	3297.90	5470.66	4082.16	6145.39	4828.60
11.	Kerala	860.04	603.16	1193.58	887.42	1168.03	624.16

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2410.99	2110.35	3432.11	1154.48	2360.63	566.27
13.	Maharashtra	1274.39	1695.21	748.39	785.99	2927.51	436.73
14.	Manipur	500.24	198.61	365.98	265.08	659.90	46.76
15.	Meghalaya	92.78	81.36	65.45	33.19	127.32	52.95
16.	Mizoram	543.46	480.10	704.26	699.30	722.70	587.85
17.	Nagaland	126.81	175.68	146.84	90.12	115.54	116.63
18.	Orissa	1834.94	896.11	1612.97	725.84	2566.77	829.22
19.	Punjab	296.75	327.12	685.15	364.47	615.51	261.61
20.	Rajasthan	1706.13	1645.01	4809.15	2921.68	5358.59	3083.30
21.	Sikkim	44.88	56.37	21.51	27.43	56.48	6.36
22.	Tamilnadu	3126.40	3226.40	4125.08	674.95	1921.00	492.00
23.	Tripura	238.13	147.09	135.89	156.94	446.87	5.58
24.	Uttar Pradesh	3944.59	2868.90	5435.89	4866.46	7738.73	2595.82
25.	West Bengal	1218.49	3418.76	3745.63	3449.24	3594.20	2671.81
26.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	314.10	—	842.96	—
27.	Jharkhand	—	—	37.00	—	448.23	—
28.	Uttaranchal	—	—	208.59	—	409.01	—
	Total (States)	28863.52	30147.38	47057.99	29726.85	55968.81	24498.82

Medical Colleges

468. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:

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

(a) the number of Medical colleges in the country at present;

(b) the amount spent by the Government for modernizing the said Medical colleges in each of the last three years; and

(c) the amount likely to be spent during the year 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) A total of 190 approved/recognised medical colleges are functioning in the country at present.

(b) The Central Government has recently introduced a pilot scheme for providing financial assistance to selected medical colleges for strengthening diagnostic facilities. Under the scheme an amount of Rs. 1.50 crores has been sanctioned to the Government of Assam for strengthening of diagnostic facilities at Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh during 2001-2002.

(c) Subject to availability of funds and receipt of proposals from the State Governments, it is expected that an amount of Rs. 10.00 crores (approximately) will be sanctioned for strengthening of diagnostic facilities in various Medical Colleges during 2002-2003.

[English]

Production Cost

469. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Steel Authority of India is proposing a plan to put down its production cost; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To improve financial performance and cost competitiveness, Steel Authority of India Limited has undertaken various cost control measures in the following major areas of operation:

- Reduction in consumption of coking coal and other raw materials; lower expenditure on stores and spares/contractual maintenance and savings in power and fuel consumptions.
- Improvement in techno-economic factors like blast furnace productivity, energy consumption, mill yields, etc.
- Reduction in purchase cost in areas like ferro-alloys, refractories, rolls etc.
- Austerity measures for reduction of other administrative expenses.

Despite substantial increase in prices of almost all the major inputs like indigenous coal, imported coal, power etc. during the last five years, the variable cost of production during 2001-2002 remained at the level of 1996-97, due to the cost control measures undertaken by SAIL.

Development of Backward Desert Areas

470. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned any scheme for development of backward desert districts of Rajasthan specially Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jalore during the last three years;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) details of proposals/other schemes submitted by the State Government for seeking financial assistance which are awaiting approval/clearance;

(d) action taken by the Government so far in this regard; and

(e) the time by which allocation of funds is likely to be made after sanctioning of these projects/schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Number of Watershed and Special Projects sanctioned under Desert Development Programme (DDP) to the State of Rajasthan during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 were 883, 681 and 509 respectively. Out of which, projects sanctioned in Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jalore during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 were as follows:

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
Barmer:			
(a) Watershed Projects	32	32	27
(b) Special Projects	94	30	34
	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
Jaisalmer:			
(a) Watershed Projects	61	68	25
(b) Special Projects	128	68	28
	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
Jalore:			
(a) Watershed Projects	12	23	21
(b) Special Projects	35	22	21

(c) to (e) On the basis of the annual budget allocation as well as the performance of a district in the execution of on-going watershed projects, the Union Government decides the number of projects to be sanctioned to a programme district. Programme allocations of DDP are utilized for meeting the committed expenditure on ongoing watershed projects and sanction of new watershed projects. No specific allocations are made to the States.

Visit of U.S. Dignitaries

471. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. Deputy Defence Secretary followed by the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State and Defence Secretary visited New Delhi and Islamabad in the first week of June this year for defusing tension between India and Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the details of the talks held and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage and the U.S. Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld visited India on June 6-7 and June 11-12, respectively.

(b) They conveyed to Government President Musharraf's pledge on immediate, visible and permanent end to cross-border infiltration and his assurance to dismantle terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. They expressed hope for de-escalatory measures from India on the basis of progress in the implementation of President Musharraf's pledge.

[Translation]

Telephone Exchanges

472. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of telephone exchanges in Bihar and Jharkhand at present and total capacity thereof;

(b) whether the number of telephone exchanges in these two States is less than other States;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to make these States at par with other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) The details of the telephone exchanges and their capacities in Bihar and Jharkhand are given in the statement enclosed. These States require more telephones to meet the demand. All steps are being taken by the Government to develop telecommunication facilities in these States and to make the telephones available on demand by March, 2003 subject to availability of materials.

Statement

The total number of telephone exchanges and capacity in Bihar and Jharkhand as on 30.6.2002

Name of State	No. of Exchanges	Capacity
Bihar	1030	999754
Jharkhand	376	469372

[English]

NLD Services by MTNL

473. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MTNL has dropped its plan to enter the National Long Distance (NLD) services;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that MTNL has preferred to abandon the NLD in favour of ISD services;

(d) if so, whether MTNL will improve its present range of services and efficiency by concentrating on its core activities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Immunisation Programme

474. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Universal Immunization Programme has not been fully implemented so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to get the maximum utilisation of this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The Universal Immunization Programme was launched in 1985-86 and has since been implemented, in a phased manner to all districts by 1989-90.

(c) Government has initiated activities to improve the coverage by extending support particularly, to the weakly performing States through the Immunization Strengthening Project, the Reproductive and Child Health Outreach Services, scheme and also training of State and District level officials for improving coverage and quality of Immunization Programme. The Pulse Polio Programme has made impressive progress towards eradication of Poliomyelitis in the country. The Government has recently taken a decision to commence a Pilot project on introduction of Hepatitis B vaccination in certain metropolitan cities and districts of the country.

Survey in Kashmir

475. SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have noticed the findings of the survey conducted in Kashmir by Mori International, one of the largest media organisations in the United Kingdom;

(b) if so, the main findings of the survey; and

(c) the Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Following are some of the salient features of an opinion poll conducted by an UK based MORI International on Jammu and Kashmir;

- 61% of the residents of Jammu and Kashmir say that they prefer to stay with India.
- 2/3rd of the population feels that Pakistan's involvement in the region is bad.
- A vast majority feels that war is not a solution to the problems in Jammu and Kashmir.
- 65% of the population feels that the presence of foreign militants is damaging.

(c) The outcome of the poll only confirms the reality. In any case, the people of India, including those living in the Indian State of J and K, are not dependent on surveys conducted by media organisations to express their opinions. India's democratic framework provides ample opportunity for public opinion to express itself. The people of the Indian State of J and K have freely and on several occasions exercised their democratic rights through numerous representative elections.

Telephone Services in Gujarat

476. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the districts of Gujarat have been provided with telephone facilities;

(b) if not, the number of villages without telephone facilities in the State, district-wise;

(c) whether any time-frame has been fixed by Government for providing telephone facilities in each and every village of the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) All the districts of Gujarat have been provided with telephone facilities except 3120 number of villages. The details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) The time-frame for remaining villages to be covered with telephone facility has been fixed by December, 2002 subject to availability of materials.

Statement

District-wise details of number of villages without telephone facilities in the State of Gujarat.

Sl. No.	Secondary Switching Area (SSA)	Revenue District Covered	Total number of villages without telephone facility
1	2	3	4
1.	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad Gandhinagar	78
2.	Amreli	Amreli	24
3.	Bharuch	Bharuch Narmada	276
4.	Bhavnagar	Bhavnagar	83
5.	Bhuj	Kutchch	223
6.	Godhara	Panchmahal Dahod	821
7.	Himatnagar	Sabarkantha	71
8.	Jamnagar	Jamnagar	71
9.	Junagadh	Junagadh Probandar Diu-U.T.	120
10.	Nadiad	Kheda (NAD) Anand	3
11.	Mehsana	Mehsana Patan	25
12.	Palanpur	Banaskantha	135
13.	Rajkot	Rajkot	8
14.	Surat	Surat	256
15.	Surendranagar	Surendranagar	3
16.	Vadodara	Vadodara	554
17.	Valsad	Valsad Navsari Dang, DNH & Daman (U.T.)	369
	Total		3120

CSO's Presumptions

477. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any discrepancy between Comparable State Domestic Products presumed CSO and State Domestic Products measured by respective State's Bureau of Economics and Statistics; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) Compilation of the estimates of State Domestic Product (SDP) is the responsibility of the respective State Directorates of Economics and Statistics (DESs). These estimates are prepared following standard concepts and definitions similar to those adopted by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) for compiling the estimates at the national level. The estimates of SDP prepared by the States are not strictly comparable, mainly because of the differences in terms of data sources in some cases and coverage of the economic activities undertaken, particularly in the unorganised segment of the economy.

For planning and policy purposes, however, comparable estimates of SDP are needed by the agencies like the Planning Commission and the Finance Commission to formulate the programmes for regional development. The CSO compiles the comparable estimates of SDP at current prices for this purpose. The State-wise differences between the two sets of gross SDP estimates for the year 1998-99 at current prices are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Difference in the Estimates of State Domestic Product (SDP) prepared by respective DES and Comparable SDP prepared by CSO at current prices for the year 1998-99.

(Rs. Crores)

Sl. No.	State/U.T.	Comparable Estimates (C.S.O.) Total GSDP	State Series Estimates (D.E.S.) Total GSDP	Percentage Difference
1.	Andhra Pradesh	115942	114937	0.9
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1516	1527	-0.7
3.	Assam	25811	25558	1.0
4.	Bihar	75834	66253	14.5
5.	Goa	6114	NA	—
6.	Gujarat	107179	104216	2.8
7	Haryana	45420	43535	4.3
8.	Himachal Pradesh	11708	9920	18.0
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	15369	12571	22.3
10.	Karnataka	92799	85286	8.8
11.	Kerala	59799	56247	6.3
12.	Madhya Pradesh	98182	90899	8.0
13.	Maharashtra	217456	213147	2.0
14.	Manipur	2776	2608	6.4
15.	Meghalaya	2901	2887	0.5
16.	Mizoram	1378	1246	10.6
17.	Nagaland	2894	2385	21.3
18.	Orissa	37897	34095	11.2
19.	Punjab	56958	54414	4.7
20.	Rajasthan	73908	72894	1.4
21.	Sikkim	868	755	15.0
22.	Tamil Nadu	122265	119063	2.7
23.	Tripura	4211	38*4	10.4
24.	Uttar Pradesh	167498	170780	-1.9
25.	West Bengal	117638	115719	1.7
Union Territories				
1.	NCT Delhi	46131	47194	-2.3
2.	Pondicherry	3199	3022	5.9

NA Not Available

Travel Concession to Pak Nationals

478. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have granted further relaxation to Pakistani nationals to go back to Pakistan by Road, Air or any of the authorised check-post;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether India proposes to urge Pakistan to grant reciprocal facilities for Indians in Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) In recognition of General Musharraf's commitment to end cross border infiltration on a permanent basis, India, on June 10, 2002, formally announced lifting of the overflight ban on Pakistani Aircraft that was imposed in January 2002 after the December 13 attack on our Parliament. The decision however did not involve the restoration of air links between the two countries.

[Translation]

Strategy of Nuclear War

479. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the hospitals of the country are not properly equipped for tackling the situation arising out of the nuclear war;

(b) if so, whether the Government have prepared any strategy in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the preparations have been made by the Government to tackle the situation arising out of the imminent danger of chemical, biological and nuclear war; 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) A nuclear war will gives rise to mass casualties and deaths, which would be difficult for any National Health System to cope with. The health care facilities itself may get destroyed or damaged. Electromagnetic pulse generated will affect the communication systems and the functioning of advance life support systems.

However, a health sector contingency plan to deal with the situation arising out of the chemical, biological and nuclear war has been prepared by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and forward to the Civil Defence authorities for implementation in coordination with all concerned nodal and supportive departments. The salient features of the plan are constitution of a crisis management group and a technical committee to advise, identification of hospitals for finitive care along with logistic support system, public health measures required to be taken for management of the crisis, listing of NBC equipments, procedures for handling and decontamination of contaminated patients and list of emergency drugs.

Production and Export of Steel

480. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steel production in the country during the years 1999, 2000, 2001 and till June 2002;

(b) the details of the export of iron and steel during the said period;

(c) the details of the steel plants which have commenced the production in year 2002 (till June 2002) and production thereof till date; and

(d) the details of production of pig iron and sponge iron during last three years including the increase in production and profit earned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) The details of production of finished steel in the country during the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and till June 2002 are indicated below:

(In million tonnes)

Year/Period	Production
1999-2000	27.17
2000-2001	29.27
2001-2002	30.61
April-June 2002*	7.68

*Provisional

(b) The details of export of pig iron and finished steel during the period 1999-2000 to 2002-2003 (upto June) are as below:

(In million tonnes)

Year/Period	Export #	
	Pig Iron	Finished Steel
1999-2000	0.29	2.67
2000-2001	0.23	2.66
2001-2002	0.24	2.73
April-June 2002*	0.10	0.61

*Provisional, #Partly estimated.

(c) Only a few mini steel producers in the secondary sector have come up in 2002. Details of production in these units have not been reported as yet.

(d) The details of production of pig iron and sponge iron during last three years i.e. 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 are as under:

(In million tonnes)

Year	Production	
	Pig Iron	Sponge Iron
1999-2000	3.18	5.35
2000-2001	3.40	5.48
2001-2002	3.95	5.66

The prevailing market conditions reflected in excess capacity, sharply falling price levels and lack of demand have adversely affected the financial performance of both spone iron and pig iron plants during the period referred to high cost of finance, electricity and coke have, seriously affected the opportunity to earn a net profit by these plants.

[English]

Adulteration of Milk

481. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether synthetic milk is being sold in various parts of the country, particularly in Gujarat, Delhi and Haryana;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check adulteration in milk?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No such report has been received from the States of Gujarat, Delhi and Haryana during the last three years.

(c) Sale of milk and milk products containing substances not found in milk except as provided in the PFA rules, is already prohibited under the provisions of the PFA Act, 1954. All States Governments have been requested to take necessary action to keep a strict vigil on the quality of milk particularly for the presence of chemical substances.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections under Discretionary Quota

482. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of telephone connections allotted under the discretionary quota in Uttar Pradesh particularly in Jaunpur, Gazipur and Varanasi during the last one year;

(b) whether the said telephone connections have actually been provided;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the remaining telephone connections are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Heavy Levies on Medical Products

483. SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have imposed heavy levies on Domestic Manufacturers of Life Saving Medical Products such as Auto Analyses and ELISA Diagnostic Test Kits for serious killer diseases such as HIV, AIDS, Hepatitis, T.B.;

(b) whether several Multi-Nationals are allowed to import these Life-Saving Products without paying any Import duty;

(c) if so, whether several representations from Indian Manufacturers and recommendations from the Ministry of SSI, Ministry of Commerce and others, have been received in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/ being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

A nominal excise duty of 4% was imposed on medical equipments including Auto Analysers and ELISA Diagnotic kits subject to the condition that manufacturers do not avail of CENVAT (Central Value Added Tax) credit facility. However, parts and accessories required for domestic manufacture of these equipment etc. have been fully exempted from Excise Duty.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Representations have been received from domestic manufacturers requesting for reconsidering the excise duty levy on medical equipments including diagnostic test kits. These are being examined.

[Translation]

Ban on Chewing Tobacco

484. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether chewing of tobacco has resulted in more and more number of patients suffering from mouth cancer;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to ban chewing tobacco soon since it lead to mouth cancer; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The use of tobacco in smokeless form is one of the known-risk factors in causation of mouth cancer. Out of the estimated number of oral cancers attributable to tobacco use in the country. 46,660 cases developed their disease because of the use of smokeless tobacco.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to ban chewing tobacco at present.

[English]

Contributory Pension Scheme

485. SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 1680 on March 13, 2002 and state:

(a) whether the implications of the various recommendations of the High Level Expert Group on pension have been examined;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The implications of the various recommendations of the High Level Expert Group on pension are under examination in the Government.

Modernisation of Postal Services

486. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether review of modernisation programmes in respect of some important postal services executed between 1995-2000 revealed failure of the Postal Department to achieve physical and financial targets; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir. There was savings in budgeted fund utilization by the Department of Posts in some of the modernisation programmes.

(b) During review of the Budget performance of Department of Posts by P&T Audit for 1995-2000 shortfall in budgeted fund utilization to the extent of 24.6% and non-achievement of physical target in respect of some modernisation projects to the extent of 19% were observed. The reasons for shortfall, inter-alia include procedural delays and changed allocation due to revision of target.

IID Centres in Tamil Nadu

487. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of IID centres developed in Tamil Nadu under the Integrated Industrial Development Scheme;

(b) the location of such centers;

(c) whether Tamil Nadu Government has requested the Union Government to develop some more IID centers in the State particularly in Rural and backward areas; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Central Government has sanctioned five Integrated Infrastructural Development (IID) Centres in Tamil Nadu located at Urangampathy in District Madurai, Kittampalayam in District Coimbatore, Thirumudivakkam in District Kanchipuram, Kattur Avadi in District Chennai MGR and Vichoor in District Thiruvellore. Out of these five IID Centres, four are at various stages of implementation. The development work in IID Centre at Kittampalam in District Coimbatore is yet to commence.

(c) The IID Centres are sanctioned by the Government on the basis of the proposals of the State Governments/Union Territories. No further request to set up IID Centres has been received from the Government of Tamil Nadu.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections in Jammu and Kashmir

488. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the position of waiting list for telephone connections in major towns, district headquarters and rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir as on April 30, 2002;

(b) the details of new telephone connections provided during each of the last three years alongwith the amount spent thereon;

(c) the details of major achievements in the telecommunications sector alongwith the total funds provided during the last two years for Jammu and Kashmir; and

(d) the details of new schemes approved under consideration of the Government for Jammu and Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The waiting list position on 30-04-2002 is as under:

Name of Town/DHQ	Waiting list
Srinagar	6956
Jammu	488
Baramulla	888
Anantnag	1222
Sopore	1427
Kupwara	330
Pulwama	826
Badgam	331
Kathua	121
Udhampur	394
Doda	06
Rajouri	Nil
Poonchh	68
Leh	154
Kargil	108
Total	13319

The total Waiting List in Urban and Rural areas is 23661 and 16788 respectively.

(b) The details of new telephone connections provided during each of the last three years alongwith amount spent is given below:

Year	DELs provided	Amount spent
1999-2000	22,158 Nos.	Rs. 110.18 Crores
2000-2001	43,512 Nos.	Rs. 87.39 Crores
2001-2002	49,278 Nos.	Rs. 175.56 Crores
Total	1,14,948 Nos.	Rs. 373.13 Crores

(c) The details of major achievements in the telecommunication sector alongwith the total funds provided during the last two years for Jammu and Kashmir is as under:

Major Achievement in Telecom. Sector	2000-2001	2001-2002
New Switching Capacity addition	62655 lines	47000 lines
New Exchanges	15 Nos.	18 Nos.
MCPC, V-SATs Commissioned	12 Nos.	15 Nos.
Optical Fibre Cable (OFC)	119 RKm	236 RKm
Microwave	395 RKm	336 RKm
Funds allotted	87.39 Crores	175.56 Crores

(d) Under the development plan for the year 2002-2003 for the State of J&K, following capacity will be added to the existing ones:

(i) Net Switching Capacity	:	47,800 Lines
(ii) DELs to be provided		48,000 Nos.
(iii) New Exchanges		10 Nos.
(iv) Optical Fibre Cable (OFC)	:	700 Route Kms.
(v) Microwave		300 Route Kms.

In addition, Udhampur-Srinagar Optical Fibre Cable Project will be commissioned during this period.

Expansion of Postal Services in Rural Areas

489. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any action plan for modernisation and expansion of postal services in urban and rural areas of Maharashtra, especially in Marathvada and Jalana, during the year 2002-2003; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and funds allocated so far for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has formulated an action plan for modernisation and expansion of Postal Services in urban and rural areas of Maharashtra which includes Marathwada and Jalana.

So far as Expansion of Postal Network in Maharashtra, is concerned the targets allotted are indicated below:

	Maharashtra	Aurangabad Region including Marathwada and Jalana
Opening of BO	30	8
Opening of DSO	5	1
Opening of PSSK	150	40
Infrastructural equipment to EDBO	100	20

Under Annual Plan 2002-2003, the Department plans to modernize and network 16 post offices in the Maharashtra Postal Circle.

[English]

Transfer of Senior Bureaucrats

490. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "senior bureaucrats want out of Gujarat, many go on leave" appearing in the *Times of India* dated May 29, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The matter reported in the news-item relates to posting of IAS officers of Gujarat cadre within and outside the State and grant of leave etc. to such officers. The posting of IAS officers in the State and grant of leave to them is within the purview of the State Government. However, posting of IAS officers in the Government of India is made on deputation basis at various levels under the Central Staffing Scheme, as each State Cadre has a Central Deputation Reserve.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Post and Telegraph Facilities to Panchayats

491. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Gram Panchayats in West Bengal where post and telegraph facilities are not available, district-wise;

(b) the number of panchayats in which communications services and telegraph offices opened by the Government during the last two years in West Bengal, district-wise; and

(c) the details of time-bound programme prepared by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) The postal facility of daily delivery and collection of mail and sale of postal stamps and stationery is available in all the Gram Panchayats in West Bengal.

(b) During 2000-2001, no post office was opened in any Panchayat in West Bengal. During 2001-2002, post offices were opened in 49 Panchayats. The details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) The target of opening 39 Branch Post Offices has been fixed for West Bengal for the current financial year. However, opening of Branch Post Offices is subject to the fulfillment of prescribed norms and availability of requisite resources.

The information relating to Telegraph Offices is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

District-wise number of Panchayats where New Post Offices Opened during the year 2001-2002

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Number of Post Offices opened
1.	Murshidabad	8
2.	24 Parganas (North)	2
3.	24 Parganas (South)	1
4.	Nadia	2
5.	Birbhum	2
6.	Bankura	5
7.	Purulia	5
8.	Midnapore (East)	2
9.	Midnapore (West)	3
10.	Burdwan	2
11.	Hooghly	1
12.	Howrah	1
13.	Malda	6
14.	Dakshin Dinajpur	3
15.	Coochbehar	2
16.	Jalpaiguri	3
17.	Darjeeling	1
	Total	49

Dredging Operation at Kolkata Port

492. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the dredging operation at the Kolkata Port Trust is not being done as per the procedure laid down;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have failed to improve the targeted navigation channels; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Dredging operation at Kolkata Port is being done as per laid down procedure. However, suitable modifications are carried out on the basis of local conditions such as nature of the river bed, tidal flow pattern, re-shoaling factor, general weather condition, sea-state and proximity of the dumping ground etc. and the area to be dredged.

(c) Kolkata Port Trust has been able to achieve improvement in depths in the navigational channels most of the times. However, maintenance of depths at the desired level on sustained on the basis has not been possible.

(d) The main dredging activities of Kolkata Port are confined at Haldia Dock System which is about 133 Kms, upstream from the sea on the bank of Hugli River which is a very active any dynamic river. The river is susceptible to continuous morphological changes depending on seasons, upland discharge, hydraulic conditions of its distributaries and tributaries, dredging efforts and resiltation, bed movements resulting in resiltation of dredged areas as well as weather conditions etc. Thus, it has not been possible to achieve the targeted depths always or to maintain the same at the desired level. The Government has, therefore, approved a comprehensive River Regulatory Scheme which combines both dredging and river training work. It is expected that after completion of the scheme there will be depth improvement by one Meter in the navigational channel leading to Haldia.

[English]

Homeopathic Facilities

493. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that one CGHS Homoeopathic Physician and one Homoeopathic Pharmacist have been posted in Medical Centre, Parliament House Annexe, on Thursday only;

(b) the reasons for not providing this facility on daily basis; and

(c) the reasons for non-availability of homoeopathic medicines at the Homoeopathic Wing of CGHS in Parliament House Annexe?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) One Homoeopathic Physician and one Homoeo Pharmacist are deployed once a week to the CGHS Medical Centre, Parliament House Annexe.

The Lok Sabha Sectt. has been requested for providing additional space at the Medical Centre, PHA so that posting of Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic doctors can be done in such a way that they are available at the Medical Centre on all working days.

The beneficiaries are given urgently required medicines by the Homoeopathic doctor at the Medical Centre, PHA, and for routine prescriptions, the patients are required to collect the medicines from the CGHS Homoeopathic Unit at South Avenue, New Delhi.

Anti-Malaria Programme

494. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:
DR. JAYANTA RONGPI:
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

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

(a) the amount allocated and released by the Union Government to various States under the National Anti-Malaria Program, State-wise, year-wise for the last three years, till date;

(b) the details of the States, in whose case the Union Government has reduced the financial assistance drastically, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for this cut;

(d) the number of persons died due to Malaria in the current year;

(e) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has spent a sizeable amount on Non-salary and on purchase of medical equipments and the Central Government have not yet reimbursed 50 per cent of the amount so spent; and

(f) if so, 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) Statement showing the allocation and release of Central assistance to various States under the National Anti

Malaria Programme (NAMP) during the last 3 years is enclosed.

(b) and (c) Under NAMP no cut is imposed in the matter of allocation of Central assistance. The allocation of Central assistance under NAMP is made taking into account the technical requirements, availability of stock of materials with the State Governments at the end of financial year and availability of funds as per the budgetary outlay.

(d) 95 deaths have been reported from various States upto June, 2002 during the current year.

(e) and (f) According to the pattern of funding under the National Anti Malaria Programme (NAMP), the Government of Tamil Nadu is provided Central assistance in the from of insecticides, anti-malaria drugs, larvicides etc. The State Government is required to meet the operational cost and other incidental expenditure for implementation of the Programme.

Statement

State/UT wise Distribution of Allocation and Expenditure during 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 under NAMP

(Rs. in lakhs)

	States/UTs	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		Allocation	Exp.	Allocation	Exp.	Allocation	Exp.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	322.86	663.50	539.67	644.13	249.00	408.88
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	303.27	229.22	343.91	293.79	486.93	364.67
3.	Assam	2267.01	2616.73	5514.11	2657.86	1983.27	2377.47
4.	Bihar	481.35	578.66	383.07	83.20	357.37	525.94
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	570.71	620.62
6.	Goa	10.93	4.54	8.71	0.98	6.08	6.17
7.	Gujarat	489.04	349.95	399.34	211.24	92.70	115.63
8.	Haryana	259.03	160.95	197.22	78.35	18.43	18.42
9.	Himachal Pradesh	46.11	92.45	90.30	89.06	2.20	36.78
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	52.73	103.40	86.96	84.28	22.96	69.62
11.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	561.28	585.62
12.	Karnataka	602.66	229.29	352.68	233.36	291.34	369.55
13.	Kerala	117.72	49.63	84.35	75.92	39.24	42.78
14.	Madhya Pradesh	893.40	443.28	533.83	711.53	788.25	1090.25
15.	Maharashtra	282.97	181.15	289.41	286.74	468.50	518.50
16.	Manipur	403.05	219.53	520.37	235.72	358.91	275.28
17.	Meghalaya	306.70	212.27	337.64	303.58	381.41	290.37
18.	Mizoram	309.56	190.05	385.11	235.26	433.94	345.85
19.	Nagaland	240.83	308.33	290.38	278.91	346.91	368.08
20.	Orissa	329.67	436.17	280.43	547.64	557.34	824.12

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
21.	Punjab	288.96	148.45	230.77	148.31	49.38	94.09
22.	Rajasthan	1146.16	1075.71	786.12	286.86	397.56	788.45
23.	Sikkim	11.65	7.90	10.65	0.12	0.11	0.14
24.	Tamil Nadu	392.31	114.19	174.92	133.90	99.77	85.72
25.	Tripura	375.89	379.31	599.05	480.94	542.45	505.76
26.	Uttar Pradesh	622.18	527.80	591.15	544.11	540.44	637.44
27.	Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—	23.64	39.19
28.	West Bengal	296.26	501.99	354.86	454.44	464.88	701.72
29.	Delhi	75.40	20.10	90.97	100.45	97.57	89.57
30.	Pondicherry	10.32	11.28	22.03	13.56	13.43	8.30
31.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	116.46	111.28	208.13	231.75	226.84	220.78
32.	Chandigarh	47.25	34.55	50.00	44.81	41.06	35.51
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	25.94	34.85	40.03	18.12	40.67	40.67
34.	Daman & Diu	16.42	12.97	18.86	9.90	16.08	18.64
35.	Lakshadweep	5.81	5.82	10.98	5.57	6.35	5.29
	Total	11210.00	10055.84	13826.00	9524.39	10577.0	12525.87
	Kala-azar	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	999.98	1200.00	767.29
	Estt/Research/ Publicity	690.00	541.35	624.00	578.75	673.00	571.78
	EAC	12000.00	6064.95	10000.00	8125.89	10000.00	8113.38
	HDCP	100.00	—	50.00	—	50.00	—
	Grand Total	25000.00	17662.14	25500.00	19229.01	22500.00	21978.32

Race Course Horses

495. DR. (SHRIMATI) ANITA ARYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the race course horses are put under severe cruelty during race; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to curb this atrocity?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Some reports of Cruelty to racecourse horses have been received.

(b) The performing Animals Rules, 1973 had been notified to provide for registration of persons desirous of exhibiting or training performing animals. Besides Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001 were notified to provide for well being, and care of performing animals including equines, by way of specifying parameters for whip and shoeing. Subsequent amendments in above said Rules dated 8/1/2002 also require mandatory veterinary check after the race, and restrict the number of times a whip can be used in a race. Trained checkers have been appointed to supervise the condition of racing horses.

Forwarding a List of Criminals by Bangladesh

496. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bangladesh has forwarded a list of most wanted criminals who are suspected to have taken shelter in India;

(b) if so, this details thereof;

(c) whether the issue has strained the relations between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Bangladesh has forwarded a list of 15 Bangladeshi nationals wanted for crimes committed in Bangladesh and allegedly present in India. Additional details have been sought from Government of Bangladesh in order to facilitate their identification and apprehension. The Government of India is fully committed towards co-operating with Government of Bangladesh in apprehending criminal and anti-social elements.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Animal Birth Control Rules

497. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have notified the animal birth control rules with a view to control the stray dog population; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The rules provide for capturing of dogs by humane methods, treatment of sick dogs before sterilization, vaccination after sterilization, sound post-operative care, identification/marking or tattooing of sterilized dogs, their release in the areas from where they were captured. Some of the other key features of Rules are people's participation and involvement of voluntary organizations.

Role of SIDBI In North-Eastern States

498. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the role played by SIDBI to promote small scale industries in the North-Eastern States including Sikkim;

(b) the number of units set up/revived in small scale industry sector by SIDBI by providing loans during the last three years, year-wise/State-wise;

(c) whether there is any proposal to extend further its activities in these States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) extends financial assistance to small scale sector for new and existing projects and for modernization and diversification through direct and indirect finance schemes which are in operation on and all-India basis including the North-Eastern States including Sikkim.

(b) The assistance provided by the SIDBI in North-Eastern States including Sikkim during the last three years is given below:—

(Amount Rs. in crore)

State	1999-2000			2000-2001			2001-2002		
	No. of units	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Disbursed	No. of units	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Disbursed	No. of units	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Disbursed
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Arunachal Pradesh	191	1.46	1.48	213	1.67	1.67	270	2.13	2.13
Assam	1607	13.31	13.07	703	34.62	20.16	1170	23.35	19.36
Manipur	606	4.79	4.18	50	6.39	7.27	91	1.52	1.52

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Meghalaya	107	4.43	4.02	89	7.52	5.43	17	2.94	4.72
Mizoarm	90	1.06	1.00	81	1.90	1.51	44	1.04	0.81
Nagaland	1	1.48	1.48	189	3.80	2.82	390	2.53	2.47
Tripura	406	5.01	5.10	335	7.85	6.50	49	1.43	1.27
Sikkim	183	2.45	3.72	86	1.10	1.09	87	1.25	1.24
Total	3191	33.99	34.05	1746	64.85	46.45	2118	36.19	33.52

(c) and (d) SIDBI, has been continuously adopting new strategies to facilitate healthy growth to SSI sector. SIDBI would continue to take new initiative for the SSI sector and the new activities would cover the entire country including North-Eastern States and Sikkim.

[Translation]

Rebuilding Statues of Buddha

499. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Taiwan proposes to rebuild the statues of Buddha at Bamiyan destroyed during the Taliban regime in Afghanistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(c) whether the Union Government are considering to make their contribution in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Government has seen a press report stating that a Taiwanese NGO has offered funds for reconstruction of the two Bamiyan Buddha statues in Afghanistan.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Ambulance Service for Animals In Distress

500. SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced a Scheme for Provision of Ambulance Service for Animals in distress;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of Ambulances sanctioned during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The basic objective of the Scheme is to make available emergency ambulance services to animals in distress throughout the country by provision of appropriate assistance to competent governmental and non-governmental organizations working in the field. Under the scheme 90% of the cost is borne by the Central Government upto a maximum of Rs. 3.50 Lakhs.

(c) The number of ambulances sanctioned in last three years on a year-wise basis is as follows:

Sl. No.	Year	Number of Ambulances
1.	1999-2000	68
2.	2000-2001	28
3.	2001-2002	37

[Translation]

Branch Post Offices

501. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA:
YOGI ADTIYA NATH:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI BHIM DAHAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for opening of post offices in rural, tribal and backward areas; and

(b) the number of branch offices opened and upgraded in the country during the years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003, State-wise particularly in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and North Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) The criteria laid down for opening of post offices in rural, tribunal, desert and inaccessible areas are given in the Statement-I. There is no separate category of Backward areas.

(b) The number of branch offices opened and upgraded in the country during the years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003, State-wise including Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and North Eastern States is given in the Statement-II.

Statement I

Norms for Opening Post Offices

1. **Norms for opening Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices:**

1.1 *Population:*

(a) In Normal Areas:

3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO village)

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

1.2 *Distance:*

(a) In Normal Areas:

The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office will be 3 Kms.

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly Areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

1.3 *Anticipated Income:*

(a) In Normal Areas:

The minimum anticipated revenue will be $33^1/_3$% of the cost.

(c) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:

The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost of post office.

2. **Criteria for upgrading/opening Departmental Sub Post Offices:**

(a) In Rural Areas:

The minimum work-load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office, proposed to be upgraded, should be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss is Rs. 2400/- in Normal rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

Statement II

Branch Offices opened and upgraded during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003

Sl. No.	Circle	Number of Branch Offices opened		Number of Branch Offices Upgraded	
		2001-2002	2002-2003 (As on 30-6-2002)	2001-2002	2002-2003 (As on 30-6-2002)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	—	—	—
2.	Assam	35	—	2	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Bihar	38	—	—	—
4.	Chhattisgarh	25	—	1	—
5.	Delhi	2	—	—	—
6.	Gujarat	18	—	2	—
7.	Haryana	—	—	1	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5	—	—	—
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	13	—	—	—
10.	Jharkhand	—	—	1	—
11.	Karnataka	13	—	1	—
12.	Kerala	2	—	—	—
13.	M.P.	21	—	—	—
14.	Maharashtra	65	—	3	—
15.	North East:				
	Arunachal Pradesh	1	—	1	—
	Manipur	—	—	—	—
	Meghalaya	5	—	1	—
	Mizoram	4	—	—	—
	Nagaland	2	—	—	—
	Tripura	—	—	—	—
16.	Orissa	14	—	1	—
17.	Punjab	6	—	4	—
18.	Rajasthan	20	—	3	—
19.	Tamil Nadu	5	—	—	—
20.	Uttar Pradesh	38	—	1	—
21.	Uttaranchal	15	—	—	—
22.	West Bengal	51	—	2	—
	Sikkim (W.B. Circle)	3	—	—	—
	Total	404	—	24	—

[English]

ACP Scheme

502. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Assured Career Progression (ACP) scheme approved by the Fifth Pay Commission has been implemented for all categories, except for CGHS pharmacists;

(b) whether the pharmacists have demonstrated and submitted a memorandum to the Minister demanding its implementation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for the implementation of the ACP scheme for CGHS pharmacists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) No separate Memorandum has been submitted by the CGHS Pharmacists to the Hon'ble Minister for implementation of the ACP Scheme in their cadre. However, the All India CGHS Employees Association has submitted a Memorandum to the Director (CGHS) for implementation of their 22-point Charter of Demands which includes grant of ACP to the CGHS Allopathic Pharmacists. As some anomalous situation is prevailing in the promotional hierarchy for the grade of Allopathic Pharmacists in CGHS, the matter is being considered in consultation with the Department of Expenditure for rectifying the situation.

Closure of Alloy Steel Plants

503. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to close down Alloy Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Alloy Steel Plant has reduced its losses substantially during the year 2001-2002, although there has been increase in losses in regard to other Steel Plants under Steel Authority of India Limited; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) There is no proposal at present to close down Alloy Steel Plant (ASP).

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) The Financial performance of ASP vis-a-vis other steel plants of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) is given below.

Net Loss/Profit (Rs./Crs.)

	2000-2001	2001-02
Alloy Steel Plant	(-)184	(-)149
Bhilai Steel Plant	342	477
Durgapur Steel Plant	(-)236	(-)262
Rourkela Steel Plant	(-)445	(-)1036
Bokaro Steel Plant	49	(-)459
Salem Steel Plant	(-)155	(-)153
Visvesaraya Iron & Steel Plant	(-)68	(-)103

Indo-Iran Fight Against Terrorism

504. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Iran has agreed to cooperate in combating terrorism in the region and stressed on the need for early finalization of comprehensive UN convention to fight the menace;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken to further strengthen the relations between the two including business ties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) India and Iran share concerns on the menace of terrorism. The Tehran Declaration signed during Prime Minister's visit to Iran in April 2001 condemned terrorism in all its forms. The Declaration also condemned states that aid, abet and directly support international terrorism and extremism and called on the international community to intensify its efforts to combat terrorism. In the Declaration, India and Iran reiterated their resolve to work to strengthen the international consensus and legal regimes against terrorism, including early finalisation of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

During the recent visit of Mr. Hasan Roohani, Secretary, Supreme National Council of Iran, in June 2002, India and Iran denounced and condemned terrorism in all its forms and agreed to cooperate for combating international terrorism in the region. They reiterated their resolve to work to strengthen the international consensus and legal regimes against terrorism, emphasizing the need for early finalisation of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

(c) India and Iran have had close and regular interaction aimed at expansion and diversification of bilateral ties, including business ties. This has been achieved through high-level political exchanges, regular meetings of Joint Business Council between the two countries, and through the forum of the India-Iran Joint Commission. The 12th meeting of the Joint Commission was held in May 2002 which reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations in the fields of petroleum and natural gas, trade, industry, transport and communications, agriculture and rural development, culture, consular, science and technology and information. A meeting of Joint Business Council was also held on the occasion.

Committee on IT

505. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have set up an I.T. Committee in the country;

(b) if so, the main constituents of this Committee;

(c) the responsibilities entrusted to this Committee;

(d) the main suggestions and recommendations made by this Committee on the subject so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Information Technology set up an Advisory Committee on January 17, 2000. Subsequently when the new Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (CIT) was formed, the Advisory Committee has been reconstituted on January 7, 2002.

(b) The Committee is Chaired by Minister, CIT and has Secretary, Department of Information Technology (IT) and Secretary, Department of Telecom (DOT) as members. In addition, eminent professionals from the IT and Telecom Industry, are also members of the committee.

(c) The Advisory Committee has been entrusted with responsibility to assist the government in devising suitable strategy for making India the most preferred destination for investment in Communication and Information Technology sector, thereby accelerating socio-economic development, generating employment opportunities leading to accretion in the national wealth. The Committee shall suggest following measures for achieving the above said objectives:

(i) identification of specific thrust areas in emerging technologies for utilization of national resources towards building excellence in such areas through R and D efforts and human resource development;

(ii) devising policy measures and action plans for building a knowledge based information society through rapid development and spread of ICT applications in the areas of e-governance, e-commerce, distance education, building up digital libraries, facilitating Tele-medicine etc;

(iii) suggest measures for improving tele-density in rural areas;

(iv) suggest measures for delivering end to and bandwidth in the country with special emphasis on rural & disadvantaged areas;

(v) suggest measures for spreading internet connectivity and broad band connectivity to the last mile;

(vi) suggest measures to induct the latest technologies in telecom sector with the special aim of bringing down prices improving quality of services and making available quality and affordable telecommunication services, to the common man and people at large.

(d) and (e) Details of the suggestions and recommendations made by this Committee are given below:

1. Upgrading existing Regional Engineering Colleges to institutions of higher learning and excellence in Information Technology.
2. High Speed Data Communications Services for IT Enabled Services (ITES) by Department of Telecom.
3. Leveraging E-Governance to support growth of hardware and software industry.
4. World Class International Connectivity on fully owned private basis, for all Call Centers outsourced to Indian Companies.
5. Development of IT hardware sector, especially setting up of the Mega Fabs for manufacturing of ICs.
6. Leveraging strengths of Indian academic institutions like IITs, IIMs, etc. for Promoting India

as a preferred option for higher and contemporary studies for foreign nationals.

7. Simplification of various procedures such as registration under Apprentices Act/Factories Act, Customs bonding, Baggage rules for carrying laptops etc.

8. Technology development in Indian Languages.

9. Promoting Venture Capital on the lines of Mutual Fund industry so as to attract higher foreign direct investment.

10. Providing customs related services on 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days in a year basis, especially at the major stations.

Most of the suggestions/recommendations have been implemented and considered in Action Plans of the concerned Departments/Ministries.

Indus Waters Treaty

506. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has threatened to refer to International Arbitration the alleged violations of Indus Waters Treaty 1960 by India; and

(b) if so, the reactions of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) During the Permanent Indus Commission Meeting from May 28-June 1, 2002 in New Delhi, Pakistan took the position that it was not satisfied that the design of the Baglihar Plant project was in terms of Treaty provisions and was proposing to refer the matter to a Neutral expert.

(b) The project and any Pakistani objections are proposed to be discussed during the next meeting of Permanent Indus Commission.

Development of Inland Water Transport

507. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Inland Waterways Authority of India has constructed any jetties and wharves in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, location and cost of such wharves constructed or under construction in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether Government propose to encourage such developments along the rivers; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to encourage such developments for inland water transport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Techno-Economic Feasibility Study for development of Kakinada-Mercanum canal system consisting of Kakinada canal, Elluru canal, Commamuru canal and Buckingham canal in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Tamilnadu integrated with Godavari and Krishna rivers has been conducted which includes providing jetties at various location.

Further, for development of Inland Water Transport in States, loan assistance of 50% cost of the approved scheme can be availed of by the State Government on re-imbursement basis under Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

With a view to accelerating development of Inland Water Transport in the Country, an Inland Water Transport Policy which includes policy guidelines and fiscal incentives for encouraging private sector to participate in IWT sector has been approved by the Government.

Hepatitis-B

508. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that Hepatitis-B disease is spreading in the country at an alarming rate through articles of personal use such as tooth brushes, towel or even handkerchief as reported in the *Times of India*, dated June 14, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any plans to check the spread of this disease; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a)

to (d) Hepatitis-B spreads due to unsafe sex, unsafe blood transfusion, unsafe injections etc., and from mother to child. Hepatitis-B is preventable by ensuring safe blood transfusion, safe sex, safe injection practices etc. Vaccine for Hepatitis-B is also available. Following measures have been taken to prevent Hepatitis-B:-

- Guidelines have been issued for mandatory testing of blood in all blood banks.
- Promotion of safe sex under National AIDS Control Programme is advocated.
- Health awareness campaigns under National AIDS Control Programme are held.
- Guidelines have been issued to State Health Authorities for use of separate sterile syringes and needles for each injection.
- A pilot project to immunize children against Hepatitis-B in selected cities/districts has been launched under National Immunisation Programme.
- Central Government hospital personnel at high risk are being immunized against Hepatitis-B. State Governments have also been advised to take similar steps.

Funding of Militants

509. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been flow of funds from UK to terrorist outfits in Jammu and Kashmir as reported in the 'Indian Express' and the 'Hindustan Times' dated June 27, 2002 and June 10, 2002 respectively;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether the Government have taken up the matter with UK to check such funding to militants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the other steps the Government propose to take to in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. There are credible reports of continued fund raising in the UK by supporters of terrorist organizations operating in India under the garb of promoting humanitarian causes.

(c) and (d) The U.K. Government had been fully sensitized on this matter. The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has stated in Parliament that the "Police is investigating all credible allegations of fund raising for such groups and will take action when there is sufficient evidence to do so". Government will continue to pursue this matter at appropriate levels with the British authorities.

VPT by BSNL

510. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) have suffered heavy loss during the last three years in providing telephone services in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the BSNL has now asked the Department of Telecommunications to either pay for its non-viable operations or allow it to close down its rural operations system; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As BSNL was created w.e.f. 01-10-2000, the estimate of loss for the six months period upto 31-03-2001 and the year 2001-2002 is furnished below:

Year	Amount of Loss (Rs. in crores)
01-01-2000 to 31-03-2001	1,928
2001-2002	4,052

(c) Yes, Sir. BSNL has asked the government to cover the losses incurred in running the loss making rural network.

(d) With a view to ensure BSNL meets the rural telecom demands, Govt. has agreed to exempt BSNL from payment of the following:-

(i) Payment of dividend on preference equity of Rs. 7,500 crores or upto 31-03-2004 and on equity share capital of Rs. 5,000 crores upto 31-03-2002. The divided on equity for 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 shall be waived by 50% and 25% respectively.

(ii) License fee and spectrum charges shall be set off against reimbursement upto 31-8-2003 of losses incurred on account of rural telephony operations and other socially desirable projects, as decided by the Govt.

(iii) There will be a moratorium on repayment of principal and interest upto 31-03-2004 on Govt. loan of Rs. 7,500 crores which has been determined to be part of the capital structure of BSNL.

As against grant sought by BSNL, Govt. has agreed to provide an amount of Rs. 720 crores as Plan loan against un-viable services on account of Rural Telephony provided by BSNL during 2001-2002.

India's Software Exports

511. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Germany has become India's new software market;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Germany has also started introducing Green Cards to IT specialists which has created enthusiasm among IT firms in India;

(d) if so, whether software exports to Germany has improved;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of other countries to whom India is exporting the software?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) In the European market, Germany has always been an attractive software exports destination for India. The figures for Software services exports to Germany are as follows:-

Year	Exports
1998-99	Rs. 420.00 crore
1999-00	Rs. 687.66 crore
2000-01	Rs. 1080.86 crore

(c) Yes, Sir. Germany has launched a special Green Card Scheme for IT specialists. This has eased the process of doing business and enthused more companies to do business with Germany.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Details are given in (a) and (b).

(f) Details are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Major Destinations for Computer Software and related services exports (2001-02 vs 2000-01)

Value: Rs. Cr.

(US$ Min.)

Destination	2001-02		2000-01		Variation (%)	
	Value	% age of Sectoral Total	Value	% age of Sectoral Total	In Value terms	in % age Share terms
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
USA and Canada	23428.59 (4911.65)	64.19	17067.04 (3710.23)	62.06	37.27 (32.38)	3.43
Europe (EU Countries)	8555.48 (1793.60)	23.44	6125.11 (1331.55)	22.27	39.68 (34.70)	5.24
Japan, Korea and Other Far East Countries	1518.09 (318.26)	4.16	907.25 (197.23)	3.30	67.33 (61.37)	26.07

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Singapore, Hongkong and Other South Asian Countries	1467.19 (307.59)	4.02	1493.54 (324.68)	5.43	-1.76 -(5.27)	-25.90
Australia and Other Oceanic Countries	447.31 (93.78)	1.23	822.20 (178.74)	2.99	-45.60 -(47.53)	-59.01
Europe (Non EU Countries)	395.11 (82.83)	1.08	378.70 (82.33)	1.38	4.33 (0.61)	-21.39
Middle East Countries	327.18 (68.59)	0.90	440.36 (95.73)	1.60	-25.70 -(28.35)	-44.02
African Countries	250.40 (52.49)	0.69	224.34 (48.77)	0.82	11.62 (7.64)	-15.91
Russia and C.I.S. Countries	63.53 (13.32)	0.17	5.47 (1.19)	0.02	1061.43 (1020.03)	775.05
Latin America	47.11 (9.88)	0.13	35.99 (7.82)	0.13	30.90 (26.23)	-1.38
Total	36500.00 (7652.00)	100.00	27500.00 (5978.26)	100.00	32.73 (28.00)	
Average Exchange Rate 1 US$=	47.70		46.00			

[Translation]

Safety of Radio-Active Material

512. DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has cautioned India to remain vigilant regarding theft of radio-active material;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any concrete steps for the safety of the same keeping in the view the above said warning; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Irrespective of the above, a well established radiation protection framework exists in India and effective measures to control and monitor radioactive materials are in place. Department of Atomic Energy is also equipped to locate any stray or orphaned radioactive source and handle any emergency situation that may a rise therefrom.

Almaty Conference

513. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI A. NARENDRA:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister attended the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building

Measures in Asia (CICA) held in Almaty, Kazakhstan in the beginning of June this year;

(b) if so, the decisions taken therein for establishing peace and confidence building in Asia;

(c) the details of talks held by the Prime Minister with assembled leaders;

(d) whether any talks were held between India and Pak representatives on the sidelines of the said Conference;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof; and

(f) the extent to which the declaration on elimination of terrorism in all its forms reflected and accommodated the India's stand on terrorism and infiltration from across the border?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. In the course of his visit to Kazakhstan from June 2-5, PM took part in the Summit of Heads of States and Governments of CICA (Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia) on June 4.

(b) and (c) The Documents adopted at the Summit comprised the 'Almaty Act' and the 'CICA Declaration on Eliminating Terrorism and Promoting Dialogue among Civilizations'. These focus on Confidence Building Measures as instruments for conflict prevention, security and cooperation and the fight against terrorism.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Both the Almaty Act and the Declaration on Terrorism adequately reflect India's concerns related to terrorism. The text of the Almaty Act is unprecedented in its strong censure of separatism aided and abetted by external support. The Declaration on Terrorism unequivocally condemned terrorism, while clearly stating that "the fight against terrorism should be global, comprehensive and sustained, and not selective or discriminatory and should avoid using double standards".

[English]

Fight against Terrorism

514. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of countries with whom India has signed agreement(s) to combat terrorism;

(b) the efforts being made by them to check terrorism in their respective countries;

(c) whether extradition treaty with Spain has been signed in June, 2002; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Sir, the information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. India has signed the Extradition Treaty with Spain on 20th June, 2002. Both the countries are in the process of completing the legal formalities of its entry into force.

[Translation]

Illegal Construction on Government Land

515. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that illegal constructions are being undertaken at a large scale on the land of the Department of Telecommunications in Delhi and other States;

(b) if so, the number of cases that have come to the notice of the Government during the last three years, till date;

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) the time by which the said illegal construction would be removed; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent illegal construction on its land in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Four(4) sites have been reported during last three years.

(c) to (e) First Information Reports have been lodged in concerned Police Stations, to get the land vacated. Also, it has been decided to cover all the lands with boundary wall/fencing.

[English]

Joint Patrolling

516. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARASTE:
SHIR SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether at the Almaty Summit the Prime Minister had suggested for joint patrolling along the Line of Control in Kashmir;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Pakistan has been saying that it will stop infiltration on a permanent basis and that there should be some form of international monitoring to verify whether infiltration is continuing or not. The proposal for international monitors is neither practical nor possible.

If Pakistan is serious about implementing its commitment to stop infiltration and cross border terrorism and is desirous of providing the seriousness of its intentions, joint patrolling offers a possible mechanism for verifying Pakistan's seriousness to its stated commitment.

PM had thus offered the above proposal during the CICA Summit in Almaty.

Internet Facility in AP

517. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of cities provided with internet facilities in Andhra Pradesh during the year 2000-01 and also proposed to be provided up to 2002-2003, district-wise; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) had extended Internet facility to all cities including all District Headquarters in Andhra Pradesh by March, 2000 by setting up Internet nodes in 22 cities detailed in Statement-I. So the provisions in 2002-2003 does not arise. In addition Internet nodes have been opened by other Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in a number of cities in Andhra Pradesh. A list of these cities is given in the Statement-II enclosed.

Statement I

Name of the cities in Andhra Pradesh where Internet nodes have been set up by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited by March 2000

Sl. No.	Name of the City
1.	Adilabad
2.	Ananthapur
3.	Cuddapah
4.	Eluru
5.	Guntur
6.	Hyderabad
7.	Karim Nagar
8.	Kurnool
9.	Khammam
10.	Mehboob Nagar
11.	Nalgonda
12.	Nellore
13.	Nizamabad
14.	Ongole
15.	Rajamundry
16.	Sangareddy
17.	Srikakulam
18.	Tirupati
19.	Vijanagaram
20.	Vijayawada
21.	Visakhapatnam
22.	Warangal

Statement II

Name of cities in Andhra Pradesh where Internet nodes have been set up by ISPs other than BSNL. (as on 31.3.2002)

Sl. No.	Name of the City
1.	Adilabad
2.	Ananthapur
3.	Cuddapah
4.	Eluru
5.	Guntur
6.	Hyderabad
7.	Kakinada
8.	Karim Nagar
9.	Khammam
10.	Kunool
11.	Nellore
12.	Nizamabad
13.	Ongole
14.	Rajamundry
15.	Secunderabad
16.	Tanku
17.	Tirupati
18.	Vijayawada
19.	Visakhapatnam
20.	Warangal

Cadre Transfer of IAS Officers

518. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether cadre transfer are allowed to the home State of IAS officers by the Government;

(b) if so, the details of cases in which such cadre transfers have been allowed and also the cases in which such requests have been rejected, alongwith grounds for allowing/rejecting such transfers;

(c) details of cadre transfer cases to non home States on grounds other than marriage and North-East policy, with reasons for such transfers; and

(d) details of cadre transfer cases of couples to third States, where as per the policy cadre of one spouse could have been transferred to the cadre of the other spouse, with reasons for deviations from the policy, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) After the inception of the extent policy in 1995, no IAS officer has been allowed inter-cadre transfer to his/her home State.

(b) During the period from 1999 to 2001, 6 requests from IAS officers for inter-cadre transfers to home State were rejected as not covered under the policy.

(c) No inter-cadre transfer to an IAS officer has been allowed on a ground other than marriage to a member of All India Service or under the North-East policy during the period from 1999 to 2001.

(d) During the period from 1999 to 2001, three I.A.S. officers have been allowed inter-cadre transfers to third cadre. Inter-cadre transfer to a third cadre is allowed only when both the cadres refuse to accept the other spouse on transfer.

Dental Unit of R.M.L. Hospital

519. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that working of the Dental unit of Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital in New Delhi is deplorable;

(b) if so, whether the imported equipment of the unit is lying unused for want of proper maintenance;

(c) whether the maintenance of this unit has been entrusted to private parties and their service is not satisfactory;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether poor patients have to suffer on account of mal-functioning of the unit; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to improve this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No imported equipment is lying unused and all the imported equipments installed in the Dental OPD are functioning properly.

(c) The maintenance of equipments is given to the Private firms/authorized dealers under the Annual Maintenance Contract after observing the required codal formalities and the equipments are maintained satisfactorily by them.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Appropriate steps are taken as and when required for the smooth functioning of Dental OPD.

[Translation]

Grievance Centres

520. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

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

(a) whether any Grievance Centres have been set up to redress the patients' grievances regarding treatment in the Government hospitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of complaints received in the Government hospitals in Delhi during the last six months; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for redressal of the grievances of the patients and action taken against erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Contract System in Telephone Exchanges

521. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to re-introduce 'contract system' in telephone exchanges;

(b) if so, whether the Government are likely to suffer heavy losses in revenue due to it;

(c) whether the Government have considered all such aspects before taking a decision in this regard; and

(d) if so, the time by which the said proposal is likely to be implemented and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir. There is no contract system in Telephone Exchanges. They are commissioned by our own staff. Contract system has always been functioning for cable laying and was never discontinued, so there is no question about reintroducing the same.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Prisoners of War

522. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers and soldiers of Indian Armed Forces languishing in jails of Pakistan, Bangladesh and other countries as prisoners of war and the time of their imprisonment;

(b) the efforts made at different levels for their release;

(c) the number of officers and soldiers of Indian Armed Forces registered as missing and the time thereof together with the details of action taken at different levels to find out the missing officers and soldiers; and

(d) the assistance provided to India by International Redcross Society and other agencies in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) Sir, there are 54 Indian Defence Personnel believed to be in Pakistani jails missing since Indo-Pakistan war in 1971. Government has consistently taken up the issue

of release and repatriation of these missing defence personnel with the Government of Pakistan at all levels including at the level of Prime Minister. The Government of Pakistan has, however, never acknowledged their presence in its custody. Government would continue to take up the issue with Pakistan Government to secure the release and repatriation of missing Indian Defence Personnel. Assistance from third party was never sought by the Government in view of its policy to resolve all matters with Pakistan bilaterally.

Health Projects with the Assistance of Foreign Assistance

523. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:
SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:

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

(a) the number of projects being implemented with the foreign assistance in the field of health for the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the financial assistance received from foreign countries for the implementation of the said projects, till date;

(c) whether some health projects are still pending with the Union Government for approval and necessary action;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Hike in Postal Tariff

524. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have increased the postal tariff upto 100% w.e.f. June 1, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for this abnormal increase; and

(c) the additional revenue to be mopped up as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) The Government have increased the postal tariff in respect of seven postal services effective from June 1, 2002. The revised rates as also the percentage increase in rates are given in the Statement. The estimated deficit of the Department of Posts for the year 2001-2002 is about Rs. 1543 crores. The deficit of the Department is due to continuous increase in the cost of operations which are largely manual. While fulfilling the social obligation of providing affordable postal services it is imperative to have additional revenue through revision of rates, specially for services largely used by the more affluent sections of people.

(c) The expected additional revenue due to revision of these rates is Rs. 235.67 crores per annum.

Statement

The revised tariff and percentage increase of postal services effective from 1-6-2002

S. No.	Items	Existing Rate (Rs.)	Revised Rate (Rs.)	Percentage Increased
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Letter			
	For a weight not exceeding 20 gms	4.00	5.00	
	For every additional 20 gms or fraction thereof	4.00	5.00	25%

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Letter Card	2.00	2.50	25%
3.	Printed Postcard	3.00	6.00	100%
4.	Competition Postcard	5.00	10.00	100%
5.	Bank, pattern and sample packets			
	For the first 50 gms or fraction thereof	3.00	4.00	33.33%
	For every additional 50 gms or fraction thereof in excess of 50 gms	4.00	3.00	Decreased 25%
6.	Book packet containing periodicals			
	For the first 100 gms or fraction thereof	2.00	Rs. 2.00 for first 100 gms and part thereof	
	For every additional 100 gms or fraction thereof in excess of 100 gms	3.00	Rs. 3.00 for every additional 100 gms and part thereof	No change
	Value of periodical from Re. 1/- to Rs. 20/-		Rs. 4.00 for first 100 gms and part thereof Rs. 5.00 for every additional 100 gms and part thereof	100%
	Value of periodical from Rs. 21/- to Rs. 50/-			66.66%
	Value of periodical from Rs. 51/- and above		Rs. 8.00 for first 100 gms and part thereof	300%
			Rs. 9.00 for every additional 100 gms and part thereof	200%
7.	Parcel			
	For the first 500 gms or fraction thereof	16.00	19.00	18.75%
	For every additional 500 gms or fraction thereof in excess of 500 gms	15.00	16.00	6.66%

Visit of U.S. Delegations

525. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the past nine months a number of American officials and politicians have visited New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether this shows a definite improvement in Indo-U.S. relations, especially in the context of cooperation in fighting international terrorism; and

(c) if so, the details of these visits and the outcome of talks held with them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India and the United States have established a broad-based and high level of bilateral interaction in pursuit of the goal that Prime Minister and President Bush outlined in Washington D.C. in November 2001 of completing the process of qualitatively transforming India-U.S. relations. These exchanges have covered the entire spectrum of bilateral relations, including the shared commitment to combat international terrorism.

(c) High level U.S. visitors to India from the United States since October 2001 include Secretary of State Colin Powell; Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld; Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage; Administrator of the Environment Protection Agency Christine Whitman; Deputy Secretary of Treasury Kenneth Dam; Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Richard Myers; Counter-terrorism Coordinator Ambassador Francis Taylor; Under Secretary of Defence for Policy Douglas Feith; Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky; U.S. Presidential Envoy for Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad; Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs Christina Rocca; and, a number of other senior officials of the U.S. Administration.

These visits have strengthened India-U.S. relations and deepened mutual understanding and cooperation on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.

[Translation]

Building for Telephone Exchange

526. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places in Mandsaur, Neemuch and Ratlam in Madhya Pradesh where new buildings of telephone exchanges have been constructed;

(b) whether the work in these buildings has not started due to shortage of equipments; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which work in the new buildings is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The names of places in Mandsaur, Neemuch and Ratlam districts where new telephone exchange buildings have been constructed are as under:

Mandsaur District	-	Narayangarh
Neemuch District	-	Jeeran, Ratangarh
Ratlam District	-	Taal, Alote, Bajna, Ratlam (Kasturbanagar)

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Electronic Telephone Exchanges

527. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take any steps to increase the capacity of electronic telephone exchanges in Rajasthan; and

(b) the time by which the said increase is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to add an additional 2,41,200 capacity by the end of next financial year subject to availability of materials.

[English]

Ship Breaking Scrap

528. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing import of ship-breaking scrap into the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the flow of ship breaking scrap would have an adverse impact on the steel industries; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) The import of ship breaking scrap in to the country has not increased as would be seen from the Shipbreaking statistics for the last 4 years given below:

Year	LDT (in million tonnes)
1998-1999	3.368
1999-2000	3.063
2000-2001	2.205
2001-2002	2.900

(c) As re-rollable scrap obtained from ship breaking is a substitute to semis produced by the main producers, etc., the flow of Shipbreaking scrap affects the steel industries but to a limited extent.

(d) The Government has increased the basic custom duty on ships imported for breaking from 5% to 15% with exemption of CVD & SAD.

Creation of Employment Opportunities

529. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the jobs created by the organized sector in the country since its liberation from the licensing and controls over imports and foreign investment etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the achievements made so far in creation of employment opportunities annually during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the expectations in view of the existing position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Employment in the organized sector has increased from 26.73 million in 1991 to 28.11 million in 1999.

(c) Employment in the organized sector is about 8.34 per cent of total employment, of which the public sector accounts for 5.77 per cent and the private sector for 2.57 per cent. The scope of creation of new job opportunities in the public sector is limited while the share of the private sector is expected to increase marginally because of its comparatively low employment elasticity.

Length of Inland Waterways

530. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of Inland Waterways in the country;

(b) the length of Inland Waterways created during the Ninth Plan; and

(c) the details of projects undertaken/proposed to be undertaken for promoting inland waterways facilities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) India's navigable inland waterways extend to nearly 14,500 km out of which about 5700 km are suitable for mechanized crafts.

(b) No new national waterway was declared in the 9th Plan.

(c) The important projects include Annual River Conservancy Works including bandalling, dredging, channel marking, talweg survey, issue of river notices in National Waterway-1 and 2, annual maintenance dredging, day channel marking, issue of river notices on National Waterway-3, construction of permanent terminal at Gaighat, Patna on NW-1 and Pandu on National Waterway-2, terminals at 11 locations on NW-3, night navigation facilities on three National Waterways, requisition of dredger, survey launches, tugs, accommodation boats, acquisition of pontoons to be used as floating jetties for National Waterway-1 & 2, construction of National Institute of Inland Navigation at Patna etc.

[Translation]

Telephone Exchanges

531. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of rural telephone exchanges in Khiri (Lakhimpur) Uttar Pradesh is less than the required number;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of rural telephone exchanges functioning as on date in Khiri (Lakhimpur); and

(d) the number of applications pending for new telephone connection alongwith the time by which these would be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) No Sir. Does not arise.

(c) The total number of rural telephone exchanges functioning as on date in Khiri (Lakhimpur) is 71.

(d) 1437 applications are pending for new telephone connections and these would be cleared as early as possible.

[English]

Inland Water Transport

532. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the new initiative of the Government inland water transport is likely to complement the expensive and very strained surface transport;

(b) if so, the details of the new initiative; and

(c) the manner in which inland water transport is likely to improved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) With a view to giving an impetus to IWT sector and to encourage private sector participation in IWT infrastructure development and ownership and operation of inland vessels, the government has approved the IWT Policy wherein several policy measures and incentives to private sector have been included. To bring in more traffic in the Inland Water Transport mode, the Government has provided for tax exemption to investors. Rate of depreciation for all vessels operating in National Waterways has been fixed at 25% at par with ocean going vessels. Several projects for fairway improvement and river training work have been initiated and at present work is going on for construction of permanent terminal at vital Inland Water locations. To boost traffic, Government has introduced a Vessel Building Subsidy Scheme granting 30% subsidy for Inland Water Vessels built in Indian Shipyards.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Counter Service Programme

533. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts is carrying out the modernization work under the "counter service programme";

(b) if so, the State-wise targets fixed in this regard; and

(c) the details of work undertaken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the year 2002-2003 it is proposed to extend the service to 150 post offices under the plan "Computerization and networking of post offices". The proposed State-wise targets are contained in the Statement.

(c) So far 506 Head Post Offices and 1260 other departmental offices have been computerized.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of State	Post Offices
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12
2.	Assam	4
3.	Army Postal Service (Base Circle)	2
4.	Bihar	5
5.	Chhattisgarh	3
6.	Delhi	2
7.	Goa	1
8.	Gujarat	8
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2
10.	Haryana	3

1	2	3
11.	Jharkhand	3
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	3
13.	Karnataka	10
14.	Kerala	8
15.	Maharashtra	16
16.	Madhya Pradesh	5
17.	Meghalaya	2
18.	Orissa	8
19.	Punjab	3
20.	Rajasthan	8
21.	Sikkim	1
22.	Tamil Nadu	15
23.	Uttaranchal	3
24.	Uttar Pradesh	12
25.	West Bengal	11
	Total	150

[English]

Chinese Dredging Firms

534. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government for allowing Chinese dredging firms to participate in the tenders floated by the Government owned ports;

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

(c) if so, whether any final decision in this regard has been taken; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (d) The information sought by the Hon'ble Member cannot be divulged in public interest.

C-DoT Software Development Centres

535. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a C-DoT Software Development Centres in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and location-wise; and

(c) the time by which these centres are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Admission to Medical Colleges in India and Abroad

536. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether internship was not compulsory for the 1969-91 batches (that is till 1997 when MCI was sending students to Soviet Union under scholarship scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the circumstances that have compelled MCI to impose Rotary Internship during 1998;

(d) whether upto 2001 there was no screening test for sending students to Soviet Union; and

(e) if so, the reasons for introducing Screening test during 2002 and the retrospective effect on Medical Indian student from Russia and CIS countries who joined courses in 1996-97 to 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Internship has been compulsory in respect of all students. In the initial stages when students were sponsored for under-graduate medical education in medical institutions in the erstwhile U.S.S.R., internship was permitted during the 6th year of the clinical course whereby 9 months of internship was done in India and after obtaining the degree from the Soviet medical institutions a further period of 3 months internship was to be done by the students before grant of permanent

registration. Later as it was observed that the clinical course in erstwhile U.S.S.R. institutions was of 6 years duration, it was decided that students after obtaining MD degree from those institutions shall undergo one year internship in India provided they have completed one year preparatory and 6 years clinical training before obtaining such MD degree.

(d) and (e) The amendment to the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 for holding Screening Test was made in September, 2001 and effect to this amendment was given by the relevant regulations which have come into effect from 15th March, 2002 whereby students obtaining foreign medical qualifications and returning to India after 15th March, 2002 or who have already come to India and have applied to MCI on or after 15th March, 2001 for provisional registration to do the one year internship in India have to appear in the Screening test either for provisional registration or permanent registration, as the case may be. No retrospective effect has been given to the regulations but only students who are yet to obtain either provisional or permanent certificate, as the case may be, after obtaining foreign medical qualification are required to sit for the Screening test. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in their judgement dated 8th March, 2002, while allowing certain relaxations for registration of Indian citizens who have obtained medical degrees from abroad and had returned to India prior to 15th March, 2001, have taken note of the amendment to the IMC Act and have approved the effect of the regulations from 15th March, 2002 in respect of all other students.

Vallarpadam Container Terminal Project

537. SHRI T. GOVINDAN:
SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for development of Vallarpadam International Container Transshipment is pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be cleared by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Cochin Port Trust has sent a proposal for development of International Container Transshipment Terminal at Vallarpadam. The proposal is under examination. A decision on the proposal will be taken in due course.

[Translation]

Telephone Facilities in Bihar

538. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Bihar provided with Telephone and STD facilities, district-wise;

(b) the number of villages yet to be provided with these facilities;

(c) the date by which all these facilities will be provided in all villages of Bihar; and

(d) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) 37,051 villages have already been provided with telecom facility in Bihar as on date. District-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement. STD facility is available in all the exchanges and can be provided to customers custodians of VPTs on demand by them.

(b) to (d) All the remaining 1,424 uncovered villages are likely to be provided with telecom facility by December 2002 subject to availability of custodians for Village Public Telephones (VPTs).

Statement

Number of Villages in Bihar provided with Telephone

Name of District	No. of Villages with Telephones
1	2
Buxer	808
Bhojpur	988
West Champaran	1335
Banka	1518
Bhagalpur	998
Chhapra	1555
Gopalganj	1371

1	2
Siwan	1428
Darbhanga	1063
Madhubani	1029
Arwal	383
Aurangabad	1654
Jahanabad	421
Gaya	2464
Nawada	475
Vaishali	1400
Katihar	1184
Araria	598
Purnia	1028
Kishenganj	712
Khagaria	241
Begusarai	686
East Champaran	1275
Munger	504
Jamui	1240
Lakhisarai	344
Sheikhpura	224
Muzaffarpur	1702
Sheohar	177
Sitamarhi	771
Patna	1284
Nalanda	999
Saharsa	430
Supaul	502
Madhepura	366
Samastipur	1061
Sasaram	1652
Bhabhua	1181
Grand Total	37051

[English]

Drastic Reforms for 10 Million Jobs

539. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Planning Commission panel has recommended drastic reforms in the areas of marketing, training and credit in non-corporate and agriculture sector to fulfil Prime Minister's directive of creating 10 million extra jobs annually in 10 years;

(b) if so, the details of the reforms; and

(c) the action taken/being taken in pursuance thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) A Task Force on Employment Opportunities, set up by the Planning Commission, gave detailed recommendations in the area of marketing, training, etc. for creation of 10 million additional jobs annually in the next 10 years. The copy of the report is available in the Parliament Library.

(c) The recommendations of the Task Force were made in a medium term perspective of ten years and covered a wide range of policy reforms to be undertaken. These recommendations have subsequently been examined by a Special Group (Special Group on Targeting Ten Million Employment Opportunities per year over the Tenth Plan period) set up to suggest strategies which would deliver results within the Tenth Plan period. The Report of the Special Group has been forwarded to Central Ministries/Departments and State Governments for consideration.

Trauma Centres

540. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open trauma centres in all Government Hospitals in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the name of the hospitals which have trauma centres and number of neuro Surgeons in each of these hospitals to manage patients with head injuries; and

(d) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to augment the strength of neuro surgeons in such hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, have no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As on date, no separate trauma centres are available in Central Government Hospitals in Delhi viz. Safdarjung Hospital and Dr. R.M.L. Hospital. However, Safdarjung Hospital and Dr. R.M.L. Hospital are well equipped to provide the accident and emergency services including the trauma cases. The number of neuro-surgeons in Safdarjung Hospital and Dr. R.M.L. Hospital are as under:-

Safdarjung Hospital	=	4
Dr. RML Hospital	=	4

(d) Of the above 8 posts, three are filled on ad-hoc basis. Requisition to fill up these posts on regular basis has been sent to Union Public Service Commission. The UPSC has advertised these posts.

Act on Data Protection

541. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring out an Act on the Data Protection with regard to Information Technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (b) An Expert Committee has been set up to evolve suitable legislation for Data Protection in the country. Its Report is expected to be finalized by September/October, 2002.

Health Services In Rural/Urban Areas

542. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a considerable disparity between the health services available to rural and urban areas in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to bridge the disparity and make more health services available to rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Govt. is aware of deficiencies in the availability of Health Services in the Rural and Remote areas of the country.

(b) Health Care Institutions in rural areas are set up as well as managed by State Governments. Accordingly States are now being advised to improve availability of health services in rural areas. Additionally Central Government is also taking steps to help State Governments improve the functioning of these Centres, in various ways, as outlined below:

(i) Under the State Health Systems Project, Community Health Centres and District Hospitals in some States are being upgraded and equipped to provide quality health services to people in rural and backward areas.

(ii) Under the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana/ Basic Minimum Services Programme, funds are being released for repair and renovation of the public health infrastructure, purchasing of drugs and for essential consumables, and contingencies etc. for improvement of quality of care.

(iii) Area Development Projects are being implemented with financial assistance for strengthening of health and family welfare infrastructure and delivery system.

(iv) Under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme, the following steps are being taken to strengthen the primary health care institutions,

- Provision of equipment/medicines/vaccines for Health and Family Welfare Programmes of the First Referral Unit, PHC and sub-centre level.

- Major Civil Works for repair/construction of OT/Labour Room/upgrading of water and electric supply.
- Financial assistance for contractual/ appointments/hiring of Anesthetists/ Gynaecologists/Safe Motherhood consultants/ staff Nurses/Lab technician/Additional ANMs etc.
- Skill based in-service training for capacity building of ANMs and other health functionaries.

(v) Schemes for optimising access to health care services in rural areas through Reproductive and Child Health Camps, Outreach Services Scheme and many programmes like New Born Care Programme, Dai Training Programme etc.

CGHS Dispensaries in Karnataka

543. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has requested to set up C.G.H.S. dispensaries in major cities in view of very less number of CGHS units;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, whether the Government have initiated any steps to establish new dispensaries in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No request from the Govt. of Karnataka has been received in this regard by the CGHS Headquarters.

(b) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

(c) Bangalore is the only city in Karnataka State where CGHS facilities are available at present.

Due to constraints of resources and manpower, it will not be possible to open more CGHS dispensaries in the State of Karnataka at present.

Meeting of WHO at Geneva

544. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has participated in recently concluded meeting of WHO at Geneva;

(b) if so, the main outcome of the meeting;

(c) whether the Government propose to make amendments in New Delhi Policy keeping in view the recommendations made by WHO:

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. India had participated in the fifty-fifth World Health Assembly held in May 2002 in Geneva. Indian delegation was led by the Minister of Health and Family Welfare. After receipt of the proceedings of the fifty-fifth World Health Assembly, necessary action will be initiated.

Performance of Steel Plants

545. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the physical and financial performances of each of the steel plants under SAIL during each of the three years with targets and achievements;

(b) the programmes being planned during Tenth Plan Period to make each of them profit making-among of investment planned for each of them;

(c) whether downsizing of man power has been acknowledged as sine qua non for revamping of Steel Plants;

(d) the number of employees retrenched under VRS or other-wise till date in each plant;

(e) whether money was spent for modernization of Rourkela Steel Plant some time past; and

(f) if so, the details of amount and the items on which money was spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) The physical and financial performance of each of the steel Plants under Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) during the last three years are as under:

Physical Performance:

Saleable Steel' 000T

Plant	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
BSP	3270	3410.6	3500	3307.2	3450	3382.3
DSP	1532	1402.0	1520	1495.8	1510	1527.1
RSP	1238	1170.3	1490	1294.4	1450	1353.7
BSL	3210	3246.2	3430	3312.7	3310	3200.1
ASP	70	83.2	90	78.6	85	84.4
SSP	120	148.4	120	129.3	105	62.5
VISP	60	69.1	65	85.0	90	86.7
SAIL	9500	9530	10215	9703	10000	9697

Financial performance:

Rs. Crs.

Plant/Unit	Net Profit (+)/Loss(-) 1999-2000		Net Profit (+)/Loss(-) 2000-2001		Net Profit (+)/Loss(-) 2001-2002(Prov.)	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
BSP	+155	+92	+198	+342	+301	+477
DSP	-414	-651	-430	-236	-272	-262
RSP	-577	-704	-439	-445	-258	-1036
BSL	+165	+120	+258	+49	+338	-459
ASP	-63	-260	-59	-184	-89	-149
SSP	-151	-142	-110	-155	-122	-153
VISP	-33	-91	-38	-68	-26	-103
Other Central Units/Offices	+118	-84	-80	-32	-22	-22
SAIL	-800	-1720	-700	-729	-150	-1707

(b) The total investment planned by SAIL during Tenth Plan Period is Rs. 5000 crores, which they will be raising on their own. The Unit-wise break-up is as under:

Unit	Rs./Crores
BSP	1340
DSP	786
RSP	924
BSL	1543
Others	407
Total	5000

This investment, along with concentration on core business of making carbon steel will improve the profitability of the company.

(c) and (d) SAIL has not resorted to retrenchment of employees. Plant-wise details of employees separated under VRS during the last three years is given below:

Plants/Units	1999-2000	2001-2002
1	2	3
BSP	3397	1354
DSP	3184	413

1	2	3
RSP	2619	1251
BSL	1233	1611
ASP	1529	410
SSP	61	69
RMD	1004	1000
CMO	470	203
RDCIS	37	104
CET	16	30
MTI	8	21
CO	59	44
Total	13617	6510

*There was no Voluntary Retirement Scheme during 2000-2001.

(e) and (f) Rs. 3964.03 crores has been spent on the modernization of Rourkela Steel Plant. Some of the major projects taken up under modernization scheme were Sinter Plant-II, BOF Shop, Continuous Casting Shop in SMS-I and II and modifications of Plate Mill and Hot Strip Mill.

[Translation]

Lapse by Technician

546. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: 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 appeared in the "Rashtriya Sahara" dated June 4, 2002 under the caption 'Nashe mein dhut technician ne oxygen roki, derh darjan bachche maut ke munh mein jate-jate bache";

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to stop recurrence of such incidents in hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. According to the information received from Lady Hardinge Medical College and Associated Hospitals, immediately on detection of disruption in oxygen supply for around 4-5 minutes in Kalawati Saran Children's Hospital on 2.6.2002, in the early hours (2.30 am), the oxygen cylinders available in Wards/Units were made operational to prevent any casualties. The disruption occurred due to negligence of the pipeline operator on duty who was found in an inebriated condition. He was immediately placed under suspension. Besides, preliminary enquiry conducted by the Hospital Authorities has found him prima facie guilty resulting in departmental enquiry against him.

(c) The LHMC and Associated Hospitals have informed that to stop recurrence of such incidents, spare oxygen cylinders available in their specialized areas like ICU, Wards etc. are made operational in the event of any such incidents. Besides, a Chief Medical Officer has been deputed to monitor the functioning of the Manifold Room and to conduct surprise checks at regular intervals.

[English]

Treatment of Cancer, Hearth and Kindey

547. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that the number of cancer, heart and kidney patients are growing up in the country day by day;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide the latest equipments in the Central and State Government hospitals for their specialized treatment;

(c) whether these treatment are very expensive for poor and middle class people;

(d) if so, whether Government have any plans to ensure that these patients will be given treatment at normal costs at various hospitals/institute in Delhi; 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 National Cancer Registry Programme data available with ICMR, there is a small but insignificant increase in the number of cancer patients. However, no data on heart and kidney patients are centrally maintained.

(b) Health is a State subject. However, for treatment of patients of cancer, heart and kidney the facilities are

available in the Government Hospitals/Medical Colleges. This Ministry had launched a Pilot project on cardio-vascular Disease/Stroke for prevention, awareness, early detection and treatment of cardio-vascular diseases. This project has since been merged with the activities of All India Institute of Medical Sciences for its effective implementation and monitoring.

Adequate facilities are available in the secondary and tertiary care hospitals in the Government and private sector for early detection and treatment of kidney related diseases all over the country.

In addition under the National Cancer Control Programme this Ministry is implementing the following schemes for which the expenditure incurred during the last five years is given in the Statement enclosed.

1. Development of Oncology wing in Government Medical Colleges/Hospitals.
2. Setting up of Cobalt Theraphy Unit.
3. Recognition of Regional Cancer Centres.

(c) to (e) The treatment facilities for these diseases are available in Central and State Government Hospitals for poor patients at nominal charges.

In addition to above this Ministry has a scheme namely National Illness Assistance Fund under which financial assistance is provided to poor people suffering from serious diseases such as Cancer, Cardiac problems, and Renal disorders which require treatment in a super-speciality hospital and involves heavy expenditure normally beyond the means of a large number of people who are living below the poverty line.

Statement

		1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
1.	Development of Oncology Wing.	4.76	7.79	9.59	8.70	18.15
2.	Cobalt Scheme	5.00	3.20	7.37	11.62	11.14
3.	Recognition of RCCs	9.60	18.13	16.06	27.00	11.32

Shortage of Staff In Post Offices

548. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Postal Department in Gujarat has been facing shortage of staff in various post offices for a long time;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the required staff is likely to be posted there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) Gujarat Circle of the Department of Posts has normal shortage of staff due to vacancis arising out of retirement, resignations etc. of officials.

(c) Recruitment action to fill up vacancies is an ongoing exercise. Recruitment by promotion is in progress and these vacancies will be filled up in due course. In regard to direct recruitment, Department of Personnel and Training in their OM No. 2/8/2001-PIC dated 16.5.2001 has directed that direct recruitment vacancies can be filled up after the approval of Screening Committee to the extent of 1/3rd of direct recruitment vacancies arising in the year subject to further ceiling that this does not exceed 1% of the total sanctioned strength of the Department. The Screening Committee has already cleared direct recruitment vacancies for this Department for the years 2000 and 2001. The recruitment action is in progress and direct recruitment vacancies as cleared by the Screening Committee will be filled up in due course.

UPSC

549. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 540 dated August 29, 2001 and to state:

(a) whether the Eight Member Expert Committee under the chairmanship of Prof. Y.K. Alagh has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has accepted the recommendations of the Committee; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) The salient recommendations of the Committee pertain to the areas of eligibility parameters of candidates appearing for Civil Services Examination, schemes of Preliminary and Main Examinations, Personality Testing, allocation of Services and post-induction issues of training and management of services. The recommendations of the Committee received by the Government are under examination.

Shortfall in Telecom Production

550. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was shortfall in production in telecom factory, Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details of target fixed and achievement made during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to increase the production level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

The details of target fixed and achievement made in respect of major products during the last three years are under:-

Year	Target (In Rs. Cr.)	Achievement (In Rs. Cr.)
1999-2000	80.00	72.27
2000-2001	90.00	79.63
2001-2002	76.00	72.14

(c) Telecom Factories are in-house production units of BSNL producing only low technology items. In view of competition faced by BSNL from private operators and the need to modernize and use the latest technology, demand for the factory products is going down. BSNL is exploring the feasibility of taking up new product lines and in this area it has already been decided to take up manufacturing of optical fibre accessories during the current year.

Cellular and WLL Network by MTNL

551. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) propose to expand its Cellular and Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) network in Delhi and Mumbai;

(b) if so, the number of lines available in Cellular and WLL networks;

(c) the time by which the number of more lies proposed to be added;

(d) the estimated cost involved and whether Government propose to reduce the tariff for these two services; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The existing capacities are as under:-

	New Delhi	Mumbai
GSM (Global System Mobile)	1 lakh	1 lakh
WLL (Wireless in Local Loop)	50,000	50,000

(c) The additional capacities proposed to be added and the time by which they are likely to be added are as follows:-

	New Delhi	Mumbai
GSM	1.25 lakh By Dec., 02	1.25 lakh By Dec., 02
WLL	1 lakh by Feb., 03	1 lakh by Feb., 03

(d) and (e) The estimated cost involved in providing the additional capacities will be as mentioned below:-

	New Delhi	Mumbai
GSM	46.4 crore	56.2 core
WLL	85 crore	95 crore

Rentals have already been reduced as per Telecom Regulatory Authority of India directives for WLL service from Rs. 450 per month to Rs. 200 per month (plus Rs. 50 for handset). For cellular service there is no proposal, at the moment, to change the tariff.

[Translation]

Speed Passport Service

552. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'Speed Passport Service' has failed in Delhi and also its launch elsewhere has been delayed; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) No, Sir. The scheme of collecting passport application forms at designated Speed Post Centres was launched with effect from March 5, 2001. In Delhi, six post offices have been accepting passport application forms.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Unani CGHS

553. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that "local purchase" system is adopted in CGHS Dispensaries/Units of all systems of medicines in Delhi/New Delhi except in Unani System of Medicines;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which this system is likely to be introduced for CGHS Unani Dispensaries/Units in Delhi/ New Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The system of Local Purchase of medicines in Unani System has been introduced under CGHS Delhi with effect from 18.4.2002.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, the questions do not arise.

Horses and Mules Used in Hill Stations

554. DR. (SHRIMATI) ANITA ARYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that horses and mules used in Hill Stations for tourism are misused by their owners; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes Madam. Reports are received regarding the misuse of horses and mules used in hill stations for tourism from time to time.

(b) District administrations and local bodies take appropriate action in these cases.

Child Health Care Programme

555. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated by the Union Government to each State under the Child Health Care Programme during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether the funds allocated during the period have been fully utilized by them;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Statement I showing the State-wise and year-wise details of funds released during the last three years under RCH Programme is attached. The amount includes releases for Child Health also. Child Health Care activities are part of the Reproductive and Child Health Programme. No separate releases are made specifically for the Child Health Care activities.

(b) to (d) Out of total cash grants available to the States about 46% of funds were utilized, as detailed in

Statement-II. The reasons for less utilization are (i) delay in operationalisation of few schemes such as RCH camps, Dai Training, Strengthening of Outreach; (ii) slow pace of activities in States like Bihar, Rajasthan, Orissa, Tripura, Meghalaya, Tamilnadu etc. (iii) elaborate procurement procedures leading to difficulty in hiring of staff and completion of procurement and relatively weak monitoring and supervision by States. Besides, intensification of PPI (Pulse Polio Immunization) activities has diverted some attention from the other RCH activities during this period.

Officers and Consultants are being deputed by the Government of India to explain the features of the schemes besides providing clarifications and guidelines. Implementation procedures have been streamlined and decentralized. Joint reviews have been held in larger States like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, North Eastern States etc. to apprise field personnel about the schemes. The States have been provided with funds to conduct review meetings of their district officials to enable them to explain and guide the districts in the RCH Scheme. Regular review of States' performance is also being undertaken nationally and guidance provided.

Statement I

RCH Programme-Details of Cash and Kind Allocations (Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	1999-2000			2000-01			2001-02			Grand Total
		Kind	Cash	Total	Kind	Cash	Total	Kind	Cash	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2280.24	1961.98	4242.22	2488.26	1662.15	4150.41	2555.30	2026.72	4582.02	12974.65
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	98.79	155.24	254.03	121.45	175.72	297.16	154.98	135.26	290.24	841.43
3.	Assam	1297.92	727.83	2025.75	1632.12	474.86	2106.98	1308.94	1222.93	2531.87	6664.60
4.	Bihar	4704.37	1385.88	6090.25	5469.56	2711.64	8181.20	4867.76	1676.45	6544.21	20815.67
5.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	37.00	37.00	0.00	449.35	449.35	486.35
6.	Goa	43.71	41.11	84.82	107.67	10.40	118.07	45.66	22.08	67.74	270.62
7.	Gujarat	1805.25	726.28	2531.53	2260.26	983.39	3243.65	1936.03	7438.20	9374.23	15149.41
8.	Haryana	691.63	895.38	1587.01	1028.44	1664.30	2692.74	880.23	1222.35	2102.58	6382.33
9.	Himachal Pradesh	216.87	312.48	529.35	327.66	427.02	754.68	289.97	278.97	568.94	1852.97
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	388.82	346.54	735.36	466.42	555.39	1021.81	442.00	321.30	763.30	2520.47
11.	Karnataka	1587.55	537.58	2125.13	2077.70	1671.15	3748.85	2055.00	1186.39	3241.39	9115.36
12.	Kerala	908.23	764.87	1673.10	1301.07	1217.74	2518.81	907.88	770.43	1678.31	5870.22
13.	Madhya Pradesh	3633.27	1836.42	5469.69	3708.37	3553.34	7261.71	2656.67	1295.96	3952.63	16684.04
14.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	314.10	314.10	0.00	844.07	844.07	1158.17
15.	Maharashtra	3273.53	1403.87	4677.40	3464.77	1256.71	4721.48	3331.47	1931.91	5263.38	14662.26
16.	Manipur	138.44	500.98	639.42	95.08	421.71	516.79	194.66	660.86	855.52	2011.73
17.	Meghalaya	148.52	107.84	256.36	125.79	65.64	191.43	193.93	128.28	322.21	770.00
18.	Mizoram	43.53	563.80	607.33	55.75	729.58	785.33	67.31	722.99	790.30	2182.96

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
19.	Nagaland	96.48	145.78	242.26	77.58	146.96	224.54	133.01	116.51	249.52	716.32
20.	Orissa	1387.12	1132.50	2519.62	1205.60	1524.79	2730.39	1655.66	1871.10	3526.76	8776.77
21.	Punjab	861.70	426.26	1287.96	852.84	686.25	1539.09	928.38	616.63	1545.01	4372.06
22.	Rajasthan	2537.67	1255.65	3793.32	2877.31	2313.58	5190.89	2532.43	2959.83	5492.26	14476.47
23.	Sikkim	48.34	49.78	98.12	31.29	43.07	74.36	58.36	57.30	115.66	288.14
24.	Tamilnadu	1563.99	1475.36	3039.35	1095.89	2373.39	3469.28	2002.78	540.00	2452.78	9051.41
25.	Tripura	151.71	255.43	407.14	176.34	166.18	342.52	192.67	450.28	642.95	1392.61
26.	Uttar Pradesh	7558.30	3990.12	11548.42	8595.57	4654.45	13250.02	9567.68	7234.00	16801.68	41600.12
27.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	208.59	208.59	0.00	409.98	409.98	618.57
28.	West Bengal	2576.80	1455.89	4032.69	2459.93	2073.46	4533.39	3118.51	1931.32	5049.83	13615.91
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	25.52	33.57	59.09	18.29	31.04	49.33	18.02	35.62	53.64	162.06
30.	Chandigarh	21.38	43.07	64.45	38.37	117.61	155.98	26.81	23.20	50.01	270.44
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	10.43	26.43	36.86	11.41	3.88	15.29	13.15	11.02	24.17	76.32
32.	Daman & Diu	8.35	32.05	40.40	5.44	4.87	10.31	8.18	8.61	16.79	67.50
33.	Delhi	354.68	127.31	481.99	458.10	311.22	769.32	367.17	297.60	664.77	1916.08
34.	Lakshadweep	6.81	28.72	35.53	3.90	21.44	25.34	10.56	9.87	20.43	81.30
35.	Pondicherry	25.36	49.28	74.64	28.43	21.79	50.22	29.13	21.58	50.71	175.56
	Total	38495.31	22795.27	61290.58	42666.66	32634.40	75301.06	42550.29	38928.95	81479.24	218070.88

Figures Provisional

Statement II

RCH Programme-Funds Utilisation Status

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Name of the State/UT	Balance from previous years	Releases during 99-02	Availability of funds	Expenditure	Exp. As % of availability
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	1184.02	5650.86	6834.88	3560.25	52.09%
Arunachal Pradesh	356.85	466.21	823.06	551.72	67.03%
Assam	441.27	2425.62	2866.89	1418.18	49.47%
Bihar	1057.53	5773.98	6831.51	2626.10	38.44%

1	2	3	4	5	6
Jharkhand	0.00	486.35	486.35	0.00	0.00%
Goa	64.35	73.59	137.94	83.01	60.18%
Gujarat	1412.14	9147.86	10560.00	2009.68	19.03%
Haryana	957.98	3782.03	4740.01	2506.37	52.88%
Himachal Pradesh	540.01	1018.47	1558.48	837.71	53.75%
Jammu and Kashmir	342.40	1223.22	1565.62	756.91	48.35%
Karnataka	878.04	3395.11	4273.16	2709.28	63.40%
Kerala	999.23	2753.04	3752.27	1905.09	50.77%
Madhya Pradesh	1695.14	6685.72	8380.87	3722.70	44.42%
Chhattisgarh	0.00	1158.17	1158.17	0.00	0.00%
Maharashtra	523.83	4592.49	5116.32	1853.80	36.23%
Manipur	118.83	1583.55	1702.38	576.98	33.89%
Meghalaya	184.98	301.77	486.75	222.87	45.79%
Mizoram	146.23	2016.37	2162.60	1806.28	83.52%
Nagaland	106.34	409.25	515.59	432.24	83.83%
Orissa	746.12	4528.39	5274.51	1433.49	27.18%
Punjab	552.15	1729.14	2281.29	1198.30	52.53%
Rajasthan	1415.00	6529.06	7944.06	2945.13	37.07%
Sikkim	60.26	150.15	210.42	104.64	49.73%
Tamilnadu	744.21	4388.75	5132.96	1833.99	35.73%
Tripura	181.74	871.89	1053.63	543.80	51.61%
Uttar Pradesh	4056.49	15878.57	19935.06	13037.20	65.40%
Uttaranchal	0.00	618.57	618.57	0.00	0.00%
West Bengal	696.25	5460.67	6156.93	3600.38	58.48%
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	43.25	100.23	143.48	86.75	60.46%
Chandigarh	27.49	183.88	211.37	54.33	25.71%
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	25.98	41.33	67.31	32.73	48.63%
Daman & Diu	41.27	45.53	86.80	26.41	30.43%
Delhi	195.22	736.13	931.35	243.24	26.12%
Lakshadweep	41.76	60.03	101.79	36.21	35.57%
Pondicherry	82.94	92.64	175.58	108.61	61.86%
Total	19919.30	94358.62	114277.92	52864.40	46.26%

Figures Provisional

[Translation]

Sale of Uranium by Russia

556. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether America has protested the sale of uranium fuel by Russia for atomic power plants of India as reported in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated June 9, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure supply of uranium fuel to atomic power plants of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Government have seen reports about protests to Russia USA within the ambit of the Nuclear Suppliers' Group, of which both are members, about Russia's supply of uranium fuel to India. However, there has been no protest made to the Government of India.

(c) Government has made adequate arrangements for supply of nuclear fuel for the nuclear power plants in India.

[English]

Gross Domestic Products

557. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed any target for growth rate of Gross Domestic Products (GDP) in all the States during Ninth and Tenth Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have compiled the actual data in regard to the GDP growth rate in all the States during the Ninth Plan;

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

(e) whether the growth rate was as per the target;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps being taken by the Government to achieve the target of growth rate of GDP in Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The target growth rate of Gross Domestic Products (GDP) for the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) was fixed at 6.5% per year on average for the country as a whole. Growth target was not fixed State wise. The Approach Paper to the Tenth Five Year Plan envisages an annual average growth target of 8% for the nation. A commitment has also been made to break up the growth target State wise. The Tenth Five Year Plan is under preparation.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The State wise growth rates of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at constant 1993-94 prices realised during 1996-97 to 1999-2000 estimated on the basis of the latest available data, are given in the Statement.

(e) and (f) No comparison can be made of the achieved growth rate in State vis-a-vis the target, since target was not fixed.

(g) The Tenth Five Year Plan is yet to be finalised.

Statement

Growth rate of GSDP at constant (1993-94) prices

Sl. No.	State/U.T.	1996-97 to 1999-2000
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4.4%
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5.1%
3.	Assam	2.5%
4.	Bihar	5.0%
5.	Goa	NA
6.	Gujarat	2.3%
7.	Haryana	4.6%
8.	Himachal Pradesh	6.5%
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	5.5%

1	2	3
10.	Karnataka	8.2%
11.	Kerala	5.5%
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4.6%
13.	Maharashtra	5.1%
14.	Manipur	6.8%
15.	Meghalaya	6.3%
16.	Mizoram	NA
17.	Nagaland	NA
18.	Orissa	6.3%
19.	Punjab	4.7%
20.	Rajasthan	3.7%
21.	Sikkim	9.6%
22.	Tamilnadu	7.2%
23.	Tripura	8.4%
24.	Uttaranchal	4.2%
25.	West Bengal	7.6%
26.	A and N Islands	NA
27.	Chandigarh	10.8%
28.	Delhi	10.5%
29.	Pondicherry	15.3%
	All India GDP	5.8%

Medical Institutes Experiments on Animals

558. SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of medical institutes in Uttar Pradesh which are carrying medical research experiments on animals with the strength of their own animal houses;

(b) whether the well-being and checking of these animals are being ensured; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) As per the information available, there are eight Medical Institutes in Uttar Pradesh. Out of these eight institutes, animal house is available in four institutes.

(b) and (c) The well being of animals in the animal houses is overseen by the Medical College authorities and the Medical Education Department of State Governments concerned and by Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAECs) formed by Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA).

Functioning of CGHS Dispensaries

559. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been complaints of unsatisfactory functioning of CGHS dispensaries in Delhi and the nexus between the chemists and the dispensary employees in the procurement of medicines for the beneficiaries; and

(b) if so, the details of the complaints and action taken, if any by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Complaints have been received against the functioning of CGHS dispensaries in Delhi. In some cases, replies have been sent and the cases closed. However, in some cases, the complaints are under various stages of examination and as and when a final decision is taken, necessary follow-up action and the complainant duly informed.

Pak's Commitment

560. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the statement made by the Pakistani President that he did not promise to close terrorist camps and to stop infiltration from across the Line of Control;

(b) if so, whether the Government have consulted the countries who had conveyed the promise of Pakistani President to India;

(c) if so, the reaction of these countries thereto; and

(d) the diplomatic efforts being made by the Government to meet the situation arising out of the shifting stand of Pakistan on the above issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) On June 22, 2002 Pakistan President General Musharraf during his interview to the Newsweek, tried to backtrack on his commitment to stop cross border infiltration on a permanent basis. He claimed that he gave no assurance that 'for years nothing will happen' across the LoC or that he made any commitment on closing the terrorist camps.

(b) and (c) Consequently, US State Department Spokesman unambiguously clarified that, contrary to what was reported in the Newsweek interview General Musharraf has indeed given the assurance to Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage on stopping cross border infiltration on a permanent basis. It was also stated that General Musharraf had reiterated his commitments of putting an end to cross border infiltration on a permanent basis, to President George Bush, Secretary of State Colin Powell during their conversations. The UK also rebutted the claims made by General Musharraf in his interview.

(d) Government are firmly resolved to continue taking all necessary measures to defeat Pakistan's sponsorship of cross border terrorism in India.

[Translation]

Spurious Drugs

561. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI RAMCHANRDA PASWAN:
SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that spurious drugs are being sold by chemists and clinics in most of the States of the country;

(b) if so, the details of raids conducted and the quantity of spurious drugs seized from them during the last three years, till date, State-wise; and

(c) the 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. Reports have been received of manufacture and trading of spurious drugs in some parts of the country.

(b) As per the feedback received from State Licensing Authorities, a statement indicating names of the chemists/ manufacturers against whom action has been taken by the Licensing Authorities for selling drugs not of standard quality drugs is given in statement-I whereas details of spurious drugs unearthed together with persons apprehended for manufacturing and trading of spurious drugs during the period 2000-01 and 1.4.2001 to 26.11.2001 is given in the statement-II.

(c) Since manufacture and sale of spurious drugs is mainly a clandestine activity, State Drug Control Organisations who are responsible to enforce the provisions of Drug and Cosmetic Act, 1940 and Rule made thereunder have been advised to adopt following guidelines:-

(a) It has been recommended to set up/reactivate State Drugs Advisory Committee in which all stakeholders are partners. (b) Establishment of separate intelligence-cum-legal machinery with police assistance. (c) Speedy analysis of drug samples (d) To undertake surveillance of suspected dealers. (e) To obtain cooperation of pharmaceutical industries (f) To collect survey samples under National Survey Quality Evaluation of Drugs (NSQED) Programme.

2. Central Government have taken steps to augment the drugs testing facilities of State laboratories. This includes strengthening the infrastructural facilities and improving the information system through computer networking which project is under implementation.

3. Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has specifically taken up the issue of combating the menace of manufacturers and sale of spurious, adulterated and counterfeit drugs in the meeting of Central Council of Health and Family Welfare on 12-13 July, 2001. It was resolved that special attention is required to be given to monitor illegal activities by special intelligence cell in the respective Drugs in seeking cooperation of pharma industry, the trade, as well as the police.

4. Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of DGHS to examine the extent of problem and suggest remedial measures. Committee report has been submitted this month.

Statement I

Names of the chemists/manufacturers against whom action has been taken by the licensing authorities for selling not of standard quality drugs infringing Drugs and Cosmetic Rules for the period 1999-2000 and 2000-2001

Name of State	S. No.	Name of Chemist	Name of manufacturer	Action taken
1	2	3	4	5
Karnataka	1.	1) Shri Kashinath, Prop. and Qualified Person of M/s Shivaleela Medical and General Stores, Bagdal, Bidar Distt.	M/s Blession Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals, Vijaywada A.P.	Prosecution launched.
	2.	2) Dr. K.K. Chandappa, (Managing Director, and Sri K.H. Dhananjaya i/C of M/s Vishwabharathi Nursing, Home, Hanumantha Nagar, Bangalore	M/s Lyovak Labs, 26, Jaffrbhoy Indl. Estate, Bombay-59. M/s Oxford Lab, Nidamanure M/s E-Merk(I) Ltd, Dr. Anne Besant Road, Worli, Bombay-18	Prosecution launched.
Goa	3.	—	1, Smith Stanistreet Pharmaceuticals Ltd., 618 Convent Road, Kolkata	Prosecution launched.
	4.	—	2 Bright Drug Industries Ltd, 45-A, Sector F, Sanwar Road, Indore 452003.	Prosecution launched.
	5.	—	3, Osho Pharma Pvt Ltd, Ahmedabad, Gujarat	Prosecution launched.
Andhra Pradesh	6.	M/s Ganesh Medical Agencies, Tirupati and its partners and M/s Omkar Medical, Vijayawada and its partners	M/s Korten Pharmaceuticals, Thane	Charge Sheet filed on 30.12.2000
		M/s Omkar Medical, Vijayawada and its partners and and M/s Ganesh Medical Agencies, Tirupati M/s Ganesh Medical Agencies, Tirupati	M/s Korten Pharmaceuticals Thane	Prosecution ordered on 30.08.2000.
	7.	(i) M/s Sairam Medical Agnecies, Hyderabad (ii) M/s Sriramajaneya, Medical Agencies, Narasaraopet (iii) M/s Vinayaka Medical Agencies, Ongole,	M/s Synbiotics Ltd, Baroda	Charge Sheet filed on 16.05.2000

1	2	3	4	5
	(iv)	M/s Maruti Medical and Fancy Stores, Addanki		
	(v)	M/s Medi Aids Pharma Distributors, Malakpeta, Hyderabad	M/s Synbiotics Ltd, Baroda	Charge Sheet filed on 30.12.2000
8.	(i)	M/s Renuka Medical Corporation, Chirala	M/s Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, Hydreabad	Prosecution order issued.
	(ii)	M/s Sree Enterprises, Guntur		
	(iii)	M/s Sun Rise Pharma, Guntur		
	(iv)	M/s Sree Balaji Pharma Distributors, Secunderabad		
	(v)	M/s Prasad Medicals, Chirala		
	(vi)	M/s Ram Medicals, Tenali		
	(vii)	M/s Vigneswara Medical Agencies, Guntur		
	(viii)	M/s Ch. Ganadisetty Medical Stores, Chirala		
	(ix)	M/s Sri Devi Distributors, Tenali		
9.	(i)	M/s Sai Ram Medical Agencies, Inderbagh, Hyderabad and 03 others	M/s Glaxo India Ltd, by M/s Capsulation Services Ltd, Mumbai	Charge sheet filed
	(ii)	M/s Sai Sarath Pharma, Vijayawada		
10.		M/s Srinivasa Medical Agencies, Tenali	M/s German Remedies, Mumbai	Prosecution order issued
		M/s Srivasavi Pharma Distributors, Hindpur and its partners.	-Do-	-Do-
	(i)	M/s Sri Sivashakti Pharma, Hyderabad	-Do-	-Do-
	(ii)	M/s Citizen Pharma Distributors, Ongole		

1	2	3	4	5
		(iii) M/s Ragavandra Medical Agencies, Vijayawada		
		(iv) M/s Hari Kiran Medical Agencies, Nandyal		
		(v) M/s Bhagwan Medicals, Cuddapah		
		(vi) M/s Giriraj Textiles, New Delhi		
	11.	M/s Praven Agencies, Inderbagh, Hyderabad	M/s Smith Kline Beecham Asia Pvt Ltd., Mysore	Charge Sheet filed
		M/s Sai Agencies, Afzalgunj, Hyderabad	-Do-	Prosecution order issued
	12.	Sri Rakesh Sharma, Jambagh, Hyderabad	M/s Cadila Health Care Ltd, Ahmedabad	Charge sheet filed
	13.	(i) M/s Bhavya Medical Agencies, Ongole	M/s Kare Labs Pvt Ltd, Goa	Prosecution order issued.
		(ii) M/s Sri Rakakrishna Medical Agencies, Tenali		
		(iii) M/s Sanjeevani Medicines, Narasaraopet		
		(iv) M/s Sai Med Systems, Vishakhapatnam		
		(v) M/s Harika Medical Agencies, Ongole		
		(vi) M/s Adilakshmi Medical Agencies, Guntur		
	14.	M/s Venkateshwara Medical Syndicate, Bhimavaram	M/s Oscar Pharmaceuticals Pvt Ltd, New Delhi	Charge sheet filed
	15.	M/s Venkateshwara Medical Corporation Tanuku & M/s Nava Jyothi Medical Hall Tanuku	M/s Oscar Pharmaceuticals Pvt Ltd, New Delhi	Charge sheet filed
	16.	M/s Teja Medical Agencies, Vijayawada	M/s S.P. Pharma, Hyderabad	Charge sheet filed
	17.	M/s Om Sri Sai Ram Medical Agencies Narasaraopet	M/s Aristo Pharmaceuticals Ltd, M.P.	Charge sheet filed
	18.	(i) Vishnu Priya Medical Corporation, Ongole	M/s Biddle Sawyer Ltd, Mumbai	Prosecution order issued

1	2	3	4	5
	(ii)	M/s Vamsee Pharmaceuticals Narasaraopet		
	(iii)	M/s Sivakameswan Medical Agencies, Narasaraopet		
	(iv)	M/s Vijaya Lakshmi Medical Agencies, Narasaraopet		
19.		M/s Sri Medical and General Stores, West Marredpally, Sec'bad	M/s Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd. Dewas, M.P.	Prosecution order issued
20.		M/s Sri Medical and General Stores, West Marredpally, Sec'bad	M/s Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Ltd, Hyderabad	Prosecution order issued
	(i)	M/s Subash Pharma, Hyderabad	M/s Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Ltd, Hyderabad	Prosecution order issued
	(ii)	M/s Balaji Medical Corporation, Sec'bad		
	(iii)	M/s Sun Rise Pharma, Guntur		
21.		M/s Gupta Pharma Distributors, Hyderabad	M/s Martin and Harris Laboratories Ltd, Gurgaon, Haryana	Charge sheet filed
22.		M/s Sri Venkateshwara Medical and General Stores, Makhtal, Mahboobnagar, and 02 partners	M/s Hoeschst Roussel Vet Pvt Ltd, Mumbai	Charge sheet filed
		M/s Prakash Medical Agencies, Nellore	M/s Hoeschst Roussel Vet Pvt Ltd, Mumbai	Charge sheet filed
23.		M/s SVR Medical Agencies, Karimnagar	M/s Win Medicare, Modi Puram	Charge sheet filed
24.		M/s SVR Medical Agencies, Karimnagar	M/s Cadila Health Care Ltd, Ahmedabad	Charge sheet filed
25.		M/s Laxmi Medical Distributors, Vijayawada	M/s Hicks Pharma, Vijayawada	Charge sheet filed
26.		M/s Ahalya Medical and General Stores, Maachilipatanam	M/s Mahaveer Laboratories, Hyderabad	Charge sheet filed

1	2	3	4	5
	27.	M/s Sri Subba Guru Yogendra Bottles and Pharmaceuticals, Vijayawada	M/s AMK Pharmaceuticals Laboratories, Cuttack	Charge sheet filed
	28.	M/s Laxmi VenkataRamana Medical and Fancy Stores, Narasaraopet	M/s Brufin Laboratories, Gujarat	Charge sheet filed
Himachal Pradesh	29.	M/s Thakur Medical Stores, Pahar Mandi, H.P.	M/s Sanjivani Parentrals, Navi Mumbai	Prosecution launched
	30.	M/s Aman Medical Stores, Bilaspur H.P.	M/s Torque Pharmaceuticals Pvt Ltd, Patiala, Punjab	Prosecution launched
	31.	M/s Noble Traders, Mandi, H.P.	M/s Axen Labs Pvt Ltd, Nasrela, Punjab	Prosecution launched
	32.	M/s Gupta Medical Store, Rewalsar, Mandi H.P.	M/s Dueful Labs Pvt Ltd, Jaipur, Rajasthan	Prosecution launched
	33.	M/s Chaudhary Medical Store, Gohar, Mandi H.P.	M/s Viva Labs Pvt Ltd, Kalol, Mehsana, Gujarat	Prosecution launched
	34.	M/s Themis Chemicals Vapi, Gujarat	M/s Him Medical Store, Manali, Kullu, H.P.	Prosecution launched
	35.	M/s Kim Pharma Pvt. Ltd, Ambala Cantt (Haryana)	M/s Chaudhary Medical Store, Kullu, H.P.	Prosecution launched
Haryana	36.	Sh. Sunil Kumar, Bhiwani	M/s Medicura, Bhiwani	Prosecution launched
	37.	Sh. Sunil Kumar, Bhiwani	M/s Ives Drugs India, Dhar (M.P)	Prosecution launched
	38.	Sh. Partap Singh, Haryana Medical Store, Matloda, Panipat	M/s Pan Pharma, Gujarat	Prosecution launched
	39.	Sh. Partap Singh, Haryana Medical Store, Matloda, Panipat	M/s Bio-Kem Labs, New Delhi	Prosecution launched
	40.	Sh. Partap Singh, Haryana Medical Store, Matloda, Panipat	M/s Excel Pharmaceuticals Pvt Ltd, Thane (MS)	Prosecution launched
	41.	Dr. Jile Singh, Hisar	Not lebelled	Prosecution launched
Delhi	42.	M/s Raj Medicos, Bhagirath Place, Delhi	M/s Nutek Laboratories, Bhiwadi	Prosecution launched
	43.	M/s Kamaldeep, Bhagirath Place, Delhi	M/s Crystal Pharmaceuticals, Ambala	Prosecution launched
	44.	M/s Royal Pharma, Bhagirath Place, Delhi	M/s Gene Pharma, Delhi	Permission to manufacurer the drug withdrawn

1	2	3	4	5
	45.	M/s Narula Medicos, Madangir, New Delhi	M/s IJ Pharmaceuticals Pvt Ltd, Jaunapur, New Delhi	Manufacturing permission suspended for one month
	46.	M/s Shree Medical Store, Navin Shahdara, Delhi	M/s Alpha Pharmaceuticals, Faridabad	Manufacturing permission suspended for two months by DC Haryana
	47.	M/s Modern Agencies, Bhagirath Place, Delhi	M/s U.K. Pharma, Shahdara, Delhi	Manufacturing permission cancelled
	48.	M/s Naveen International, Paharganj, New Delhi	M/s Unisule Pvt Ltd, Indl Area, Sonepat	Prosecution launched
	49.	M/s Akay Agencies, Bhagirath Place, Delhi	M/s Glynene Pharmaceuticals, Chandigarh	Mfg permission withdrawn by DC Chandigarh
	50.	M/s Durga Medical Store, Inder Puri, New Delhi	Purported to be mfd by M/s Elder Pharmaceuticals Ltd, New Bombay	Prosecution launched
	51.	M/s Modern Agencies, Sarojini Nagar, New Delhi	M/s Bali Research Pharma, Delhi	Mfg firm warned
	52.	M/s Super Bazar, Connaught Place, New Delhi	M/s Alpine Industries, New Delhi	Mfg permission cancelled
Gujarat	53.	M/s J.P. Enterprises, Ahmedabad	M/s Hindustan Medicines Product, Barouni	Prosecution launched
	54.	M/s J.P. Pharma, Ahmedabad	M/s Hindustan Medicines Product, Barouni	Prosecution launched
	55.	M/s Ashok Chemist, Badodara	M/s Shalman Pharmaceuticals Pvt Ltd, Vadodara	Prosecution launched
	56.	M/s Bharuch Medical Agency, Bharuch	M/s Hindustan Medicines Product, Barouni	Prosecution launched
	57.	M/s J.P. Enterprises, Ahmedabad	M/s Hindustan Medicines Product, Barouni	Prosecution launched
	58.	M/s J.P. Pharma, Ahmedabad	M/s Hindustan Medicines Prcduct, Barouni	Prosecution launched
	59.	M/s Mahavir Medical Stores, Vesma, Navasari	M/s Royal Pharmacy, Gandevi, Navasari	Prosecution launched
	60.	M/s Maruti Medical Corpn, Bhavnagar	M/s Cliffton Laboratories Pvt Ltd, Vasai, Dist Thane	Prosecution launched
	61.	M/s Patel Drugs House, Bhavnagar	M/s Cliffton Laboratories Pvt Ltd, Vasai, Dist Thane	Prosecution launched
	62.	M/s Ramnath Medical Agency, Ahmedabad	M/s Cliffton Laboratories Pvt Ltd, Vasai, Dist Thane	Prosecution launched
	63.	M/s Bharat Medical Supply Co, Mumbai	M/s Cliffton Laboratories Pvt Ltd, Vasai, Dist Thane	Prosecution launched

1	2	3	4	5
	64.	M/s shriji Medical Stores, Godhara, Bhavnagar	M/s AKR Pharmaceuticals, Barouni	Prosecution launched
	65.	M/s JP Enterprises, Ahmedabad	M/s Rathi Laboratories (Hindustan) Pvt Ltd, Patna	Prosecution launched
	66.	M/s VORA Medical, Vyara	M/s Pilco Pharma Pvt Ltd, Kanpur	Prosecution launched
	67.	M/s Padmavati Pharma Supply, Ahmedabad	M/s Rathi Laboratories (Hindustan) Pvt Ltd, Patna	Prosecution launched
Jammu and Kashmir	68.	M/s Universal Trading Corpn, Jama Masjid, Srinagar	M/s Biomedica Int, Bthadia, Punjab	Prosecution launched
	69.	M/s Jawa Enterprises, Srinagar	M/s Asian Surgicals Droning Corpn, Kanth, Moradabad	Prosecution launched
	70.	M/s Zahoor Enterprises, Baramulla	M/s Signit Lab Pvt Ltd, 212, Aggarnagar, Ludhiana	Prosecution launched
	71.	Pulwama Hospital	M/s Core Healthcare, Rajpora, Gujarat	Prosecution launched
	72.	M/s S.D. Hospital, Kupwara	M/s Paam Pharmaceuticals, A- 37/1, Indl Area, Sikanderabad, U.P.	Prosecution launched
	73.	Govt. Hospital Gandhi Nagar, Jammu	M/s Associated Pharma Works Kirti Nagar, New Delhi	Prosecution launched
	74.	Shri Madan Lal r/o Hiranagar Dist Kathua	—	Prosecution launched
	75.	M/s Sharma Medical Hall, Jourian, Jammu	M/s Medicare Behind Hichem, Bhiwani	Case is being processed for launching prosecution
Punjab	76.	Name of person not stated	M/s Medicura Behind Hichem Bhiwani	Prosecution launched
	77.	M/s JP Hospital, Hoshiarpur (Pb)	Name of manufacturer not stated	Prosecution launched
	78.	Sh. Taranjit Singh s/o Piara Singh & Sh. Satinder Singh s/o Sh. Wassan Singh, Villagar Meeta Suriya, Gurdaspur (Pb)	Name of manufacturer not stated	Prosecution launched Prosecution launched Prosecution launched
	79.	Name of person not stated	M/s Gold Star Pharmaceuticals Pvt Ltd, Vill, Dagru, I Ferozpur Road, Moga	Prosecution launched Prosecution launched
	80.	Dr. K.N. Sharma s/o Sh. Suraj Bhan, owner of Sharma Nursing Home, Kakkarwal Chowk, Dhuri Distt Sangrur	Name of manufacturer not stated	Prosecution launched

1	2	3	4	5
	81.	Sh. Ram Gopal s/o Sh. Hukam Chand, Pro. Gopal Clinic Opp. PHC Dhanaula, Sangrur	Name of manufacturer not stated	Prosecution launched
	82.	Name of person not stated	M/s Ventex Pharmaceuticals (I), Patiala	Prosecution launched
	83.	M/s Delhi Medical Store, Dilkhusha market, Jalandhar	Name of manufacturer not stated	Prosecution launched
	84.	M/s Devendra Medical Hall, Bhbhichi Het Ram, Patiala	Name of manufacturer not stated	Prosecution launched
	85.	M/s Shyam Poly Clinic, Nursing Home, Trunk Market, Rajpura, Patiala	Name of manufacturer not stated	Prosecution launched
	86.	Name of person not stated	M/s Skylsons Labs Pvt Ltd, Rohtak Road, Gohana (Haryana)	Prosecution launched Prosecution launched
	87.	M/s Aman Pharma Agency, Pindi Street, Ludhiana	M/s Hoechest Morion Roussel Ltd, Mumbai	Prosecution launched
	88.	(i) Gajinder Pal Singh s/o Mukand Lal, Pindi Street, Ludhiana (ii) M/s Bhai Ji Traders, Bhagirath Place, Delhi	Name of manufacturer not stated	Prosecution launched
	89.	M/s Pavittar Medical Hall, Jalalabad, Ferozpur	Name of manufacturer not stated	Prosecution launched
	90.	Name of person not stated	M/s Mefro Pharma, Mohali, Distt. Ropar	Prosecution launched
	91.	Sh. Mohammed Rafiq s/o Mohammed Sadiq r/o Vill. Naili PO Manya Ko, Rajouri (J and K)	Name of manufacturer not stated	Prosecution launched Prosecution launched
	92.	Sh. Gurdarshan Singh s/o Gurdial Singh, Vill. Pahra, Gurdaspur	Name of manufacturer not stated	Prosecution launched
	93.	Sh. Surinder Singh s/o Sh. Nirman Singh, Prop. M/s Jagjit Medical Store, Naushera Majha Singh Distt. Gurdaspur	Name of manufacturer not stated	Prosecution launched
	94.	Sh. Gurdial Singh s/o Sh. Puran Singh, VPO Manawala Distt Amritsar	Name of manufacturer not stated	Prosecution launched

1	2	3	4	5
	95.	M/s Mehta Medical Stores, Kotakpura Distt. Faridkot	(i) M/s Adison Pharmaceutcals, Fatehgarh Churian Road, Amritsar (ii) M/s Pankaj Pharma, Bhatinda	Prosecution launched
Orissa	96.	M/s Dayal Enterprises, Managalabag, Cuttack	(i) M/s New Bengal Drug House, Rambari Ghosh Lane, Calcutta (ii) M/s Apex Pharmaceuticals, New Indl Estate Jagatpur, Cuttack	Prosecution launched
Rajasthan	97.	—	W.H. Parmaceuticals (P) Ltd, Malanpur (M.P.)	Prosecution launched
	98.	—	M/s Indira Hath Kargha Vastra Utpadak Sahakari Samiti Ltd., Jaipur	Prosecution launched
	99.	M/s Bhargav Distributor, Jaipur & M/s Rajmal Vijayraj Dangi, Sri Dungargarh	M/s R.S. Pharmaceuticals, Jaitpura, Jaipur	Prosecution launched Prosecution launched
	100.	—	M/s Modern Handloom Producers Co-operative Society Ltd, Jaipur	Prosecution launched
	101.	M/s Simco Remedies, Dawa Bazar, Indore M/s Meditrade Agencies, Dawa Bazar, Indore and M/s Jain Traders, Mangalpura, Jhalawar.	M/s Systochem Laboratories Ltd., Ghaziabad	Prosecution launched
	102.	M/s Jai Ambey Medicals, Kota	M/s Remedies Pharmaceuticlas (I) Ltd., Delhi	Prosecution launched
	103.	M/s New Anglo Medical Hall, Ajmer	M/s Hindustan Pharma Pvt. Ltd., Gujarat	Prosecution launched
	104.	M/s Medi Pharma, Alwar and M/s Victory Pharmaceuticals Distributor, Kota	M/s Glynore Pharmaceuticals, Chandigarh	Prosecution launched
	105.	M/s Jain Agency, Jaipur and M/s Khatri Distributor, Hindaun City	M/s Gujarat Turce Laboratory, Mehsana	Prosecution launched
	106.	M/s Parasnath Medical Corner, Banswara, M/s Manish Drug Distributor,	M/s Home Pharmacy, Indore	Prosecution launched

1	2	3	4	5
		Banswara, M/s Maheshwari Medical Agencies, Ratlam and M/s Swastik Medical Agencies, Indore		
	107.	M/s Ganpati Medicos, Beawar and M/s Harsh Medicals, Ajmer	M/s Hawel Cap. India Ltd.	Prosecution launched
	108.	M/s Ashish Medical & General Store Partapur (Banswara)	M/s Diena Pharma-Ankaleshwar	Prosecution launched
	109.	M/s Mittal Distributor, Bikaner	M/s Gujrat Medicals Pvt. Ltd., Amedabad	Prosecution launched
	110.	M/s Nainani Medico, Kota & M/s Janta Medical Hall, Bundi	M/s Bourrough Welcome (I) Ltd., Mumbai	Prosecution launched
	111.	M/s Indian Medical Hall, Jaipur and M/s Nagpal Agencies, Hanumangarh	M/s Keimen Medicines Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai and M/s Key-West Medicines Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai	Prosecution launched
	112.	Shri Bhagwan Das Rathi, Bhinmal, Jalore	M/s Suneja Pharmaceuticals	Prosecution launched
	113.	M/s Surendera Medical Agencies, Sriganganagar and M/s Jaishri Pharma Distributor, Jaipur	M/s Parth Parentals	Prosecution launched
	114.	M/s Sarabhai Chemicals, Jaipur, M/s Uni Pharma Distributor, Jaipur and M/s Jubli Medical Store, Jaipur	M/s Treffer Pharmaceuticals, Navsari	Prosecution launched
Kerala	115.	M/s Micromedico, T.D. Road, Ernakulam	M/s Vikram Laboratories, Muzaffar Nagar	Case has been registered
Mizoram	116.	Lalbiakvela M/s Orient Medico, Bawngkawn,	M/s Mandar Pharma	Prosecution launched
	117.	C. Darkunga M/s New Pharmacy, New Market	M/s Mandar Pharma	Prosecution launched
	118.	Lalmalsawmi M/s L.C. Drugs Store, Thuampui	M/s Mandar Pharma	Prosecution launched
Assam	119.	M/s Amar Pharmaceuticals, Silapattar, Dist. Lakhimpur	M/s M. Medice Traders Pvt. Ltd., Meerut-2	Subjudiced under CJM Court.
	120.	M/s Surgical Pharma, S.C. Goswami Road, Guwahati	M/s M. Medice Traders Pvt. Ltd., Meerut-2	Subjudiced under CJM Court

1	2	3	4	5
	121.	Possed from one Mr. M.K. Goswami (vender) from Nagaon.	M/s Seth Pharmaceuticals (P) Ltd., Calcutta	Subjudiced under C J M Court.
Tamil Nadu	122.	M/s Shalom Medicine, Sri Ram Nagar, West Tanbaram, Chennai 45		Cancellation of licences in Form 25 and 28 and prosecution launched
	123.	M/s Crystal Pharmaceuticals, Ambala City		Prosecution launched
	124.	M/s Medicrafts, Chennai 8		Licences cancelled
	125.	M/s Mehta Remedies, Chennai 8		Licences cancelled
	126.	M/s Positive Pharma, Chennai 8		Licences cancelled
	127.	M/s Southern Corporation, Chennai 8		Licences cancelled
	128.	M/s Sri Devi Pharmaceuticals, Chennai 8		Licences cancelled
	129.	—	M/s Bantum Drugs, 2/532, Mahatma Street, Gomathiburam, Maudrai	Prosecution launched. Case filed and ended in ITRC with a total fine of Rs. 1000/-
	130.	—	M/s Ganesh Pharmaceuticals No. 7, Iyyalu Baluswamy Iyer Street, South Veli Street, Madurai	Prosecution launched. Complaint filed in the Hon'ble Court of Judician Maagistrate.
	131.	—	M/s Crystal Pharmaceuticals, Ambala City	Prosecution launched.
Maharashtra	132.	M/s Mahesh Medical Agencies, Jalgaon	M/s Sunny Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Silwasa	Prosecution filed.
	133.	M/s Ramesh Medical and Surgicals, Jalgaon	M/s Kabra Drugs Ltd. Indore, M.P.	Prosecution filed.
	134.	Annas Medical Services, Sholapur and M/s Multi Sales, Indore	M/s Oracle Drugs, Indore	Prosecution filed.
	135.	M/s Metro Agencies Gole Colony, Nasik	M/s Valcon Pharma Indore, M.P.	Prosecution filed.
	136.	M/s Shamivana Pharmaceuticals Surgicals, Gala No. 9, Andheri Industrial Estate, Vira Desai Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai 58	M/s Sing Pharmaceuticals, GIDC Umargaon, Gujarat	Prosecution filed (The drug is misbranded as the manufacturer is ficticious)

1	2	3	4	5
Madhya Pradesh	137.	M/s Ashoka Medical Stores, Devsar, Sidhi	—	Case registered before the court.
	138.	M/s Surya Medical Agencies, Jabalpur	—	Case registred before the court.
	139.	M/s Kapil Enterprises, Satna	—	Case registred before the court.

Statement II

Details of cases wherein a Haul of spurious drugs has been unearthed together with persons apprehended for manufacturing and trading of spurious drugs during the period 2000-2001 and 1.4.2001 to 26.11.2001 by the concerned state licensing authorities

Delhi:

(i) Based on the information that one person was involved in illegal trade of medicines with foreign nationals, he was kept under surveillance by Drugs Control Department, Delhi and Delhi Police. On 9.9.2000, he was apprehended as he was found having in his possession stocks of seven drugs. Subsequently, a godown was also raided jointly on 10.9.2000. Prosecution has been launched in the Court of Law against the said person.

(ii) Delhi Police and officers of Drugs Control Department seized on 3rd/4th July, 2001, huge stocks of allegedly spurious drugs from different places in and around Bhagirath Place, Delhi. Samples of drugs drawn have sent for analysis and based on the investigation carried out, a complaint has been filed in the Court of Law at Tees Hazari, Delhi.

Gujarat:

One person was found manufacturing counterfeit drugs during the period April, 2001. Before the persons could sell the counterfeit drug, he was handed over to Police Crime Branch for further interrogation. After completion of investigation, necessary action would be taken as per provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules thereunder.

Rajasthan:

During the period 2000-2001, one case of haul of spurious drugs was unearthed. One person was apprehended by the police. During the period 1.4.2001 to 26.11.2001 two cases were unearthed. Five persons were apprehended by the Police.

Maharashtra:

(i) During the period 2000-2001, one person was reported to be indulging in manufacturing of spurious drugs. Two persons were arrested on subsequent investigation and a case was filed on 11.5.2001 in the court of law.

(ii) One licensed manufacturer was reported to be manufacturing spurious drugs on 26.6.2000. After subsequent investigation, a case was filed against three persons. However, no arrest was made in this case.

Uttar Pradesh:

(a) During the period 2000-2001, 2 cases involving 19 samples have been declared to be spurious by the Government Analyst, Uttar Pradesh/ Central Drugs Laboratory, Kolkata. The instructions have been issued to the concerned Drugs Inspectors (UP) to launch prosecution against the defaulters/firms.

(b) Two persons have been arrested, one Kanpur and another at Bareilly with spurious drugs. Prosecution has been launched at Kanpur against M/s Standard Drugs Centre, Birhana Road, Kanpur and its proprietor.

Karnataka:

During the period 1.4.2001 to 26.11.2001, one case involving 4 spurious drugs has been detected at dealers located in Mangalore, Karnataka. After completion of investigation, necessary action would be taken as per provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules thereunder.

Andhra Pradesh:

During the period 1.4.2001 to 26.11.2001, 4 cases involving 21 spurious drugs were detected. After

completion of investigation, necessary action would be taken as per provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules thereunder.

Bihar:

During the period 1.4.2001 to 26.11.2001, 2 cases of spurious drugs were detected. After completion of investigation, necessary action would be taken as per provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules thereunder.

[English]

Restructure of Steel Plants

562. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had engaged Mackinsey to submit report on restructuring of Alloy Steel Plant, Salem Steel Plant, Viswasaraiya Iron and Steel Plant of Bhagabati;

(b) if so, whether it has submitted its recommendations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) had engaged M/s. McKinsey and Co. in 1998 to prepare a 'Competitiveness Plan' for the company. As part of this, the consultants also examined the special steels unit of SAIL, namely, Alloy Steel Plant, Salem Steel Plant and Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Ltd.

(b) and (c) McKinsey has made the following recommendations for the three plants:

- **Alloy Steel Plant (ASP)**: The optimal course of action for this unit would be closure. In case, closure is not possible, the plan should be to minimise losses through such measures as reduction in workforce, transferring hot metal from Durgapur Steel Plant etc.
- **Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant (VISP)**: The main course of action available for VISP is divestment, so that the Joint Venture (JV) partner could open export markets and invest further in the plant, adding more value.
- **Salem Steel Plant (SSP)**: Formation of a Joint Venture is best course of action for Salem Steel Plant. The JV partner, by providing backward integration for steel making and by opening of new exports markets, can make the unit viable in the long run.

Visit of Nepalese King

563. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI AMBAREESHA:
SHRI N. JAANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:
SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the king of Nepal during his recent visit to India held wide ranging discussions with the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the discussion held and the areas of cooperation agreed upon;

(c) whether the Government have assured him help to combat the threat of insurgency in the kingdom;

(d) if so, the manner in which India proposes to help Nepal in this regard;

(e) whether a spurt in ISI and other extremist activities on the Indo-Nepal border were also discussed with the King of Nepal; and

(f) if so, the extent of help promised by Nepal to eliminate such activities on the common borders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (f) His Majesty King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, King of Nepal, paid a State visit to India from June 23-28, 2002, at the invitation of the President. This was King Gyanendra's first visit abroad after his enthronement. During the visit, King Gyanendra held talks with the President, the Vice President and the Prime Minister of India. Ministers of Home Affairs, External Affairs, Defence, and Human Resource Development and the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission called on King Gyanendra. He also received the Leader of the Opposition. He also visited Kolkata and Guwahati.

Wide ranging discussions were held during the visit in an atmosphere of warmth and cordiality. The importance

of further development of the close, friendly and time-tested ties between India and Nepal was underlined. India's commitment to Nepal's economic development and maintenance of peace, security and stability in the country was reiterated.

The issue of terrorism also figured in the discussions. Both King Gyanendra and the Indian leadership reiterated their countries' resolve to make joint efforts in fighting the scourge of terrorism which was adversely affecting peace and stability in the region.

The Indian leadership conveyed our serious concern to Nepal on the continuing activities to the ISI in Nepal and across the border into India. In this context, the need for closer co-ordination and increased vigil was stressed. King Gyanendra gave the assurance for enhanced co-operation in this regard and reiterated that Nepal would not allow its territory to be misused for activities directed against India.

King Gyanendra expressed gratitude for India's support in Nepal's fight against the Maoist insurgency, and sought continued co-operation of India for the steps taken by Government of Nepal to restore normalcy and order in the country. The Indian leadership reiterated its resolve to continue to support Nepal in its efforts for maintaining peace and security in the country.

India has strongly condemned the Maoist violence and extended support to the steps taken by Government of Nepal to restore normalcy and order in the country. India is providing assistance, as required by Nepal, including by way of equipment and training for the Royal Nepal Army and the Special Armed Police Force. Our border security has been strengthened and the Indian States bordering Nepal have been alerted to keep a close vigil along the border. The Special Services Bureau (SSB) personnel have been deployed along the India-Nepal border to strengthen security in the border areas.

Gross Registered Tonnage

564. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to ensure that the gross registered tonnage of India ships does not decrease;

(b) if so, the initiatives proposed to be taken by the Government to maintain a high level to registered Indian Shipping;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to protect the Indian Shipping;

(d) whether the Government propose to create a funding agency for the exclusive purpose of financing the purchase of ships; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government constituted an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Rakesh Mohan to review Indian Shipping and to recommend measures to address the associated problems. The Committee has recommended introduction of Tonnage Tax as is followed by the leading maritime nations of the world. Action has already been initiated for the acceptance of the recommendations of the Committee.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Telephone Services in Andhra Pradesh

565. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom services in Andhra Pradesh has not been extended to various tribal and rural areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed for rapidly expand the telecom network under Andhra Pradesh Telecom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) No Sir, rather the telecom service has been extended to 23401 villages (including 1112 Tribal villages) out of 29460 villages in Andhra Pradesh Circle by BSNL and the remaining 6059 villages (including 3683 Tribal villages) are to be provided with telecom facilities by M/s Tata Telecom Services Ltd. as per their license agreement with Department of Telecom.

(c) BSNL plans to augment the Switching capacity by 2.33 Lakh lines and provide 2.28 Lakh telephone connections on landline/Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) during the current year subject to availability of materials. Mobile telephone services are also planned during the current year.

New National Health Plan

566. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have released the new national health policy;

(b) if so, whether Government propose that two years of rural positing would be mandatory for medical graduates and would be done through the Medical Council;

(c) if so, the other main features of the policy; and

(d) the steps are being taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Health Policy-2002 announced recently states that State Governments could rigorously enforce a mandatory two-year rural posting before the awarding of the graduate degree. Some State Governments have already made rural service compulsory before admission to P.G. Courses or at the time of initial appointment.

(c) and (d) The National Health Policy, 2002 covers all aspects of health care and contains policy prescriptions regarding financial resources, equity, delivery of National Public Programmes, Public Health infrastructure, Education of Health Care Professionals, Health Research, Role of various stakeholders—NGOs, civil society, Enforcement of quality standards for Food & Drugs, women's health, etc. This Policy has been widely circulated both at the Centre and in the States upto the district level. Concerned organisations and State Governments have been advised to implement the new policy.

[Translation]

Family Welfare Programmes

567. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2574 dated March 20, 2002 and state:

(a) whether outstanding amount under the family welfare programme has been released by the Government to State Governments;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the said outstanding amount is likely to be released to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Admissible amount as per audited expenditure against the outstanding amount of arrears due to the State Governments, as mentioned in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2574 dated 20.03.2002, has already been released. In addition, all the arrear claims received from the State Governments till date have also been released to the States. The State-wise details of the amount released as arrears during this year (2002-03) till date is given below:

Sl. No.	States	Rs. in lakhs
1.	Assam	501.76
2.	Bihar	6042.12
3.	Gujarat	3771.26
4.	Haryana	448.05
5.	Karnataka	2490.02
6.	Kerala	3094.32
7.	Maharashtra	3200.66
8.	Orissa	6406.98
9.	Rajasthan	1717.73
10.	Tamil Nadu	2856.82
11.	Tripura	1490.76
12.	Uttar Pradesh	6759.62
	Total	38780.10

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Indo Pak Ties

568. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently announced some steps with a view to defuse the tension between India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which Pakistan has reciprocated India's gesture; and

(d) the role played by the foreign countries in defusing the military stand-off between the two?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) In recognition of General Musharraf's commitment to end cross border infiltration on a permanent basis, India, on June 10, 2002, formally announced lifting of the overflight ban on Pakistani Aircraft that was imposed in January 2002 after the December 13 attack on our Parliament. The decision however did not involve the restoration of air links between the two countries.

(c) Pakistan did not respond to this de-escalatory measures taken by India.

(d) In the aftermath of December 13 and May 14 terrorist attacks, Government took diplomatic and other measures to effectively bring to the attention of the international community the fact of Pakistan's sponsorship of cross border terrorism against India.

The international community has widely acknowledged Pakistan's involvement with cross border infiltration and terrorism. There is consistent demand that Pakistan must put a permanent stop to cross border infiltration and terrorism.

Pakistan's commitments on January 12 and May 27 to stop infiltration, not allow the territory of Pakistan to be used for terrorist activities, or any organisation in Pakistan to indulge in terrorism in the name of Kashmir were important in defusing situation at that time.

Family Planning Programme

569. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI:

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

(a) whether the Government has introduced a new male contraceptive in order to boost family planning;

(b) if so, whether proper efficacy of this contraceptive and its acceptability on wide scale has been confirmed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Investment by NRIs in Health Sector

570. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:
SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:

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

(a) whether any schemes have been formulated by the Government to attract investment by NRIs in health sector in order to expand high level modern facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said scheme would be launched; and

(d) the number of persons of Indian origin likely to be attracted by the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) A High level Committee on Indian Diaspora was constituted in August 2000 to study, among other things, the role of the People of Indian Origin (PIOs) and Non Resident Indians (NRIs) in the economic, social and technological development of India. This committee in its report submitted to the Government in December 2001 has made a number of recommendations relating to the health care sector also. The follow up actions to implement the recommendations made therein have been initiated.

[English]

Pak's Involvement in Terrorist Activities

571. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the British Government have come to the definite conclusion that there is a "direct link" between Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI and some of the hardcore terrorist groups operating in Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Kashmir issue and international campaign against terrorism were discussed in the G-8 Foreign Ministers conference held in Canada in June 2002; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the world community to the continued terrorist activities Pakistan has been indulging in for a long time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. U.K. Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Mr. Jack Straw, in a statement to the House of Commons on 10th June, 2002 said "India has long charged that terrorism has had the covert support of successive Pakistani Governments, and in particular the Inter Services Intelligence Directorate (ISID), the main intelligence agency in Pakistan. Her Majesty's Government accepts that there is a clear link between ISID and these groups".

(c) and (d) The international community is aware of Pakistan's involvement in cross-border terrorism and support to terrorist groups across the Line of Control. For this reason, the Statement of the G-8 Foreign Ministers on 31st May, 2002, called upon Pakistan, in accordance with its commitments, to take concrete action immediately to end infiltration across the Line of Control and to stop terrorist groups operating from territory under its control.

Testing of Missiles by Pak

572. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan conducted a series of missile tests in 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government, the US, Russia and other world powers thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Pakistan conducted a series of missile tests in May 2002.

(b) On May 25, Pakistan tested a liquid-fuelled, medium-range (1500 kms) missile called Hatf V (Gauri). The next day, a solid-fuelled, short range (290 kms) missile called Hatf III (Ghaznavi) was tested. On May 28, Pakistan tested a short range (180 kms) Hatf II (Abdali) missile. All the three tests of surface-to-surface ballistic missiles were claimed to be successful by Pakistan.

(c) In response to Pakistan's decision to conduct a series of missile tests, India had stated that it was "not impressed by these missile antics, particularly when all that is demonstrated is borrowed or imported ability". India urged the international community to fathom the "actual mindset of the Pakistani leadership". President Bush expressed "strong reservations" over the Pak missile tests. Russia described these tests as being "at variance" with the statements of the Pakistani leadership and called upon Pakistan to "refrain from any actions leading to an escalation of tensions". Japan urged Pakistan to show "self restraint". The EU too expressed concern over Pak decision to conduct tests.

[Translation]

Shifting of Telephone Connections

573. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the time taken in shifting telephone connection from one telephone exchange to another telephone exchange;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the time schedule fixed for shifting of telephones are not being followed;

(c) if so, the number of cases of delay in shifting of telephones in Delhi during the last two years and the action taken against the officials responsible for delay;

(d) the number of recommendation letters received from Members of Parliament for telephone shifting and the number of cases in which telephone connections have not been shifted within fifteen days inspite of their recommendations; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Normally shifting of telephone connections are carried out by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. in 15 days time. In some cases, due to technical reasons, shifts are not possible to be carried out in this time schedule. The reasons for delay in most cases are:-

(i) non availability of cable pairs in the area where shifts are required,

(ii) incomplete document/information supplied by the customer, and

(iii) pending outstanding dues from subscriber.

In respect of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

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

[English]

Eradication of Filariasis

574. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that eight out of ten countries of the South East Asia are known to be endemic to filariasis;

(b) if so, whether India is among them; and

(c) the steps taken to eradicate this disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(b) National Filaria Control Programme (NFCP) is operative in the country in highly endemic urban areas through 206 Filaria Control Units and 198 Filaria Clinics. 27 Survey Units are working for delimitation of the problem.

Implementation of the revised strategy for elimination of filaria through annual single dose mass drug administration has been initiated in 30 endemic districts.

Licences for DNA Drugs

575. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have directed the drug controllers not to issue licenses for genetically modified drugs; and

(b) if so, the reasons for centralizing licensing system for DNA drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Vide Gazette Notification No. G.S.R. 1039 dated 5th December, 1989, issued by Ministry of Environment and Forests for environment impact issues etc. GEAC clearance of recombinant derived products including drugs and pharmaceuticals is required. As per the Notification, local manufacturers of DNA derived drugs are required to take RCGM (Review Committee of Gene Manipulation) approval for carrying out pre-clinical animal experimentation with their product, based on examination of molecular characterization, gene manipulation techniques, impurity profile, and immuno chemical properties etc. The applicants are then required to submit the application along with the data to DCG (I) under Rule 122B and as per Schedule 'Y' of Drugs and Cosmetics Acts and Rules thereunder for undertaking human studies as well as approval. The applicant also makes application to Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) in Ministry of Environment.

As per rules, drug approved for import/manufacture is considered as New Drug for a period of 4 years.

After examination and evaluation of the data from the expert panel and GEAC clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests approval is granted to the applicants who in-turn obtain the Licence from State Licensing Authority.

FDI Limit in Pharmaceuticals

576. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decision to increase FDI limit in pharmaceuticals to 100 per cent from 74 per cent has evoked a good response;

(b) if so, whether some Pharma-companies have applied to the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) to hike their stake to 100 per cent;

(c) if so, the number of such cases so far cleared by FIPB; and

(d) the extent to which this decision has helped the pharmaceutical companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Subsequent to the issuance of Press Note No. 4 of 2001 Series dated 21.5.2001 allowing 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) on the automatic route for manufacture of drugs and pharmaceuticals, except for activities attracting compulsory licensing or involving use

of recombinant DNA technology, and specific cell/tissue targeted formulations, a total number of 41 cases have been approved for foreign collaboration by FIPB and RBI (under its automatic route) with total investment intentions of Rs. 302.89 crore. Out of these, 4 cases have been approved by FIPB for increase in foreign equity to 100% in the Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Sector involving investment intentions of Rs. 6.69 crore. A total number of 257 proposals involving a total investment of Rs. 2916.81 crore have been granted in this Sector from 1.8.91 to 31.5.2002.

[Translation]

HIV/AIDS Control

577. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:
SHRI R.L. JALAPPA:

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

(a) whether number of HIV/AIDS cases have been increasing in various parts of the country, particularly in Karnataka for the last several months;

(b) if so, the main reasons for the same;

(c) whether the State Government of Karnataka has urged the Union Government to provide necessary help and assistance to check the increasing HIV/AIDS in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether UNICEF has agreed to provide free drugs to Karnataka; and

(f) if so, the quantity of free drugs to be supplied to Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A statement indicating number of reported AIDS cases including State of Karnataka is enclosed. The main reasons for the increase in reported number of HIV/AIDS cases are: (i) increase in number of institutions admitting/treating HIV/AIDS cases; (ii) increase in number of voluntary counseling and Testing Centres and (iii) more awareness in the community about HIV/AIDS treatment facilities.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A comprehensive action plan for prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in the State of Karnataka for year 2002-03 was submitted to National AIDS Control Organisation for approval. Sanction for assistance to the tune of Rs. 1099.22 lakhs have been accorded for implementation of programme activities in the State during current financial year.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir.

UNICEF has agreed to provide free supply of Nevirapine drug for Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV as per requirements of States of State of Karnataka.

Statement

Annual Number of Reported AIDS Cases in India (State-wise) Year May, 1986 to December, 2001

S. No.	State	Since 1986 to Dec, 92	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	A & N Island	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	8	17
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1	0	0	4	19	15	7	2	485	732	1265
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Assam	1	0	1	8	0	9	3	11	62	30	125
5.	Bihar	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	12	38	63	118
6.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	124	114	189	427
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
9.	Delhi	31	14	19	25	27	90	13	0	64	358	641
10.	Goa	2	6	4	0	0	0	0	7	10	46	75
11.	Gujarat	2	16	0	6	104	6	2	1	245	877	1259
12.	Haryana	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	47	141	189
13.	Himachal Pradesh	2	1	6	0	0	0	0	16	15	51	91
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
15.	Karnataka	0	7	19	25	12	55	39	47	541	516	1261
16.	Kerala	16	60	0	0	26	3	1	0	56	105	267
17.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Madhya Pradesh	1	18	2	39	6	68	76	116	294	139	759
19.	Maharashtra	93	31	156	760	520	930	824	64	348	2728	6454
20.	Manipur	4	18	46	31	55	147	0	61	364	307	1033
21.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	8
22.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	7	3	5	20
23.	Nagaland	0	0	0	4	0	6	0	19	51	131	211
24.	Orissa	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	52	28	82
25.	Pondicherry	6	0	0	94	24	8	9	0	0	0	141
26.	Punjab	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	52	31	4	135
27.	Rajasthan	1	0	0	2	0	51	25	27	106	136	348
28.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	4
29.	Tamilnadu	92	61	192	37	199	521	532	2730	4206	6484	15054
30.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Uttar Pradesh	1	7	0	0	48	53	16	41	93	202	461
32.	West Bengal	5	12	10	12	11	7	0	0	0	668	725
33.	A,bad Munici. Corp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	189	189
	Total	260	252	457	1047	1051	1983	1602	3337	7234	14139	31362

[English]

Post and Telegraph Facilities in Rajasthan

578. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are inadequate postal and telegraph facilities in rural areas of Rajasthan, especially in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether the Government propose to expand and upgrade postal and telegraph services in rural areas of Rajasthan, especially in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts of Western Rajasthan; and

(d) the details of Gram Panchayats which are likely to be provided postal and telegraph facilities during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) There are adequate postal and telegraph facilities in rural areas of Rajasthan including Barmer and Jaisalmer districts. As on 31.3.2002, 9630 post offices and 204 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras are functioning in rural areas of Rajasthan including 471 post offices in Barmer District and 141 post offices in Jaisalmer district.

(c) and (d) A target of opening of 75 new Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras and 18 Branch Post Offices has been allocated to Rajasthan Circle. 2 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras and 1 Branch Post Office each are proposed to be opened in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts of Western Rajasthan during the current financial year. Opening of new Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras and Branch Post Offices is subject to be fulfillment of prescribed norms and availability of required resources. The information relating to Telegraph Offices is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

MoU with Indonesia

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

(a) whether the Government have signed any MoU with Indonesia in the recent past; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two Memoranda of Understanding were signed recently during the visit of President Megawati Soekarnoputri of Indonesia in April, 2002 for (i) setting up of a Vocational Training Centre for Construction sector at Jakarta under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) and (ii) for cooperation in the field of Outer Space Research and Development between Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and the National Institute of Aeronautics and Space of Indonesia (LAPAN).

In addition, an Agreement pertaining to visa exemption between the two countries for holders of official and diplomatic passports was also signed during the visit of the Indonesia President in April 2002.

Ship Repair Facilities

580. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up an Expert Group on Shipping to recommend the ways to improve ship repair facilities in the country;

(b) if so, whether this Expert Group has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that lack of standardisation in ship repair facilities is hampering shipping sector; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to standardise all ship repair operations in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (c) This Ministry has constituted an Apex Committee on Shipbuilding under the Chairmanship of Director General (Shipping) in the year 1998 and the Report was received in April, 2000. Amongst several recommendations, the Apex Committee had recommended that ship repair facilities in the country should be strengthened and modernisation facilitated by giving infrastructure status to the ship repair industry.

(d) No, Sir. It is mainly due to the fact that the scale of repairing facilities which are available in India is not

sufficient to handle large scale repairing effectively such as dry docking of vessels etc. Therefore, Indian Shipowners prefer to get their ships repaired abroad.

(e) The steps taken/proposed to be taken to standardise all ship repair operations in the country are as under:

1. The ship repair facilities which are presently available in India are much smaller compared to those of Singapore, Dubai and China. Only when large infrastructure on ship repairing is available and there is sufficient and series of orders for ship repairs, there can be scope for standardisation of ship repair operations. However, efforts are being made by Shipyards to standardise the ship repair operations. Ship repair facilities at two major Shipyards under the administrative control of Ministry of Shipping viz. Cochin Shipyard Limited, Cochin and Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam are being modernised as per Plan Schemes. Ship repair facilities at Ports of Mumbai and Calcutta have also been modernised.

2. "Standardisation of Equipment and Machinery" at design and construction stage helps in reducing the time and cost of ship repair and maintenance to the Shipping sector. National Ship Design and Research Centre (NSDRC) which is an autonomous Society under the administrative control of this Ministry is actively involved in standardisation of all major machinery and equipment like Main Engines, Generator Sets, Compressors and Pumps, GMDSS Equipment etc. of 18 Vessels for A and N Administration.

3. The information availability regarding various factors like ship repair history of the vessel, availability of various equipment/machinery spares in the market etc. would help achieve reduction in time, cost reduction in ship repair operations. NSDRC developed a software "Dry Docking Information Retrieval System" which helps in keeping track of the ship repair history of the vessels and its equipment which helps owners in preparation for the future repairs. NSDRC has also developed a software package "Planned Maintenance System" which exclusively caters to the maintenance of the major equipment. The above two packages are intended to help the owners in anticipation and preparation of the maintenance requirements of the vessel which in turn saves time and cost. Further, NSDRC is participating with BIS and ISO/TC8 of ISO to develop "Product Structure Directory standard for ships".

Closure of SSI In Karnataka

581. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of small scale industries have closed down in Karnataka due to various reasons like power hike, costly labour etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has approved incentives to these units to revive and strengthen their performance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The information on closed units is not maintained centrally. However, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) compiles data on sick SSI units financed by scheduled commercial banks. As per the latest information available with the RBI, there were 4400 sick units in the State of Karnataka at the end of March, 2001.

(c) and (d) The Government is fully seized of the incidence of industrial sickness among SSI units 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 the RBI for extending rehabilitation assistance to eligible units.

Further, for rehabilitation of sick/closed units, Government of Karnataka has also been providing assistance in the form of Seed Margin Money at 25% of the Project Cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 2.50 lakhs, waiver of fixed charges during closure period, payment of arrears of energy bill in instalments and waiver of interest for closure period.

Monthly Rent for Commercial Subscribers

582. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MTNL has decided not to implement TRAI's decision of increasing monthly rent for commercial subscribers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons thereto;

(d) the other recommendations made by TRAI for telephone users; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) In the TRAI's Telecom. Tariff Order (20th Amendment) dated 14th March, 2002, the rental for commercial subscribers has been increased from Rs. 250/- to Rs. 310/- per month and number of free calls per month was reduced from 75 to 30. However, this Tariff Order could not be implemented by MTNL due to difficulty of segregating/ classifying the subscribers into commercial and non-commercial subscriber categories as per the definition in the TRAI Order. Besides, it was felt that at the present juncture of evolving competition, a tariff increase could involve loss of customers to other competitors. So, MTNL is at present continuing with the existing tariff structure.

(d) In the standard package for commercial subscribers, the TRAI has reduced the number of free calls permitted per month of a billing cycle to 45 for rural subscribers and 30 for urban subscribers, as against earlier standard package of 75 and 60 metered calls respectively.

(e) Since the TRAI's Telecom Tariff Order (20th Amendment) 2002, specifies an upper limit, the operators are free to fix tariffs below this level.

SSI in Village

583. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to set up at least one small scale industry in every village in order to prevent the migration of people to the urban areas in search of jobs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The setting up of small scale industries is an activity of the individual entrepreneurs and the Central Government does not set up any small scale industry. However, the promotion of small scale industries has been one of the conscious policy decisions of the Government through its various Schemes/Programmes.

(b) Does not arise.

Sports Law College

584. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have formulated any scheme to open/start Sports Law College/Schools for promoting sports in the country under the current sports policy specially in Gujarat State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government at present does not feel the necessity for establishing Sports Law Colleges/Schools.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Foreign Trips by Indian Hockey Team

585. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foreign trips undertaken by the Indian Hockey team during the last three years;

(b) the expenditure incurred by the Indian Hockey Federation on each of such foreign trips during the above period; and

(c) the achievements made through such trips?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (c) The details of foreign trips undertaken by the Indian Hockey team, the expenditure incurred by the Indian Hockey Federation inclusive of Government assistance on each of such trips and the achievement made through such trips may please be seen in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Foreign Trips by Indian Hockey Team

S. No.	Details of foreign trips	Details of expenditure incurred by Indian Hockey Federation inclusive of Government assistance (In Rupees)	Achievements
1	2	3	4
	1999		
1.	Akhbar-El-yom Ist Hockey Tournament 2nd-9th Feb, 1999 Cairo (Egypt)	9,15,642	II position
2.	Indo-Pak Test Series Pakistan 15th-25th Feb, 1999	35,26,047	—
3.	Indo-German Test Series Indo-Belgium Test Series Germany/Belgium 8th-20th June, 1999	24,92,315	Winner (Indo-Belgium Test Series)
4.	Junior Challenge Open Tournament Poznan (Poland) 10th-29th Aug. 1999	26,87,369	II position
5.	India-S. Africa Test Series South Africa 12th-21st August 1999	19,78,881	—
6.	Zimbabwe, Kenya and Uganda Tournament 24th, August-10th Sept, 1999	9,32,796	Winner
7.	4 Nation Tournament Canberra/Sydney 16th-26th Sept 1999	23,24,610	—
8.	5th Asia Cup Kuala Lumpur 18th-28th Nov, 1999	19,94,859	III position
	2000		
1.	4 Nation Tournament—Spain & India—Canada-Beligum Test Series 6th to 15th Jan. 2000 Barcelona	28,11,347	Winner Test Series
2.	10th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 16th to 26th Feb 2000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	13,02,588	Bronze Medal
3.	Akhbar-EL-Yom 2nd Intl. Hockey Tournament 13th to 19th Feb, 2000 Cairo-Egypt	16,60,261	III position

1	2	3	4
4.	Training Camp-Murwillumbah & 4 Nation-Double Leg Hockey tournament Sydney/Perth 20th March-16th April, 2002	55,88,387	Winner
5.	4th Junior Men's Asia Cup 3rd to 14th May 2000 Kuala Lumpur Malaysia	22,29,693	II position
6.	Boys U-16 A.H.F.Cup 16th to 25th June 2000 Singapore	20,83,354	Gold Medal
7.	4 Nation Hockey Tournament 16th to 20th Aug. 2000 Poznan (Poland)	16,98,438	II position
8.	Training Programme-Murwillumbah & Sydney Olympics-2000. 18th Aug to 7th Sept 2000	50,78,369	Ranking-7
	2001		
1.	Akhber-EL-Yom 3rd Intl. Hockey Tournament 23rd Feb-2nd March 2001 Cairo-Egypt	13,45,234	Gold Medal
2.	P.M. Gold Cup 10th-20th March 2001 Dhaka (Bangladesh)	4,13,239	Winner
3.	Samaranch Cup-4 Nation Hockey Tournament Moscow 12th-16 June, 2001	13,01,360	Winner
4.	India-Malaysia, Australia, Newzealand Test Series 2nd-25th June 2001	40,52,008	—
5.	A.H.F. Boys Youth (U-18) 1st to 10th June 2001-Ipoh (Malaysia)	13,47,672	Gold Medal
6.	4 Nation Tournament-Milton (Keynes) 10th World cup-Qualifier-Edinburg 17th to 29th July, 2001	57,14,664	Winner Qualify for World Cup
7.	11th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2nd to 12th Aug 2001 Kuala Lumpur	11,18,513	
8.	Jr. Challenge Open Tournament 13th to 19th Aug 2001 Poznan (Poland)	20,49,848	II position
9.	5th Nation Jr. Invitational Hockey Tournament 26th Aug to 2nd Sept 2001 Kuala Lumpur	5,70,110	II position
10.	7th Jr. World Cup 9th to 21st Oct 2001 Hobart-Australia	45,53,586	Gold Medal
11.	Ist Men's Champion Challenge Tournament 7th to 15th Dec 2001 Kuala Lumpur	26,01,722	Winner

[English]

Number of Players in Government Undertakings

586. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of players who are employed in Government undertakings;

(b) whether the Government propose to ban employment to cricket players in Government undertakings, as their earnings are much higher as compared to other players;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports does not maintain any record of details of players employed in Government undertakings.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Government policy is to encourage young persons to take up sports as a career and achieve excellence at international level by offering various incentives.

Rural Areas for Billing

587. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the areas which have been declared rural in Kerala after January, 2002 for phone billing and other facilities;

(b) whether it is a fact that there are many other rural areas which are not considered for phone billing and other facilities;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have received any complaints in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) As per the Census-2001 Report, places other than the following are rural areas:

Those with a municipality, corporation, cantonment board or notified town area, or

Those satisfying the following criteria:

Minimum population of 5000,

At least 75% of the male working population engaged in non-agricultural pursuits, and

Density of population of at least 400 per sq. km. (1000 per sq. mile).

The areas in Kerala classified as rural as per this definition are considered for phone billing at concessional rural tariff.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. The Complaints have mainly been of the following nature:

(i) Customers disputing the classification made by the Census of India.

(ii) As per the Census Report, in certain cases, certain wards of a Panchayat are rural and others urban. When both these areas are served from the same telephone exchange, customers complain differential treatment in application of tariff.

However all complaints are examined and appropriate action taken as per extant rules.

Development of New Sophisticated Satellite

588. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are in the process of developing new sophisticated satellites to maintain India's pre-eminent position in remote sensing;

(b) if so, the areas being given preference for the launching of new satellites; and

(c) the time by which the process of launching new satellites is to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN

THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) India in the process of developing remote sensing satellites with advanced features for addressing applications of direct relevance in the important areas of land and water resources management, large scale mapping applications and ocean and meteorological applications.

(c) It is planned to launch the above series of advanced satellites in the coming years in a systematic manner, providing continuity of services to the user community. It is expected that during the 10th Five Year Plan, the advanced satellites such as the METSAT-1, RESOURCESAT-1, CARTOSAT 1&2, Oceansat-2 and Meghatropiques will be launched.

Pending Application for Basic Telephone Facilities

589. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications pending with the Union Government seeking permission to function in the field of providing basic telephone facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken for early clearance of these applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir. There are no applications pending with the Union Government seeking permission to function in the field of providing basic telephone facilities.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

India's Entry in OIC

590. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Qatar's proposal for making India a member of the Organization of Islamic countries was rejected in the recently held meeting of the Organisation in Khartoum;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The Foreign Minister of Qatar His Excellency Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabor Al-Thani, in his speech at the plenary meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Foreign Ministers held in Khartoum from June 25-27, 2002 proposed admission of India into Organization of Islamic Conference as observer in the first instance to be followed by full membership of the organization at a later date. It has been reported that the Qatari Foreign Minister made this proposal in the context of a vision of the Organization's relations with non-member states which have large Muslim communities, and the need to promote understanding and civilization dialogue among cultures as a new approach to bring about security and stability. However, as per the available reports, Qatar subsequently withdrew the proposal.

(c) Wee see it as a recognition of the fact that the second largest Muslim community in the world lives in India. While we have excellent bilateral relations with most member states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, India is not a member of the Organization and has not considered applying for it.

[English]

Quality of Medicines

591. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian medicines are not able to compete with foreign drugs due to poor quality;

(b) whether as a result of this, India's export of medicines has been affected adversely;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure better quality of medicines from the Indian companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir. Indian Pharmaceutical industry is able to meet

70% of the country's requirement of bulk drugs and almost the entire demand for formulations.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) As per Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS) data, year-wise increase registered in the export of Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals and Fine Chemicals during the last three years are as under:

Years	Rs. in crores
1998-99	Rs. 6256.07
1999-2000	Rs. 7230.16
2000-2001 (Provisional)	Rs. 8729.89

(d) Quality of drugs is intrinsically linked to the total quality management policies which depends upon the adoption of good manufacturing practices. The Government of India vide Notification No. GSR 894(E) dated 11th December 2001 has amended Schedule M of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules to upgrade the requirements of Good Manufacturing Practices to be followed by every drug manufacturer in the country.

Cruelty to Animal in Research Laboratories

592. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether cruelty to animals is increasing in Research Laboratories/Institutions;

(b) if so, the nature of cruelty and the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the present ban on use of animals for research purposes has badly affected the production of BCG Vaccines, snake venom antidote and several other crucial vaccines;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have set up a Committee to resolve the issue in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof including terms of reference and the time by which this Committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Some reports of cruelty to animals in research laboratories/institution have been received.

(b) Guidelines for Good Laboratory Practices have been framed by Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA). CPCSEA has also framed Rules on Breeding of, and Experiments on animals. Nominees of CPCSEA carry out inspections of various institutions/laboratories, and the deficiencies observed are brought to the notice of the institutions concerned for remedial action.

(c) and (d) There is no ban on use of animals for research purposes. The Rules framed by CPCSEA are only regulatory in nature. The institutes/laboratories are required to follow the rules and adhere to the guidelines to facilitate production of various vaccines.

(e) No such Committee has been constituted.

(f) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Scarcity of Life Saving Drugs

593. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH:

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

(a) whether Life Saving drugs and other essential materials are not available in the Government hospitals of Delhi for indoor patients;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the remedial measures taken in this regard;

(d) the details of the life saving drugs and other material purchased by hospitals in Delhi during the last two years, hospital-wise;

(e) whether taking advantage of the scarcity of these drugs in the Government hospitals, private chemist shops have mushroomed around all the Government hospitals of Delhi and fleecing the poor patients; and

(f) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard so far?

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.

[English]

Hospitals/Shelter Houses for the Animals

594. DR. (SHRIMATI) ANITA ARYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced a Scheme for Provision of hospitals/shelter houses for looking after the animals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of proposals for construction of shelter houses sanctioned during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes Madam. The basic objective of the Scheme for 'Provision of Shelter Houses for looking after the Animals' is establishment and maintenance of shelter houses for care and protection of animals in all districts of the country. The components of the Scheme are shelter house, health care center, medical equipments, medicines and water troughs. Under this scheme, assistance is given to voluntary organizations/ institutions and statutory bodies like local bodies upto 90% of cost and upto a maximum of 25.00 lakhs with remaining 10% being contributed by the applicant.

(c) The details of the number of proposals for construction of shelter houses sanctioned during the last three years:

Sl. No.	Year	Number of Proposals for Shelter Houses
1.	1999-2000	80
2.	2000-2001	77
3.	2001-2002	91

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

595. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has planned to allow companies to offer discounts to high users;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to abolish monthly rent system and to introduce call charge system; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recently issued guidelines to all Basic Service Operators (BSOs) on offering volume discounts. Volume discounts are permitted subject to the following conditions.

(i) The discount will be allowed only on billed amount of Rs. 500/- and above, excluding monthly rentals;

(ii) All schemes of volume discount must be available to all customers within the entire service area of BSOs, i.e., a Telecom Circle.

(c) and (d) As per the TRAI Act, 1997, as amended by TRAI (Amendment) Act, 2000, the power of fixing tariffs for telecom services is mandated to the TRAI only. As reported by TRAI, there is no proposal to abolish the system of monthly rent and introduce only a call charge system. The reasons are that, for providing telephone connections to individual subscribers, there is a fixed cost to the service provider. This cost should be borne by the subscribers irrespective of whether they make calls or not. If the rent is replaced by only call charges, the telephones will become free for those subscribers who do not make calls. The recoveries will thus be less than the minimum cost incurred by the service provider in the case of low-calling subscribers.

Expansion of Network of PCO/STD Booths

596. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to expand the network of PCO/STD booths;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the additional incentives proposed for youth to continue their operations of PCO/STD booths all over the country;

(d) whether any discussion has taken place on additional incentives by the Government to retain market share of telephone calls; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Sir, allotment of PCO/STD booths and the consequential expansion of the network is a regular process. According to the present policy, STD PCO booths are allotted liberally to all the eligible applicants on first come first served basis as per their registration. At the places where there is no waiting list for telephones. PCOs are allotted to any extent of the exchange capacity. All the other places 10% of the exchange capacity is utilized for allotment of PCOs. There is no restriction of distance between two PCOs space and size of the accommodation etc. for opening of new PCOs.

(c) PCO franchisees are paid commission for running the PCOs. They are also allowed to collect service charge, as per rules, from the public. The following additional facilities have also been extended to the franchisees so that more and more people opt for running PCOs:-

(i) Licence fee on fax machines has been removed.

(ii) Conference facility on STD PCOs has been allowed.

(iii) Interest has been allowed on the security deposit made by PCO franchisees to run the PCOs.

(iv) Additional STD PCOs in the same premises are allotted in the cities/towns where competition from private operators has begun.

(v) PCO franchisee is also allotted a local Coin Collecting Box (CCB) PCO if he so desires.

(vi) Payment of PCO bills by cheques has been allowed.

(vii) Sale of postage stamp and stationery by the PCO franchisees has been permitted.

(viii) PCO franchisees have been allowed to sell VCC (Virtual Calling Card).

(ix) In case of disconnection of PCO due to non payment, restoration of the PCO has to be done within 24 hours of clearance of pending dues.

(x) PCO bills are issued alongwith detailed bills.

(xi) Safe custody of PCOs has been allowed.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. However, in urban areas where cellular PCOs are operating and offering competition, the commission payable shall be 22% in place of 20% to counter competition (not applicable to Metro cities). The Commission payable in rural areas is 25%. Chief General Managers of BSNL have also been delegated powers to offer higher commission upto 25% wherever there is competition from basic Service Operators.

[Translation]

National Development Council

597. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the object of the National Development Council and the time interval for holding its meetings;

(b) whether some States Governments have requested the Union Government for changing the criteria for allotment of funds assistance;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government have discussed with the State Governments in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The National Development Council was constituted by a Resolution of the Cabinet Secretariat dated 6th August 1952 to perform the following functions:

(i) to review the working of the National Plan from time to time;

(ii) to consider important questions of social and economic policy affecting national development; and

(iii) to recommend measures for the achievement of the aims and targets set out in the National Plan, including measures to secure the active participation and co-operation of the people, improve the efficiency of the administrative services, ensure the fullest development of the less advanced regions and sections of the community and, through sacrifice borne equally by all citizens, build up resources for national development.

The Council shall meet as often as may be necessary and in any case at least twice in each year. Forty Nine meetings of the National Development Council have been held so far.

(b) to (e) Some State Governments have sought a revision of the Gadgil Formula for allocation of Normal Central Assistance to the States. In this regard, Planning Commission has sought the views and suggestions from various State Governments. There is wide divergence in the views amongst the States. In general, while the advanced States have sought higher weightage for performance, the less advance states have sought higher weightage for backwardness. Hence, the full Planning Commission in its meeting held on 27th and 29th June, 2001, discussed, inter-alia the issue of revision of Gadgil Formula and in view of the divergence of the views amongst the State Governments and the sensitivity of this issue, it was decided that it would be necessary to discuss this further and evolve a consensus before alternatives are considered by the NDC.

[English]

Indo-U.S. Cooperation for Preventing CBT

598. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to have bilateral cooperation with the U.S. in the matter of sharing intelligence and technology information with a view to effectively monitor and prevent the cross border terrorism being sponsored by Pakistan against India;

(b) if so, whether this matter was discussed with the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State during his visit to India in June, 2002; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The India-U.S. Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism, established in January 2000, focuses, *inter alia*, on strengthening intelligence sharing and cooperation on technology tools for combating terrorism. In this context Government is examining the U.S. offer of sensor-based technologies for enhancing the overall capabilities to check cross-border infiltration. At its fifth meeting held in Washington D.C. on 11-12 July, 2002, the two sides agreed to increase cooperation in counter-terrorism related technologies and equipment.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Travel Warnings

599. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:
SHRI J.S. BRAR:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of countries have advised their citizens against travelling to India;

(b) if so, the names of the countries thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to remove the misgivings of such countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The USA, the UK, France, Sweden, Austria, Italy, The Netherlands, Finland, Denmark, Germany, Portugal, Spain, Japan, Republic of Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Israel, Kuwait Slovakia and Romania had issued advisories to their citizens not to travel to India citing the build-up of tension in the region.

(c) Our perception on the issue was conveyed to the foreign governments concerned, inter alia, through our Missions which had regular interaction with them and briefed them fully about the situation with a view to remove their misgivings.

Use of Wombs and Semen

600. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take steps to legitimise test tube babies and babies born of assisted reproductive techniques (ART) by using wombs and semen of willing donors;

(b) if so, whether Government have examined and determines the social status and proprietory and other rights; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

National Illness Assistance Fund

601. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the salient features of National Illness Assistance Fund;

(b) the number of hospitals covered under this scheme, State-wise; and

(c) the criteria for choosing hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) National Illness Assistance Funds (NIAF) has been set up with an initial contribution of Rs. 5 Crore from Government of India during 1996-97 to provide one time financial assistance to patients, living below poverty line and suffering from major life threatening diseases, so that they could receive necessary medical treatment.

Government of India also provides financial assistance at State/UT level Illness Assistance Funds through a scheme of grant-in-aid to concerned State/UT Government. Cases requiring financial assistance upto Rs. 1.5 lakh in each case are dealt by State/UT level Illness Assistance Funds, and cases requiring financial assistance beyond Rs. 1.5 lakh in each case are dealt by the National Illness Assistance Fund on the recommendation of the State level Illness Assistance Fund/Medical Relief Society.

Individuals, corporate bodies and philanthropic organisations can also contribute to the NIAF and State Funds.

(b) and (c) Beneficiaries receiving treatment at any Government/private/super-speciality hospital may be granted assistance under NIAF. Government hospitals are, however, given preference. As regards State/UT Funds, it is for the respective State/UT Government to decide the hospitals to be included in the State Illness Assistance Fund.

MoU with Nepal

602. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to grant any assistance to Nepal for setting up the East-West Highway Optical Fibre Cable Network;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent of financial assistance to Nepal proposed for this propose;

(c) whether any memorandum of understanding has been signed between the two countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which it will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India has proposed Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH) based Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) project along the East West Highway of Nepal on turnkey basis under the Grants-in-Aid by Government of India to Government of Nepal.

The project is estimated to be of Rs. 84 crores value and covers route link of about 1000 KMs and shall connect 81 stations along the East West highway starting from Bhadrapur in the East and Nepal Ganj in the West. The entire cost of this project will be provided by the Government of India as Grants assistance to Nepal.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) On 12-04-2002, an MoU has been signed between the Government of India and His Majesty's Government of Nepal for the cooperation in the telecommunications sector in Nepal. The MoU envisages setting up of an Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) based information Super Highway along the East West Highway in Nepal.

(e) The project is likely to be implemented over a period of two years.

[Translation]

Website on Gandhi Museum

603. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any website named "Gandhi Museum" having significance on Mahatma Gandhi has been created;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government propose to make available this website in all regional languages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However,

there is a website with the name 'Gandhi Museum' created by National Gandhi Museum which is a registered society. At present, there is no proposal for creation of website in all regional languages.

[English]

AIDS Vaccine

604. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether AIDS vaccine with the name vacinia Ankara MVA is undergoing trials in India;

(b) if so, the details of the vaccine and results of such trials; and

(c) the time by which this vaccine would be issued for the general public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The modified vacinia Ankara (MVA) based HIV vaccine is in development stage involving lot of complex and complicated steps and has not reached the stage of clinical trial.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Contract and Gradation System

605. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board of Control for Cricket in India has mooted a 'contract and gradation system' for payments to the players; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) As per information received from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), the contract and gradation system for payments to players is still under its consideration.

MPLAD Scheme

606. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to enlarge the list of works to be executed under MPLAD Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any guidelines have been issued in this regard to the executive authorities of States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) On the recommendation of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Committees on MPLADS, the following items of work have been added to the list of permissible works under MPLADS in the latest Guidelines (April 2002):-

(i) Purchase of Audio-Visual Aids of educational nature for Government, Government-aided and also unaided but Government recognised educational institutions, provided there is proper place and proper provision for safe custody of these aids.

(ii) Purchase of Night Soil Disposal System for local bodies.

(iii) Purchase of motor boats for flood and cyclone affected areas.

(iv) Works relating to animal care/welfare like construction of buildings/shelters, provision of ambulances, medical equipment and development of infrastructure facilities like provision of drinking water, drainage etc.

In addition to the above, Registered Societies and Trusts also have been allowed to take up works which are permissible under MPLADS. MPLADS funds can also be used on the recommendation of the Member of Parliament concerned towards the contribution of State Government in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme in their constituency only for the works which are permissible under MPLADS.

(c) and (d) The updated Guidelines on MPLADS have been circulated to all concerned, including the State Governments/Government of Union Territories, all the District Heads, as well as the Members of Parliament.

Funds to Terrorists

607. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the terrorists got funded through the Pakistan High Commission and the erstwhile Pak High Commissioner in India;

(b) if so, whether the Government have circumstantial evidence to prove that the activities of the Pakistan High Commission and the High Commissioner were against the spirit of Geneva Accord;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to lodge protest against the Pakistan High Commission and the erstwhile Pak High Commissioner in the UNO;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) As a part of its policy of instigating and abetting cross border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of India, Pakistan sponsors terrorist activities in India. Funding of the terrorist organisations is a part of Pakistan's elaborate infrastructure for terrorism.

(c) to (e) India remains firm in its resolve to take all necessary measures to resist terrorism until it is crushed decisively. In the aftermath of December 13 attack on our Parliament Government announced a series of diplomatic measures against Pakistan including a reduction by 50% in the respective strengths of the High Commissions in the two countries and restriction on the movement of officials and staff of Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi.

India remains firmly committed to the path of dialogue and reconciliation, which is in keeping with the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration.

Medical Negligence

608. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that the incidents of death due to medical negligence in the recent years has increased in the country;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents reported during the last three years;

(c) the action taken against the errant doctors; and

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) In so far as three Central Government Hospital in Delhi, namely, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and LHMC and Associated Hospitals are concerned, no incidents of death due to medical negligence in the last three years has been recorded.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Amendment In Major Port Trust

609. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to amend the Major Port Trust Act;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some Members of Parliament/State Government/Organizations have opposed this move;

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

(e) the action of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (e) The Major Port Trusts (Amendment) Bill, 2001 has been introduced in Parliament on 31/8/2001, which seeks to amend the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963. The Major Port Trusts (Amendment) Bill, 2001, stands referred to the Department-related Parliament Standing Committee on Transport and Tourism for examination and report.

No Tobacco Week

610. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether international "No Tobacco Week" was observed in May-June this year;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes and programmes launched thereunder;

(c) the percentage and number of tobacco related deaths in the country during 1999-2000 and 2001-2002; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken to find alternative uses of tobacco?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) "World No Tobacco Day" was observed on 31st May, 2002.

(b) A number of workshops/seminars and cultural/ sports activities were organized by the governmental and non-governmental agencies all over the country to publicise the ill-effects of tobacco and discourage its use.

(c) Year-wise data is not centrally maintained. However, it is estimated that about 8 lakh persons in India die every year due to tobacco use.

(d) There is very limited use of tobacco other than for chewing or smoking purposes.

Sending of Envoys by EU

611. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Union has decided to send back envoys to India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether this decision was taken at the meeting of EU Foreign Minister in Luxembourg;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether India has welcomed this move; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) The EU General Affairs Council meeting at Foreign Ministerial level in Luxembourg affirmed the commitment of EU to work for India and Pakistan and with others in the international community to defuse the immediate crisis and to support efforts to achieve a lasting resolution to the differences between India and Pakistan. The Declaration adopted at the EU Council meeting at Seville on 21st and 22nd June 2002, while encouraging both countries to achieve a lasting settlement through bilateral dialogue, also suggested that the EU High Representative, Mr. Solana pay an early visit to the region.

(d) and (e) The possibility of a visit by the EU High Representative at a mutually convenient time is under consideration.

New AIDS Policy

612. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a new AIDS policy;

(b) if so, the salient features of the Policy; and

(c) the manner, this new policy is different from earlier policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient features of National AIDS Prevention and Control Policy are as under:-

(i) to prevent the epidemic from spreading further and to reduce the impact of the epidemic not only upon the infected persons but upon the health and socio-economic status of the general population at all levels. The policy envisages effective containment of the infection levels of HIV/AIDS in the general population in order to achieve zero level of new infections by 2007,

(ii) to reiterate strongly the Government's firm commitment to prevent the spread of HIV infection and reduce personal and social impact,

(iii) to generate a feeling of ownership among all the participants both at the Government and non-Government levels, like the Central Ministries and agencies of the Government of India, State Governments, city corporations, industrial undertakings in public and private sectors, panchayat institutions and local bodies to make it a truly national effort,

(iv) To create an enabling socio-economic environment for prevention of HIV/AIDS, to provide care and support to people living with

HIV/AIDS and to ensure protection/promotion of their human rights including right to access health care system, right to education, employment and privacy, to mobilise support of a large number of NGOs/Community Based Organisations (CBOs) for an enlarged community initiative for prevention and alleviation of the HIV/AIDS problem.

(v) to decentralize HIV/AIDS control programme to the field level with adequate financial and administrative delegation of responsibilities,

(vi) to strengthen programme management capabilities at the State Governments, municipal corporations, panchayat institutions and leading NGOs participating in the programme,

(vii) to bring in horizontal integration at the implementation level with other national programmes like Reproductive and Child Health, TB control, Integrated Child Development Scheme and with the primary health care system,

(viii) to prevent women, children and other socially weak groups from becoming vulnerable to HIV infection by improving health education, legal status and economic prospects.

(ix) to provide adequate and equitable provision of health care to the HIV-infected people and to draw attention to the compelling public health rationale for overcoming stigmatization, discrimination and seclusion in society,

(x) to constantly interact with international and bilateral agencies for support and cooperation in the field of research in vaccines, drugs, emerging systems of health care and other financial and managerial inputs,

(xi) to ensure availability of adequate and safe blood and blood products for the general population through promotion of voluntary blood donation in the country; and

(xii) to promote better understanding of HIV infection among people, especially students, youth and other sexually active sections to generate greater awareness about the nature of its transmission and to adopt safe behavioural practices for prevention.

(c) There was no such approved policy earlier.

[Translation]

Illegal Flights

613. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether "SAM aviation" had been operating its flights illegally in the Indian Air space for the last many years;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether certain individuals had informed the Government in this regard in 1998 itself;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government on the basis of the said information?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) An agency viz. M/s. Sam Aviation used to obtain clearances from the concerned Indian authorities for operating the flights of the foreign company M/s. GST Aero of Kazakhstan as its Indian principal. It was on 28th March, 2002 that the Ministry of External Affairs received a note verbale from the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan informing that some charter flights operator was trying to obtain an over-flight and landing permission using forged copies of their diplomatic notes verbale.

(c) There is nothing on record to show that any such information was received in 1998.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Revised guidelines have since been issued by the Ministry in the matter of issuance of clearances for over-flights and landing of unscheduled flights in order to prevent occurrence of such cases.

[English]

Growth Rate

614. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the growth rate in Gujarat and Maharashtra during the post reform period as compared to previous years i.e. from 1980-81 to 1990-91;

(b) the specific reasons for decrease or increase in the annual growth rates of Gujarat and Maharashtra during the post reform period; and

(c) the effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Growth rate for 1980's and 1990's measured by Growth rate of GSDP at constant prices for the States of Gujarat and Maharashtra are as follows:

State	Growth Rate 1980's	Growth Rate 1990's
Gujarat	6.4	6.7
Maharashtra	6.3	6.5

(b) and (c) Growth rate in the post reform period are only marginally higher compared to the pre reform period, and accordingly it is not possible to ascribe any specific reasons for this marginal increase in growth rate during the post reform period for these States.

[Translation]

Funds for States

615. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the annual plans sanctioned by the Planning Commission during last three years indicating the amount sanctioned to each State;

(b) the details of the amount spent by each State:

(c) names of the States which did not utilized the sanctioned plan outlay during the prescribed period; and

(d) the reasons for non utilisation of sanctioned plan allocations by the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) A Statement showing the details of the Annual Plan Outlays sanctioned by the Planning Commission and amount spent/utilized by the State Governments during the last three years is enclosed.

(c) and (d) As indicated by the Statement most of the States could not utilize the sanctioned plan outlays during the period. The inability of the States to mobilize adequate resources is the main reason for shortfall in expenditure.

Statement

(Rs. crore)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Annual Plan 1999-2000		Annual Plan 2000-01		Annual Plan 2001-02	
		Originally Approved Outlay	Actual Expenditure	Originally Approved Outlay	Actual Expenditure	Originally Approved Outlay	Revised Outlay
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5480.00	4,748.40	7708.00	6660.14$	8,378.00	7,816.48
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	665.00	468.40	640.00	510.92	661.00	660.91
3.	Assam	1750.00	1,404.59	1520.00	1520.00$	1,710.00	1,710.00*
4.	Bihar	3630.00	2,675.68	3100.00	1638.22	2,644.00	2,644.00*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5.	Chhattisgarh@	–	–	–	–	1,312.00	1,312.00*
6.	Goa	281.19	236.90	332.00	360.78	460.00	460.00*
7.	Gujarat	6550.00	6,492.10	7600.00	7010.00$	7,267.85	6,500.00
8.	Haryana	2300.00	1,676.41	1920.00	1718.31	2,150.00	1,814.17
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1600.00	1,623.51	1382.00	1720.00$	1,720.00	1,744.51
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	1750.00	1,506.37	1753.00	1537.90	2,050.00	2,050.00*
11.	Jharkhand@	–	–	–	–	2,250.00	2,250.00*
12.	Karnataka	5800.00	6,362.90	7250.00	6785.37	8,941.56	7,903.79
13.	Kerala	3250.00	2,946.34	3317.00	2493.25$	3,015.00	2,260.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	4004.00	3,589.17	3295.58	3177.38	3,630.00	3,937.76
15.	Maharashtra	12162.00	10,418.59	11500.00	9586.00	10,834.00	10,834.00*
16.	Manipur	475.00	452.61	451.00	429.57$	520.00	352.65
17.	Meghalaya	465.00	343.28	480.00	462.84	487.00	472.82
18.	Mizoram	360.00	378.02	401.26	371.93	410.00	441.51
19.	Nagaland	315.00	306.17	326.00	317.70	405.00	411.47
20.	Orissa	3309.17	2,484.00	2665.00	2562.07	3,000.00	2,300.00
21.	Punjab	2680.00	1,753.17	2420.00	2147.14$	3,021.00	3,021.00*
22.	Rajasthan	4750.00	3,600.95	4146.00	3772.90	5,031.00	4,642.35
23.	Sikkim	250.00	193.25	250.00	218.39	300.22	300.22
24.	Tamil Nadu	5250.00	5,413.75	5700.00	5776.52	6,040.00	5,200.00
25.	Tripura	475.00	452.51	485.00	474.12	560.00	560.00*
26.	Uttar Pradesh	11400.00	6,572.21	9025.00	5956.40	8,400.00	4,872.47
27.	Uttaranchal@	–	–	–	–	1,050.00	1,050.00*
28.	West Bengal	5787.00	3,927.71	4026.59	5631.04	7,186.13	5,693.31
	Total	84738.36	70026.99	81693.43	72838.89	93433.76	83215.42

* Revision not sought, approved outlay repeated.

$ Actual Expenditure not reported by State Govt. Approved/Revised Outlay taken.

@ States came into existence in November, 2000.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

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): Sir, on behalf of Shrimati Vasundhara Raje, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.

(ii) Annual Report of the Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5794/2002)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2002-2003.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5795/2002)

[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): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by the Government on the assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during the various sessions of the Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth Lok Sabha:—

TENTH LOK SABHA

(1) Statement No. XLIV Third Session 1992.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5796/2002)

(2) Statement No. XXXXIII Eleventh Session 1994.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5797/2002)

(3) Statement No. XXIX Twelfth Session 1994.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5798/2002)

(4) Statement No. XX Sixteenth Session 1996.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5799/2002)

ELEVENTH LOK SABHA

(5) Statement No. XXVIII Second Session 1996.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5800/2002)

(6) Statement No. XXVI Third Session 1996.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5801/2002)

(7) Statement No. XXIV Sixth Session 1997.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5802/2002)

TWELFTH LOK SABHA

(8) Statement No. XXV Second Session 1998.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5803/2002)

(9) Statement No. XX Third Session 1998.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5804/2002)

(10) Statement No. XX Fourth Session 1999.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5805/2002)

THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

(11) Statement No. XXVII Second Session 1999.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5806/2002)

(12) Statement No. XVII Third Session 2000.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5807/2002)

(13) Statement No. XIII Fourth Session 2000.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5808/2002)

(14) Statement No. XI Fifth Session 2000.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5809/2002)

(15) Statement No. X Sixth Session 2001.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5810/2002)

(16) Statement No. VII Seventh Session 2001.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5811/2002)

(17) Statement No. V Eighth Session 2001. (Vol. I & II)

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5812/2002)

(18) Statement No. III Ninth Session 2002.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5813/2002)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Drugs and Cosmetics (3rd Amendment) Rules, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 311(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st May, 2002, under section 38 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5814/2002)

12.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Twenty-Sixth Report

SHRI DENZIL B. ATKINSON (Nominated): Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now we go to Calling Attentions. Begum Noor Bano can raise her Calling Attention.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): Sir, there is a very serious matter of misuse of POTA...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): Sir, it is a very serious matter...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): Sir, you have already called Begum Noor Bano to raise her Calling Attention...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are all aware that as per the rules the Calling Attention notice has a priority. So, I have called the name of Begum Noor Bano to raise her Calling Attention.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the whole country is in the grip of drought and the situation is deteriorating. The farmers of the entire country have been ruined. It this situation continues, the entire country particularly Uttar Pradesh will be on the verge of starvation within two months.

MR. SPEAKER: As per rule I have allowed Begum Noor Bano to speak on the calling attention motion. We will consider this subject in the meeting of BAC tomorrow and it can be taken up for discussion on Monday. Please sit down.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, before taking up the Calling Attention Notice...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now we are taking up the Calling Attention. After this, there will be 'Zero Hour'. You can raise your issue at that time. I shall permit you at that time.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. I have already called her name.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, please allow me one minute on this Calling Attention issue. This is a very important issue. The notice for this Calling Attention has been given by the Congress Party. This is regarding foreign direct investment in print media. We have our views on this. That is why I am requesting you to please allow a discussion on this under Rule 193.

MR. SPEAKER: I have already permitted Begum Noor Bano to raise her Calling Attention.

...(Interruptions)

BEGUM NOOR BANO (Rampur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Situation arising out of decision of the Government to allow foreign direct investment in Print Media in India."...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are a senior Member. You please understand. Let the subject matter be first read by the hon. Member. How do you know what the subject matter is unless it is read by her?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow you to speak on this issue unless it becomes a property of the House. Let the hon. Member read the notice and then you can tell me what your request is.

BEGUM NOOR BANO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to call the attention of the hon. Minister of Information and Broadcasting to the following matter of urgent public importance.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, people are in great distress in Uttar Pradesh due to drought...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, let him not disturb the hon'ble member Begum Noor Bano...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I am taking up this matter of discussion.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: Mr. Speaker Sir, please allow us to raise this issue during the Zero Hour...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I am taking up this matter for discussion.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr Speaker, Sir, I have given notice of an adjournment motion on the Hazipur railway zone issue, what about that?...*(Interruptions)* Sir, people have started a movement in Bihar...*(Interruptions)* The Government intend to manipulate in regard to Hazipur railway zone. People have started a movement in the State for taking this matter to the Cabinet for reconsideration...*(Interruptions)* A mass movement is going on there...*(Interruptions)* I have given a notice for adjournment motion on this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North-West): Mr. Speaker, Sir, perhaps he is not aware that this matter has been referred back to the Cabinet...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I have also given notice on the re-organisation of the Railway zones...*(Interruptions)* I have given notice in this regard. You should allow us also...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, what is this? Please allow hon. Member Begum Noor Bano to continue...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: All of you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You please understand that the Speaker is on his legs. You will have to sit down first. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already said that there should be discipline in the House. The hon. Members should be disciplined. I have received the notices for Adjournment Motion. I am taking them up afterwards. You all are aware of the rules. You are senior Members in the House. Am I required to tell you what the procedure is?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Are you not aware of it?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have already permitted her to speak. She belongs to your Party. You must understand that I have allowed her to speak. Do you not want a Member of your Party to speak? What are you doing?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed her. At least have a courtesy for a lady Member of the House.

...(Interruptions)

BEGUM NOOR BANO: Thank you very much. I would like to call the attention of the hon. Minister of Information and Broadcasting...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice for adjournment motion...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will give my ruling on your notice later on. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister of Railways is present here in the House. I would like to know from him as to what action is being taken in regard to creation of railway zone?...*(Interruptions)* It is a very serious issue. A mass movement is going on in Bihar over this issue. I want that the Minister of Railways should clarify as to what is the position in the matter?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to allow discussion on this matter.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister of Railways should tell us at what stage this matter is held up. Different statements are being reported in newspapers in this regard. Sometimes agitation is taking place in West Bengal and sometimes people are agitating in Bihar.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Sir, I have given notice for Adjournment Motion on the negligence of the Railways with disastrous consequences as revealed by the forensic report...*(Interruptions)* I should be allowed to raise this issue...*(Interruptions)*

12.08 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Government Decision to allow FDI in Print Media

[English]

BEGUM NOOR BANO (Rampur): Sir, I would like to call the attention of the hon. Minister of Information and Broadcasting to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that the hon. Minister may make a statement thereon:

> "Situation arising out of the decision of the Government to allow Foreign Direct Investment in print media in India."...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Sir, I have given notice for Adjournment Motion on the serious negligence of the Railways...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati): Sir, please allow me for a minute...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people are in great distress in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan due to drought. I have been giving notice for adjournment motion for the last three days. I want your ruling in this regard...*(Interruptions)* Drought situation is the burning issue at present.

Mr. Speaker Sir, a horrible situation has arisen in the entire country due to drought. In Uttar Pradesh crops worth thousands of crores of rupees have been destroyed so far and the farmers are compelled to commit suicide. The Union Government has become a mute spectator...*(Interruptions)* The Union Government has not taken any initiative to deal with the drought situation so far. Farmers are facing power crisis. They are not getting electricity to irrigate their fields. Not only that crops of

[Kunwar Akhilesh Singh]

the farmers have been destroyed due to which the farmers are compelled to commit suicide...*(Interruptions)* I have given notice for Adjournment Motion on this issue...*(Interruptions)* This is the most important issue. Today the need is that this issue should be discussed immediately here in the House and Union Government should take steps to deal with the drought situation at war footing.

MR. SPEAKER: You were present here in the House when your leader raised this issue. I have said that I will allow a discussion on this issue in the House. Despite my having given the assurance you are behaving like this.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, whatever these people are speaking during Calling attention should not go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): I also support this. If disinvestment is allowed in the print media, all the newspapers will be sold out to big players. Therefore, the Government should take seriously the matter related to print media...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mulayam Singhji started with telephones then he switched over to farmers and thereafter he mentioned print media and now defence sector will also come up...*(Interruptions)* Please do not raise 5-7 subjects in one day, press will find it difficult to give coverage to so many subjects...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I want to make one submission. As this is a very important issue, let the Calling Attention be converted into a discussion under Rule 193 so that we all can participate because we have our views on this and we want to express our views. Let it be converted into a discussion under Rule 193.

MR. SPEAKER: About print media.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. What is this all? You do not want to respect the Chair at all. I am sorry, but this should not be the way of asking questions in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Banatwalla, please sit down. am talking on your notice for Adjournment Motion. Please sit down. I have received three notices for Adjournment Motion, on different issues. I have gone through them may not be in a position to allow Adjournment Motions on these issues, but during the 'Zero Hour', I can permit them to speak because the issues are important. As regards the print media issue, Shri Sharad Pawar and

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Please mention the subject on which notice for Adjournment Motion is given

MR. SPEAKER: The notice for Adjournment Motion is given on the report on Godhra incident.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Yes, forensic report.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: In S-6 compartment there was a lot of petrol. How did the Railway authorities allow carrying of considerable quantity of petrol in the compartments which led to the torching of the compartments...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Banatwalla, I have already said that I may be disallowing your notice, but at the same time, I am going to permit you to speak during 'Zero Hour'. Why do you not wait? Please wait.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sharad Pawar has to make a suggestion on the print media issue which is to be discussed next.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, this Calling Attention is on a very important subject. Practically, representative of every political party would like to participate in the discussion. So, my request would be to please convert this discussion into a discussion under Rule 193 and allow the opportunity to everybody...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. If you want to say the same thing, you have already requested me.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have also requested me.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I support what Shri Sharad Pawar has suggested. It should be converted into a discussion under Rule 193...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your leader is here. He has also mentioned it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am in agreement with Shri Sharad Pawar that this issue is very important. It is not that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me now.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: We also fully support this. Any disinvestment in print media is a serious threat to all the newspapers...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have also submitted that this subject is very important and a number of Members want to participate in the discussion on it. There are two options before me. The first is that I can convert it into the discussion under rule 193 and allow discussion on it right now.

[English]

If the Government has no objection.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me.

If the Government has something to say on this, they can tell me. Otherwise, I will have to take up the notice today as it is. I am bound by the rules. I am not refusing to take up the notice. I can go ahead with it. I will take the advice from the leader of the Congress Party and also Members and thereafter, I will ask the Government and take a final decision. In the meantime, I do not want anybody else to stand up and give me advice.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Sir, you have very rightly put this matter before the House. If the Government agrees to discuss it under Rule 193, we shall have no objection. The only suggestion we would like to make is that our Members have studied the issue, they have given the notice, they should be allowed to ask their questions as well as make their submissions, and then other Members should be allowed. Five Members from this side and other side have given their names and those names are there. They should first be allowed and then others should be allowed.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government have no objection in having discussion on this issue under any rule. It is the discretion of the Speaker to decide as to under which rule the discussion should be allowed on a subject. You have allowed discussion on it under the calling attention motion. One possible way could be that you can allow those members who have given notice under Rule 193 to put forth their view on this subject under the calling attention motion. In this way, this discussion can be prolonged a little bit to accommodate all the hon'ble Members who want to speak on this subject. If you want to convert the discussion under any other rule you are at liberty to do so. The Government have no objection, we do not want to put any restrictions on the discussion in any manner. I am ready for discussion on it as per the wishes of the House and as per the decision of hon'ble chair.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Parliamentary Affairs Minister, would you like to say something on this?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, I have nothing to add. We are ready to discuss it under any form of procedure. If you convert and take up the discussion under Rule 193, as far as adding Members is concerned, I think, we should not make this exception because we have a rule in Lok Sabha, as far as Calling Attention Notice is concerned, that the Members whose names appear in the list can only ask questions. Once you start bypassing the rules, next time, when an important subject is taken up, there will be the same demand and this will be treated as a precedent. Though we always say that this will not be treated as a precedent, it is treated as a precedent. If you want, Sir, let us straightaway take it up under Rule 193 and the hon. Member whose name appears first in the list can start the debate and the rest can follow.

MR. SPEAKER: Shall we take it up under Rule 193?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, it looks a little odd if five Congress Members have to speak in a serial order.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: They will be asking only questions.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I hope, sir, you will appreciate that it looks a little odd if five Members from one political party speak in a serial order under Rule 193. Let everybody speak; they can also speak at a later stage.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: My only submission is that they are not going to make long, elaborate speeches. Their speeches would be confined to the questions which could have been allowed. I appreciate the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister's difficulty and, yet, they should be given the precedence.

MR. SPEAKER: Should we go by Rule 193?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: If you take it up under Rule 193, you should follow the Rule 193 format. Or if you go by the Rule concerning the Calling Attention Notice, you should follow the Calling Attention format. You cannot have both the formats. Do not make a hybrid of the rules.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, generally, I find that the Government is also agreeable to have it converted to 193. They have no objection on this issue. We have no objection in her initiating the debate under Rule 193. Let her initiate it. If others from Congress Benches have any questions, they can put questions so that every party can participate. Therefore, it may be allowed under Rule 193.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: You can fix up the time for discussion either tomorrow or day after tomorrow, whenever it is convenient.

MR. SPEAKER: I have no objection in taking it up in the afternoon, if she is free today. If you are free, I will fix up the time in the afternoon after consulting and we can have a regular debate.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, it is a very important subject. Let us take it up right away. If it is so important, the Members must have been well prepared. They will start the discussion immediately. What is the problem in that?

MR. SPEAKER: Do you have any objection to take it up in the afternoon today? She will initiate the debate.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Whatever is your suggestion, we will accept it.

MR. SPEAKER: I have taken a decision that the issue will be discussed in the afternoon today. A fixed time will be given, and then the hon. Minister will reply. The debate will be under rule 193.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Sir, please fix the time for this.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: If you can tell her the time, she can come back.

MR. SPEAKER: I am fixing up 3 o'clock as the time for starting this debate. It will be under Rule 193.

12.20 hrs.

RE: ALLEGED MISUSE OF POTA

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we will take up 'Zero Hour'. Yes, you can make your submission.

DR. C. KRISHNAN (Pollachi): Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to talk about a sad thing that a hon. Member of this House has been booked under POTA and he is now behind the bars.

Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Members of this House as to how POTA has been misused by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Sir, Shri Vaiko, my leader, General Secretary, MDMK was arrested on 11th July, 2002 under the POTA and he is in Vellore jail. While Shri Vaiko was participating in the debate on Gujarat incidents in the House, some Members of Opposition parties interfered and referred him as a supporter of LTTE. To clarify the view taken by the Members of the Opposition. Shri Vaiko, my leader explained his stand with regard to LTTE. He only mentioned the same in the public meeting held at Thirumangalam in Madurai district on 29th June this year.

Sir, the arrest of Shri Vaiko under POTA is an anti-democratic action taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu. During the debate on POTA in the House, Government assured that it will not be allowed to be misused for political reasons and against political parties...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli): Sir, it is a State subject...*(Interruptions)*

DR. C. KRISHNAN: Sir, now POTA has been misused by the Government of Tamil Nadu. I, on behalf of my party and on behalf of everyone here, wish to know from the Government as to what action the Central Government proposes to take for the protection of the Members against the use of POTA and for the release of Shri Vaiko, leader of MDMK party.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): Sir, we also associate ourselves with the sentiments expressed by the hon. Member...*(Interruptions)*

DR. C. KRISHNAN: Sir, there are a lot of problems that are yet to be solved in the State in Tamil Nadu. In order to divert the attention of the people of Tamil Nadu from those issues, the Government of Tamil Nadu has resorted to such actions. The Cauvery water dispute has not yet been settled. There has been an increase in the bus fares and there has also been a hike in the charges of electricity. Likewise, there are many other problems. The MDMK party had created a public opinion against the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Government in an effort to divert the attention of the people from these issues has taken such an action. Instead of solving the problems of people, the Government of Tamil Nadu has started suppressing the voice of the Opposition. The arrest of Shri Vaiko is a case of political vengeance and this has to be taken care of at this stage itself. It is because today it has happened with Shri Vaiko and tomorrow anybody can be arrested like this. So, the Central Government should initiate action immediately to protect...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, I would like to reply to this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete first.

DR. C. KRISHNAN: Sir, today Shri Vaiko has been arrested under this, tomorrow anybody can be put behind the bars under this POTA. I would like the Central Government to give its opinion on safeguarding the Members in this respect.

MR. SPEAKER: This issue being an important issue, I am going to allow some Members to speak on this.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): I have submitted that the situation is worsening in Uttar Pradesh due to drought and Government are doing nothing in this regard. The farmers who had undertaken sowing operations of Kharif crop, their crops have been destroyed, the price of diesel has gone up, supply of electricity has been disrupted and tubewells have gone dry because ground water table has fallen sharply.

MR. SPEAKER: We will have a discussion on it.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: This Government is doing nothing. The entire country is in the grip of drought. The matter is very serious. The monsoon forecasts made by the department of meteorology proved to be wrong. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want your protection. Please direct the Government to inform the House as to what it is doing to deal with the situation.

MR. SPEAKER: You are well aware that in the morning when Shri Mulayam Singhji raised this issue I had told him that there would be a discussion on it. You can participate in the discussion at that time and I will allow you. This is an important issue and it will certainly be discussed here in the House. Right now we have to initiate discussion on arrest of Mr. Vaiko under 'POTA'. I call Shri Prabhunath Singhji to express his views on this issue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker Sir, I thank you. Sir, this discussion will start on Monday. I request you to kindly direct the Government...*(Interruptions)* Sir, the situation is grave which can result in anarchy and bloodshed...*(Interruptions)* Under the present circumstances, the situation should deteriorate further. We want your protection. Please direct the Government...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, I will answer that...*(Interruptions)* I have a right of reply...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi): Sir, after Shri Prabhunath Singhji I may kindly be allowed to speak. There is a crisis of electricity and drinking water in Delhi and the Congress Government in Delhi is doing nothing to improve the situation...*(Interruptions)* Delhites are facing a lot of difficulties...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Prabhunath Singh says.

*...(Interruptions)**

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* Not recorded.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, I want to say something not on this issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: On any other issue you are not allowed to speak unless I dispose of this particular issue.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, I have already given notice on this issue. I want to add to what Shri Ramji Lal Suman has said...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have not taken that up. You are aware that on that there is going to be a discussion.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Prabhunath Singh says now.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, I seek your permission.

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to permit you. You will be positively permitted to speak on this issue. This is a very serious issue. I want everybody to cooperate. Your colleague has been arrested under POTA. Would you not like to discuss it in the House? I want this to be discussed seriously.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member of this House Shri Vaiko has been arrested under POTA, by the Tamil Nadu Government. The day POTA was being discussed in the House...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, you have to be very brief.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, I shall be very brief. When the Members of ruling parties as well as that of the opposition were holding discussion on the Bill, some of the Members expressed the apprehensions on that very day that this law might be misused. Shri Vaiko has written a letter to all the hon. Members in this regard. I have also received his letter in which he has explained that he has not committed any guilt, whatsoever, so as to be framed under POTA. Arresting Shri Vaiko is nothing but an act of political vendetta done by the Tamil Nadu Government. I would like the Central Government to make its stand clear on this issue and also to amend this law...*(Interruptions)* The shortcomings and loopholes of POTA must be done away with through amendments. The Central Government should intervene in the matter and should endeavour to ensure the release of Shri Vaiko from the jail. Through you this is my humble request to the Government.

Sir, I think that there is a unanimity in the House on this issue. It is clearly an injustice to arrest Shri Vaiko. Tamil Nadu Government has indulged into witch hunting. Such an act of witch-hunting against a politician has set up a wrong precedence. Through these words, I conclude and once again urge upon the Government to bring amendments in this law.

[English]

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur): Hon. Speaker, Sir, POTO was enacted as a law in order to prevent terrorism and terrorist activities. It should not be used as a weapon against political opponents. When the Bill was introduced in Parliament, we from DMK Party expressed the fear that this might be used against political opponents. We want a solemn assurance from the Home Minister that this would not be used against political adversaries.

Now, several people have been arrested under POTA by various State Governments. So also the States are contemplating to arrest several people under POTA in the near future.

Since Shri Vaiko, an hon. MP, has been arrested, we are making an issue in this Parliament today. I want to know how many innocent people have been arrested on personal vendetta and on political reasons.

Sir, it is the misuse of POTA by the Tamil Nadu Government. The arrest of Shri Vaiko by the Tamil Nadu Government is a clear use of political vendetta and to prevent his political activities.

In this case the Special Court has not been constituted to remand a person arrested under POTA. A magistrate is not competent under the Act to remand an accused...*(Interruptions)*

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* Not recorded.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, what is this? He is reading during the *Zero Hour...(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: You are not the Speaker. The hon. Speaker has allowed me to speak...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, there is no rule to read during *Zero Hour.*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri P.H. Pandian, please take your seat. I will allow you also to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: But, Sir, there is no rule for reading during *Zero Hour...(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: Who says I am reading?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri P.H. Pandian, please.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: Sir, so far, no rule has been framed about the functioning of the Special Court. Hence, a remand by the magistrate is illegal. Taking this fact into consideration, the magistrate, who originally remanded five accused in this case, applied for leave and went away. It seems that he refused further remand to the accused. So, the Executive had pressurised another magistrate to remand them. It is a clear case of pressurising the Judiciary by the Executive.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri S.S. Palanimanickam, please be brief. You cannot read out the entire thing.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, please give a chance to all the Members to speak on this subject...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Sir, he says that the Judiciary has been put under political pressure. How can he say so?

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to criticise the political pressure and not the Judiciary.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: That is what he had said...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, you should not allow such a reading by a Member of Parliament...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: Sir, we should have more safeguards in POTA to prevent action initiated due to political reasons. Under this Act, Police officers have been empowered with the power of arrest.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: Sir, our leader Dr. Kaliangar yesterday stated in the Press that there should be an in-built mechanism before the arrest by the police officers.

In the United Kingdom during World War II, the emergency provisions were made that the competent authority to issue warrant of arrest should be the Home Secretary of the State.

We, the DMK, insisted at the time when POTO Bill was being considered that the competent authority to issue the order of arrest should be the Home Secretary of the concerned State. Otherwise, POTA will be misused time and again.

Therefore, we want from the hon. Home Minister a statement about the arrest of Shri Vaiko, an hon. Member of this august House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri E. Ponnuswamy.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): You had assured to allow me to speak during Zero Hour...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I would allow you. I have first allowed Ponnuswamy to speak. You please take your seat.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: When shall I be allowed to speak?

MR. SPEAKER: This is an important discussion. I would allow you next.

[English]

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY (Chidambaram): Thank you very much, Sir, for the opportunity given to me...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, let me speak now.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want to speak now? I wanted you to reply rather.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, you are allowing everybody but not me.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you also.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: As a right of reply, I should be allowed to speak now.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri E. Ponnuswamy is on his legs. Let him speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: Sir, Shri Pandian is on the panel of Chairmen also. He should follow the procedures...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pandian, you had been the Speaker of a State Assembly also. Please understand. I will give you the chance after him. Now, please take your seat.

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Sir, we are with the Government to enact any law to prevent terrorism. We had supported this law in good faith two months ago, just to prevent terrorism and not to arrest any political opponent by misusing the Act.

In the Act, there is no provision to arrest the political leaders as a vendetta and to just score a political mileage or take revenge against the political leaders.

We have enacted this law two months ago. We had supported that measure whole-heartedly, in good faith, that it will never be misused—to take revenge or to take political mileage...*(Interruptions)* Please allow me to speak...*(Interruptions)* We had supported that measure and we will continue to support any measure taken by the Government to nip terrorism in the bud, in whatever fashion it may come up.

Now, not only to gain political mileage, but also to take revenge against political adversaries or rivals, quite unfortunately, the Government of Tamil Nadu arrested Shri Vaiko, instead of concentrating on the main issues of the people. People in Tamil Nadu are facing near-famine, without the water of Cauvery. There are so many other problems facing the people of Tamil Nadu. Just to divert the attention of the people from the main issues, the Government of Tamil Nadu, quite unfortunately, misusing the provisions of this Act to harass one political leader...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I think, it is enough. Please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: I request this august House to amend this law, so as not to arrest political leaders, but only to fight against terrorism...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the law was passed by Parliament to protect the sovereignty and integrity to India...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Sir, I appeal to this august House to take all steps necessary to release Shri Vaiko and also to amend that law suitably...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: POTA should not be used to arrest political adversaries. Shri Vaiko is arrested today; but we do not know who will be arrested tomorrow in the Opposition-ruled States. So, POTA should be used only to prevent terrorism of all kinds...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Nobody is above law. The law-makers should not be law-breakers...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given a notice...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am on my legs, You please take your seat. I can allow you to raise the subject which you want, but we are discussing a different matter. I do not want to stop you from speaking, but how four members can speak of the some time?

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: But you have allowed Pandian ji.

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed him because the discussion on centres round the action taken by his Government in the State.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much.

Whoever offends Section 21(3) of the Act is liable to be arrested—whether he is a Member of Parliament or a Minister or anybody else. If one offends Section 21(3), he is liable to be arrested. That provision is as follows:

> "If a person commits an offence or if he addresses a meeting for the purpose of encouraging support for a terrorist organisation and to further its activities,..."

So, whoever offends this provision, he is liable to be arrested—whether it is Pandian or anybody else...*(Interruptions)* Whoever it may be and wherever he is, he is liable to be arrested—whether he is in DMK or in any other Party or in any other section of this House...*(Interruptions)*

We have passed the law to protect sovereignty and integrity of India. I just want to know this. Two hon. Members who are the NDA constituents have spoken now. They are constituents of NDA Government. Can a member of a constituent of the Government attack this provision of law? You have passed this law here and you were a party to its passage. Is not that law applicable to you? Is it applicable only for the people outside? Is it applicable for the people outside alone? Please tell me this—is it only for people outside?

It is not so. That is why, in any criminal law, the first line starts with this word "whoever". There is no exception to the Members of Parliament. It does not say, "Whoever, except the Members of Parliament..."

Accordingly, a Member of Parliament was arrested when he 'addressed' persons. He made a statement. He issued a Press Release. I have it here. He said that he continued to support LTTE. It is about 'Tamil Eelam'. It is not about 'Tamil Bihar' or about 'Tamil Bengal'. That is why, my leader, the hon. Chief Minister, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi took that action.

She had enforced TADA and she had arrested the accused in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case.

They were tried and convicted. You must know that but for TADA, Rajiv ji's killers would not have been convicted. So, during the Joint Session we supported the sincere implementation of TADA. We must know that...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Everybody will be them arrested...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Whoever offends the law will be arrested. Nobody is going to be arrested unnecessarily. If I offend Section 302 of IPC, being a Member of Parliament I cannot claim a privilege or exemption that I cannot be arrested. Will you hold a brief for criminals in Tihar Jail? Whoever he may be, he has offended Section 302. If a Member of Parliament commits a murder, he is liable to be arrested and detained in jail. Please do not hold a brief here. It is not for the Parliament to defend him. It is for him to defend before the court of law whether the use of POTA is to be waived by evidence. An FIR has been filed before the Magistrate. He has been remanded. A trial is going to be conducted. Are we going to conduct a trial? We are not here to conduct a trial. It is a criminal act.

At this juncture I would ask, what is the definition of crime. Somnathji, do you know what is the definition of crime...*(Interruptions)* Any act, forbidden by law, under the pain of punishment is crime. It is forbidden by law. His speeches are inflammatory. He has been supporting LTTE. He has also said in his statement dated 7th, that he has advocated the LTTE cause in Parliament. He has misused the privilege here but he cannot get the protection outside. He wants protection inside. He said that he was supporting LTTE inside the House but he cannot get the criminal protection outside the House...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: Its misuse should be stopped.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: It is not the question of misuse. When a law is used, it is for the courts to hold the trial. The political adversaries are not defined in criminal law. A law-breaker cannot be the law-maker...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I think you have already made your point.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: If he advocates the cause of LTTE or if he supports LTTE, his arrest is legal. His remand is legal. He has to get the remedy elsewhere.

[Shri P.H. Pandian]

He cannot come here for remedy. Some leaders were arrested under the criminal law. They did not get the remedy here...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let Shri Pandian speak. Why do you want to disturb him unnecessarily.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: He is not the Speaker...*(Interruptions)* We, the 544 Members of Parliament, have enacted the law not for the people outside...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pandian, you have made your point clear.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: His speech offended section 21, clause 3 of the Act...*(Interruptions)* His arrest was legal. Remand was legal. Under Section 167 the Magistrate remanded him...*(Interruptions)* Law and order is a State subject. This House is not an appellate forum. An elected Government is there. The Chief Minister is there...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Swain ji, Please sit down.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): He will keep supporting the POTA. They supported POTA which has now been used against them. We also supported POTA so we should also get a chance to speak.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: An elected Government is there. We cannot attribute motives to a Government. They say that political motivation was there. What was the political motivation? let him say that he has not uttered that word. Let him say that he has not made a speech in Thirumangalam...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody will be allowed to speak for more than two minutes.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: He is not a political adversary. They got only 500 votes in the recently held by-elections. Do you say he is a political adversary? No. They lost the deposit. By counting all the votes in the three constituencies put together, they could not get the deposit.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pandian, this is out of context.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: This is not the forum to debate this issue. Parliament cannot debate it. The Member concerned can say that he has been arrested on such and such a ground. But the Members here cannot defend him. His arrest is legal and his remand is also legal...*(Interruptions)* He has violated the provisions of the Act. He is hand in glove with LTTE. Now the Congress people must rise to the occasion. My leader Dr. Purutchi Thalaivi has prosecuted the offenders in the Rajiv killing case. Do you want any other Prime Minister to be killed?

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not take down anything on record of what Shri Pandian says. Nothing will now go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Only Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav will speak now.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: All right, please take your seat.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (Satna): The hon. Home Minister should clarify whether Vaiko's arrest is right or wrong...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji, you may speak now.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: How can I start?

MR. SPEAKER: If you do not start, they will keep on speaking. Now Ramdas ji has stood up. Now he has to be convinced.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had said at the very outset that ever since the implementation of the constitution any efforts to make such draconian laws were always attributed to the national interest while they were always misused against the political opponents. I had also cited the example of the founder of Jan Sangh Shri Shyama Prasad Mukherjee who was the leader of those, who are now in power at the centre. He was the one who used to oppose such laws at the most. That was the phase when the constitution was adopted. When the people of the

* Not recorded.

communist party... A movement in favour of farmers, there was a similar situation when this kind of law was misused against them. Thereafter, be it the case of National Security Act or MISA or D.I.R., our experiences reveal that the provisions of all these laws were used against the political opponents in the name of protecting the interests of the country. We all are sufferers including the Members sitting on that side, we were all in jail during 1975. The Congress Party itself accepted in the joint session that the laws were misused. At that time, the Prime Minister and the Home Minister had said during the joint session that Rajya Sabha represents States and when this Bill was rejected from the Rajya Sabha, there was no need to convene the joint session and POTA should not have been passed. He said that POTA would normally be used against the persons belonging to the organisations which are supported by Pakistan and which are indulging in anti national activities and against terrorists. The Prime Minister and the Home Minister did not imagine that the law could be used against politicians. You can see what happened in Rajiv Nagar. The Government could not do anything against the terrorists under POTA. Vaiko Sahib was the most vociferous in supporting POTA so much so that he even spoke that those who are anti-POTA are anti-nationals. But now I have to rise here in his support because our Party is of the opinion that such laws are openly misused against political opponents. Pandian Sahib is a good lawyer. He has been a Speaker. But I would like to warn him that one day he also might be victimised.

[English] .

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: A politician is not defined in any criminal law.

MR. SPEAKER: Should I treat it a walk out?

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: There is a similar example relating to Murasoli Maranji. He was also the first to support the National Security Act and in a similar fashion this Act was first used against him. So, the whole situation should now be considered seriously.

I am happy to note that Members of all the parties accept that POTA has been misused. They agree with me in this regard. A resolution has also been moved here in the House. However, the Government is still in confusion and it is seeking amendment in this Act. In my opinion amendments in the Act are not sufficient, it should be repealed altogether. I would like to add that the provisions of the I.P.C. and C.R.P.C. are already strict enough and the Government can use those provisions to pronounce stringent punishment against the guilty. The British Government did also rule over us through these laws. Even capital punishment was given through these laws. That provision is still there and capital punishment is also still being pronounced.

We were apprehensive about the misuse of this Act from the beginning. We had our reservations and we have still reservations that the Act is being misused. I have myself been a sufferer. That is why I had opposed POTA. I would also like you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, to intervene and impress upon the Government to withdraw this Act. I would also like to warn the people in the Government and would say that the time is not same always. Today you are in the ruling side where as we are in the opposition. A day may come when the table will turn. Therefore, I would like to request the Government to repeal POTA and ensure the release of Vaiko. The situation may change. We have seen many ups and downs. It was said that we are finished and that we have been politically banished. The fact, however, remains that Mulayam Singh has emerged stronger. We have suffered a lot. Nobody knows about the mood of the public and what changes are stored in future.

Sir, I would like to say that POTA might one day be used against those who are now sitting in the Government and they would also be sent to jail. And in that case Mulayam Singh would have to come to your rescue. The law enacted by you may then cost you heavily. I would make the similar request to Pandian ji to make his Chief Minister understand. In Tamil Nadu there are two parties which rule one by one. The present Chief Minister may be in the opposition tomorrow. The two parties—A.D.M.K. and the A.I.A.D.M.K. have been ruling the State one by one.

When we were put behind the bars during Emergency, everybody was in a state of awe and terror. Nobody opened their mouth. I still say that there was no leader as strong as Indira Gandhi that time she got the support from every segment of the society. But even such a popular leader had to eat humble pie. Rajiv or Indira might have got majority later, but the Congress Party has not been able to recover from that blow.

Sir, Jailalita is not as popular as Indira Gandhi. So it is time for her to be alert and think seriously. the situation warrants immediate release of Vaiko and repeal the Act. You cannot fight against Pakistani terrorists by virtue of this Act. This is my appeal.

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that there is severe drought in Uttar Pradesh. Farmers are in a pitiable condition...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhlishahar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mayawati ji is the Chief Minister there. She has his men as Minister in the her Government. Hon. Member is not referring to Mayawati...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is severe drought in Uttar Pradesh. Attention should be paid to it immediately...*(Interruptions)*

MR SPEAKER: I told you that there is to be a discussion on it. Please sit down.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of public record, well known to the country, that the Congress Party bitterly opposed the attempt to bring in the POTA. We explained our reasons thereof. But, having seen that we lost in the Joint Session, the Congress Governments around the country have been following the constitutional system, which is that once an Act is made by Parliament, it becomes a part of the law of the land and he implementation of that law becomes part of the constitutional duty of the States, by whatever Party they are run

The fact of the matter is, as Shri Pandian pointed out to us a little while ago, that there are provisions in the POTA which have apparently been violated by a Member of Parliament.

The Member of Parliament has the total right under parliamentary immunity to say whatever he wishes to within the sacred precincts of this House. But when the organisation that he is referring to in the House gets included by the Government, of which he is a part, as one of the banned organisations under the very Act of which he himself was the most ardent supporter, then it seems to me to be an act of utter irresponsibility or total hypocrisy for him to go outside the sacred precincts of this House and state that he supports an organisation which we regard as terrorists.

The hon. Minister for External Affairs is happily with us. He knows that he and his officers are going all around the world pleading with various countries where LTTE has taken refuge that they too must follow the Indian example of banning LTTE because of the activities that it has indulged in. The hon. Minister for External Affairs has just returned from Sri Lanka where he has encouraged the Sri Lankan Government, in my view completely correctly, to persist with the peace process.

What does this peace process consist of? There are two assumptions. One is that the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka is sacred and it must be preserved. Secondly, the only way of preserving the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka is by giving a fair and good deal to the Tamil population of Sri Lanka. Now, in the light of this, to state that he supports LTTE is not to state that he supports the Tamil people. LTTE is, in the eyes of the Indian law in the eyes of the Government to which the belongs, a banned terrorist organisation. In the eyes of the courts of India, it is the leader of LTTE who is an absconding person and who has been sentenced by our courts. This Government is maintaining its extradition order against Mr. Prabhakaran.

In these circumstances, it cannot have been a slip of the tongue by Shri Vaiko who has been repeatedly told, among others, by me in this House that his cause is wrong. He goes outside this House and as a senior Member of Parliament, somebody whose knowledge of the law is considerable as he has demonstrated here in this House, he goes there and openly, in defiance of the law that he himself has advocated and in defiance of the list of banned organisations which his Government has prepared, makes statements that are a clear violation of POTA as it exists now.

Now, whether the arrest has been correctly done or incorrectly done is not for Parliament to decide. It is for the courts to decide. If what Shri Palanimanickam has told us just now is correct, it is the courts that will decide that. But to come into this House as Shri Palanimanickam did and start abusing the judiciary by saying that they are subject to pressure from political authorities is just a kind of remark which we should not hear in this House. I, therefore, plead...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: Sir, I used the words technically. I told 'by the Executive'...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have not said.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I therefore, plead that we must ensure that the law of the land is carefully prepared. It has been a gross act of negligence on the part of the treasury benches and their supporters that they have passed a law which today is dawns on them may be flawed. When we were pointing out exactly how flawed it was, they shut our mouths by a decision of a procedural nature holding a Joint Session of Parliament which has never been done in such a case before. They are hoist with their own petard. And now, it is for the courts to untangle the specific case. But on the suggestion

that we amend the law to save one person, is this part of the legal order in this country? If there is something that is weak in the law, it can be done as a general case for the sake of the people of this country and not for one person of India. That person is a responsible Member of Parliament. He knows the law. He knows the antecedents of LTTE.

13.00 hrs.

He knows what the consequences would be of his openly supporting the LTTE outside of this House...*(Interruptions)* He did it. Therefore, he must face the consequences.

In the light of these complications, although it is not the practice for the hon. Home Minister to reply to a debate during the Zero Hour, yet I think it is extremely important that the hon. Minister of Home Affairs, who has been promoted as the Deputy Prime Minister for bringing in a draconian law like this, should appear before this House and tell us what is the law of the land. He must also tell us whether it is not the duty of the Tamil Nadu Government or any other State Government to implement a law passed by this Parliament. The question whether it has been correctly done or not is not for Parliament to decide. It is for the judiciary to decide. We would expect that all political parties here would respect the constitutional framework within which action has been taken against one man who happens to be a Member of Parliament.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no doubt that because an hon. Member of Parliament has been arrested and detained that we are all discussing this issue. But, Sir, this raises certain constitutional matters. I wish the Government of India had taken note of this.

We found for two days, after the arrest, that there was complete silence from the Government. Then, we found in the newspapers saying that the Cabinet has expressed its disapproval. If I am wrong, many hon. Cabinet Ministers who are sitting here, they can correct me. If it is disapproval, on what ground it has been done? The question is that this Parliament, in spite of the stiffest opposition put up by most of the opposition parties, has passed it. They thought it fit to pass a legislation and steam-roll a legislation. What I had apprehended came true...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): It is not that of the Cabinet. It was done in the NDA meeting...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: If you differentiate between the Cabinet and the NDA, of course, it is all right. That is the position. If you are an NDA man, if you are a non-BJP man, then you are all becoming parasites. We know about that. It is really the BJP which decides it here. All are parasites. You have no self-identity...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very important matter. At least, for two or three minutes I will speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is a very important subject.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The question is that the hon. Member has been saying certain things. I also do not approve of it. Let us be very clear about it. The question is whether in such a case, such a law would be applied. We have said that this is a draconian law. I remember that I said it standing here. Shri Vaiko is a very good friend of ours. He was jumping with great gusto and enthusiasm. He called us anti-people because we were opposing this law. Today, he has become the victim. He has to circulate letters to all of us now. Some hon. Members have to take up the issue. The supporters of this Bill have given this draconian power in the hands of the Government. Who are we to decide here? The question is much more fundamental. If that arrest is justified according to the Government of India, then there cannot be any Members of that party in the Council of Ministers. How can there be? If it is not justified, why is it not justified? What are you going to do with regard to that? Of course, they will say: "What can we do? The State Government is to implement it." Then, why did you give that power?

The West Bengal Government has declared it would never use POTA because, according to us, it is a lawless law; it is a law of the jungle; it is a draconian law. Therefore, I would request all the hon. Members here to ponder very seriously whether such laws should ever be on the Statute Book of a civilised nation. If we are a civilised nation, then this law should be immediately obliterated from the records, from the Statute Book of this country. That is what is needed. My friends, now you have suffered. I am not happy that Shri Vaiko is under detention. But who has given them the power? You are now shamelessly trying to raise this question. You were too eager to pass it. We were told that every terrorist activity would be stopped in this country. But what has happened in Kaluchak? What has happened in Rajiv Nagar and Kashimpura? I asked that question. The Deputy Prime Minister avoided that question because he has no reply to that.

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

Sir, according to them there is a misuse of governmental authority, but they should please see that nobody is allowed to misuse legal powers in this country. If they have any political conviction, if they have any political morality, they are duty bound to plead with their masters sitting here to obliterate and immediately repeal this law from the statute book.

Therefore, I would like to make it clear, as we have always said, that there are sufficient laws in this country to deal with the situation. Let those laws be applied and this draconian law should not be there in the statute book. But that does not mean that we are absolving Shri Vaiko for whatever he has done, because we have our serious reservations about the stand that he has taken with regard to L.T.T.E.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): Have these people got the right to speak, they are sitting here having violated the laws and constitution of the country?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we passed this law to prevent terrorist organisations from operating in this country and to arrest those people who are abetting and funding terrorism, not for arresting politicians. If any executive authority is implementing the law, they have common sense....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, they have extended support to pass this law. Now, they are protesting against its use...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, before taking action against anybody, we have to observe certain fundamental principles. We have passed this law in the Joint Session of Parliament not to arrest politicians, but to arrest the real terrorists. Therefore, we oppose Shri Vaiko's arrest. This is our party's stand...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, his party has extended support in passing this law.. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, under this law, we have to take action against organisations like P.W.G. and L.T.T.E., not against politicians.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the L.T.T.E. is beyond the reach of the Government of India. They are in a foreign country. But they have local supporters here and those local supporters have supported the banned terrorist organisation which had come to India to kill Shri Rajiv Gandhi...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Kirit Somaiya to speak. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North–East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the expansion of POTA is Prevention of Terrorism Act. But, I think, in Tamil Nadu, the meaning seems to be different and it is, Politics of Terrorism Act.

Sir, what we need is the prevention of political atrocities under this law...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Kirit Somaiyaji, you please tell whether or not your Government had kept those provisions under POTA which have been invoked against Vaikoji?

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Yes, we had certainly kept these provisions. The provision of Prevention of political atrocities has been kept therein. Whatever the Act may be, hon. Mulayam Singhji has said that there is Criminal Procedure Code and Indian Penal Code, but the Act is Act. Misuse of the Act is a separate thing. Tomorrow somebody may go and arrest some innocent person under section 302 and file FIR against him

[English]

Then that is misuse and abuse of IPC.

[Translation]

Here we are not discussing whether the Act in question has got some worth or it is worthless. We are

discussing about the political misuse of the Act. POTA means prevention of terrorism and it should not be misused for political gains. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to say in this connection that the Congress Party and confusion have become synonymous. On the one hand, Congress is saying that they do not support this Act and on the other hand they are saying that they would not allow the use of this Act in the States governed by their party and thirdly a question is being raised as to what is wrong if Tamil Nadu Government has used this Act. Bhartiya Janata Party and NDA are of the firm view that misuse of the Act for political gains must be stopped. If today this Act is misused in this way, then what would happen in the case of the terror strike on the Parliament, what would happen if POTA is used to root out naxalites or to check such activities?

[English]

Can we compare Shri Vaiko with the terrorist attack on Parliament?

[Translation]

I want to say that let the people of other political parties express their clear opinion on this subject and stop misuse of POTA and demand release of Vaiko Sahib as well as numerous ordinary political workers lodged in jail. I clearly demand that the misuse of POTA to crush the opponent political party must be stopped.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know whether demand for Trifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir made by the Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh is not an act of treason under the existing circumstances, whether you will arrest them under POTA?

[English]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat); Sir, while this draconian law was being discussed, we, the entire Opposition, apprehended that at the time of its implementation, it would be misused and applied against the political opponents.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Why do you say 'opponents'?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: During my speeches, I had categorically said in this House that this law would be used against the political opponents, and the people belonging to the minority communities would be specially targeted under this Act. Now, the apprehensions of the Opposition have been proved totally correct. Although we fully disagree with the contentions, speeches and views of Shri Vaiko and his party, yet we strongly condemn and oppose his arrest. I urge upon the Government of India and also demand that this is the right time to withdraw the draconian law.

I appeal to the Members belonging to the NDA to please join us. They should pressurise the BJP-led Government to withdraw this draconian law. Sir, through you, I demand that this law should be immediately withdrawn and revoked for better interests of the country.

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to attack the arrest of Shri Vaiko, a very senior colleague and a Member of Parliament. I had cautioned Shri Vaiko and all the regional parties that they should not vote for this draconian law because it would be used against the minorities and us. Whatever Shri Vaiko did, while voting for POTA, was very wrong. But, at the moment, I have received reports that Shri Vaiko while in jail is not receiving medical attention, good food, crockery and toilet facilities.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Even they have not reported...*(Interruptions)* What is this? Do you want him to be air-conditioned?

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: He does not have any mosquito net...*(Interruptions)*

Apart from that, this has been used against a Kashmiri journalist, which we condemn. It is for this reason that yesterday the Press had been so subdued that it did not write a word about the Opposition's view point on the debate condemning the Kashmiri incident. Not a single word has come in the Press. It has been subdued. A Hurriyat Leader also finds himself in Jail.

My humble submission is that this law should be rightfully repealed and Shri Vaiko should be let out of prison. He is a senior Member of Parliament and he has not transgressed the law. There is nothing in what he has said...*(Interruptions)* LTTE was a legitimate political body till yesterday. The worthy Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi, gave military training and explosive training to them at Chakrata and everything was done by their Governments to aid them...*(Interruptions)* Let me conclude Sir.

[Sardar Simranjit Singh Mann]

I feel that it will inflame Tamil Nationals' passions if Shri Vaiko is allowed to remain in jail for very long. The people who support Shri Vaiko's arrest may be Tamilians, but they are not Dravidians.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi): The people in Delhi are crying for water and electricity. I may be given an opportunity to speak on this subject.

MR. SPEAKER: You will be given an opportunity to speak on it tomorrow.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Vaiko is a senior Member of this House and hence we have sympathy with him. What he has said in the public meeting that he supports LTTE...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Where did he say so...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: We have listened about it on TV. It is mentioned under section 21(3) of the POTA that this Act would become applicable to any person supporting terrorism. We were the strong opponents of POTA and still are and you please repeal it. You bring a legislation and we are ready to nullify it otherwise if any State Government implements that Act, then the Government of India should also implement that Act scrupulously. All the persons supporting terrorism should be arrested under POTA on the lines the leader of their party has been arrested. How they are continuing as Ministers and why are they not being arrested under POTA. Even Shri Arun Jaitley, the spokesman of the BJP is supporting him. As such he should also be arrested under section 21 of POTA. So it appears to us that they have enacted a legislation like the spider who weaves a web and is entrapped in it. The POTA Act enacted by them should either be withdrawn or implemented scrupulously under which a number of people belonging to Bhartiya Janata Party be arrested and lodged in jails. This is what I want to say.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani); Mr. Speaker, Sir, our friend Shri Vaiko has been arrested under POTA. On my own behalf and on behalf of my party, I oppose it because it is a political arrest. It has been abused and misused. POTA was enacted to check terrorist activities and terrorism and not for arresting any honourable Member, legislator or political leader. In my view Tamil Nadu Government has misused this Act. Let the Centre intervene in the matter and the Minister of Home Affairs come out with a Statement on it so that this Act is not misused.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, DMK leader Shri Vaiko has been arrested under POTA. We are very much concerned about it. We had stated that POTA could be misused. As such the entire opposition had opposed it and had said that this law should not be passed. Despite that NDA partners supported it and said that it should be enacted. The Act came into being and now they themselves have been entrapped. It is not good to support LTTE. It is not good to support openly any organisation which has been banned. As such POTA Act should be repealed and Vaikoji should be released at any early date. If Vaiko is not released early, then a number of other leaders may also have to go to jail. That is all I want to say.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.15 p.m.

13.21 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fifteen Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.18 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Eighteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *in the Chair*]

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now we will take up the Calling Attention.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Re: Problems being faced by Producers of Raw Silk

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Madam, I call the attention of the Minister of Textiles to the following

matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The problems being faced by the producers of raw silk in the country and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): Madam, at the outset I would like to assure the hon. Members who have moved the notice of calling attention to this matter, that the Government is already well aware of the issues and has taken necessary steps.

Sericulture is an important industry with a significance contribution to the economy. It provides livelihood to an estimated 60 lakh persons in farming, reeling, twisting, dyeing and weaving activities and adds above 500 million US dollars to the country's export earnings. The country's production of raw silk has risen to an estimated 17000 tonnes ranking it as a major world producer, next only to China.

Silk development is a concurrent subject. The Centre assists State Governments in sericulture by extending research and development, seed, technical and technology support and financial assistance to farmers and reelers through several Centrally-sponsored and Central sector schemes implemented by the Central Silk Board. Recently, a new package of technologies that pushes up productivity in sericulture by about two-and-a-half times has been introduced, thereby increasing farmers' and reelers' income significantly.

It is unfortunate that at the same time:

— Global economy has faced reversionary pressures;

— On liberalisation, imports of raw silk have increased to fill the demand-supply gap while its prices have declined steadily; and

— The handloom industry has seen an accumulation of unsold stocks due to financial difficulties of State apex societies.

The factors have indeed impacted adversely on domestic prices. Raw silk and silk cocoon sales have registered a decline in prices by approximately 33 per cent last year, causing hardship and anxiety to farmers and reelers, especially to those who have recently made investments in farm infrastructure and reeling equipment.

The Government has been closely monitoring this situation. It has already initiated several steps:

— Investigation has been started to see if there is any dumping of silk by China;

— Subsidies and financial support to farmers and reelers is being substantially increased. The X Plan budget for the sericulture sector has been increased by 30 per cent over the IX Plan to Rs. 450 crore; and Rs. 186 crore or 41 per cent of this amount has been kept aside for Centrally-sponsored Plan schemes;

— The Central Silk Board has agreed to provide a soft loan of Rs. 1.5 crore to Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation (KSIC) for purchase of cocoons on condition of State Government guarantee; and

— Increase in import duties is under consideration.

I hope hon. Members would agree that the Government has been alive to the problem of producers of raw silk and has taken measures with a balanced view that keeps in mind the interests of both raw silk producers and down-stream processors.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Madam Chairperson, I am sorry to state through you that the Government is not responding well on this issue.

The hon. Minister has agreed that it provides livelihood to an estimated sixty lakh persons in farming, reeling, twisting, weaving and other activities, particularly in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. The highest production is in Karnataka and the second largest State is Andhra Pradesh. Within Andhra Pradesh, particularly in Anantapur and Chittoor, most of the farmers are small and marginal farmers. Their livelihood depends upon small farming.

In the present year's Budget, customs duty has been reduced from 40 per cent to 30 per cent. Even raw silk is being imported from China to India; there is also smuggling taking place through Nepal and Bangladesh. That the Government is not preventing smuggling is one hardship for the sericulture farmers. The reduction in customs duty is another hardship. Recently, when my Chief Minister Shri Chandrababu Naidu and I personally met the hon. Minister of Textiles, we explained all these problems. If you do just immediately, the farmers can get relief immediately. If you do something after some time, the benefit will not go to the farming community.

[Shri K. Yerrannaidu]

Silk cocoons that were selling at the rate of Rs. 120 to Rs. 160 per kilogram six months ago, depending upon quality, are now selling at the rate of Rs. 60 to Rs. 90 per kilogram and silk yarn prices have come down to around Rs. 900 per kilogram from a level of Rs. 1,300 per kilogram a year ago.

Even very cheap quality of raw silk is being imported from China. Even the reelers are also taking the imported silk. It is coming at a very cheap rate. They are not taking silk from our farming community. So, that is why, I have been suggesting to the Government of India on the following issues:

1. In the current year's Union Budget, duty on imported silk was brought down from 40 per cent to 30 per cent. In view of the current alarming situation, the duty should be immediately raised to about 60 per cent without any delay on a war-footing. If you do not do this, the benefit will not go to the farming community.

2. Anti dumping clauses of the WTO/MFA agreements should be immediately invoked. Under the WTO, you have put dumping duty also. You have to put the anti-dumping clauses of the WTO.

3. All duty free licensing for import of raw silk/silk yarn may be suspended with immediate effect. There is sufficient stock of silk yarn in the country and the exporters could be given other benefits like duty drawback for using duty paid yarn.

4. The Government should take up a special drive for preventing smuggling of silk yarn/raw silk into the country from Nepal and Bangladesh.

5. State level agencies like the KSIC, KHDC, KSMB in Karnataka, Serifed in Andhra Pradesh and TANSILK in Tamil Nadu should be asked to purchase cocoons and yarn. The Central Government and Central Silk Board should assist the State Governments with a revolving fund to make purchases of cocoons and silk yarn at remunerative prices to farmers and reelers.

6 Minimum support price for cocoons and silk yarn should be fixed by the State Governments based on production costs and quality.

7. All schemes meant for reelers and weavers should be implemented on a war footing so that all available subsidies would be drawn and utilized.

Madam, in Andhra Pradesh, particularly in Anantpur and Chittoor, during the last year, the crops like groundnut, paddy, etc. have failed. Anantpur is the lesser rainfall area in the country after Jaisalmer.

Madam, this year also, there is no monsoon. In Karnataka, Maharashtra, Kerala and even in Andhra Pradesh all the reservoirs are empty. The farmers are facing a lot of crisis like lack of powers, lack of trains, etc. This is the situation prevailing in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and in Southern parts of the country. So, in this situation, the Government of India...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please ask him the questions now.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Madam, I had asked all the questions. I am awaiting the answers from the hon. Minister. Even after some time if you do something, by that time the farmers will lose everything.

My Chief Minister and myself gave a representation to you about 20 days back. However, there is no increase of customs duty till now. You have to take first step of increasing the customs duty. In this way, we can save some expenditure. We can look after the remaining aspects one by one. So, this is the situation.

Madam, on behalf of the people of Andhra Pradesh, particularly sericulture farming community, I request that the Government of India should respond immediately to save the sericulture farming community. Otherwise they will suffer irreparable losses. Even in some areas the farmers are committing suicides. So, to prevent these suicides and to prevent their families from depriving their livelihood, the Government should act immediately to give justice on all these points.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA (Kanakpura); Madam Chairperson, at the outset, I would like to express my sincere thanks to you to call me to raise this important issue. I gave a notice under Rule 193 on 10th to raise farmers' issues. I do not want to make a debate. We have to go and pester them. This is the fate of the farmers.

Madam, now this is converted to Calling Attention. 'Yes,' I have to abide by the decision of the hon. Speaker.

My former colleague Shri Yerrannaidu raised this issue. It is a Concurrent Subject as mentioned by the hon. Minister in charge of Textiles. Both the State Governments are competing with each other in IT and in both these States the farmers are committing suicide. Shri Yerrannaidu, you have forgotten this. You have said that only the farmers in Andhra Pradesh are committing suicide. Both the States are competing for IT but they are not competing to save the farmers. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to his statement. From his own statement, I would like to pose this question. In the statement, he has said: "These factors have indeed impacted adversely on domestic prices. Raw silk and silk cocoon sales have registered a decline in prices by approximately 33 per cent last year, causing hardship and anxiety to farmers and reelers, especially to those who have recently made investments in farm infrastructure and reeling equipment." With due respect to the hon. Minister, does he need one year to monitor and assess the adverse effect on the farmers and the reelers? I want to ask this straight question. The hon. Minister has mentioned about 60 lakh persons. In Karnataka, we are producing 80 per cent of the total silk production in the country. One of the best qualities of silk we are producing. It is not 60 lakh persons—I do not know who gave this information to the hon. Minister—it is 25 lakh families in the whole country. Especially Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are the major producers of silk and 80 per cent is produced by Karnataka. Do you need one year to assess the situation? Your Finance Minister has brought down the duty from 40 per cent to 30 per cent. Why? To help whom? Is this Government for the farmers? Let me ask this question. I do not want to lose my cool. Is this Government for the farmers? You want to assess the whole issue for one year.

Last year the import of raw silk from China was 6,797 tonnes. During my period—Shri Yerrannaidu was there in the Cabinet—it was 2,911 tonnes. Liberalisation is there during your period. 2911 tonnes was the import from China. I know, it must be imported to produce the end product which is going to be used for export purpose. I am not going to say that you should totally block it. You have brought it down and last year the import was 6,970 tonnes. In addition to this, it is coming through Nepal and Bangladesh. Nobody is there to check. What is the machinery doing, please answer.

I do not want to take much of the time. I know, under rule 197, under which the attention of the hon. Minister is being called, I do not have to make a lengthy speech. But the farmers are committing suicide.

The State Government is helpless. You are helping Andhra Pradesh in various ways regarding financial allocations. Nobody can deny that. You have got your political survival from my friend, Shri Yerrannaidu. You do not need the 18 Members of this House from Karnataka. I am only one Member from my Party.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Deve Gowda, please conclude.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: I am sorry, Madam, Today the hon. Minister has to reply to this. Otherwise I want to bypass all your rules and sit in the well of the House. I am not worried. You can even throw me out. It is not for public consumption. I cannot see the condition of the farmers and the reelers. They are removing the crops. Let any Member from the Ruling Party go and see the condition in Kolar, Tumkur, Bangalore, Mysore, in nine districts of the State. The hon. Minister himself may come with me. If I uttered one word of exaggeration I will apologise to this House.

What is it that we should do? I had to go to the hon. Speaker and request him that this matter is to be taken up. Ultimately he gave me consent for raising this issue. What is it that you want to do now? You have said:

> "CSB has agreed to provide a soft loan of Rs. 1.5 crore to Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation for purchase of cocoons on condition of State Government guarantee."

You are giving Rs. 1.5 crore and that too an conditions. Today if you go any bank they will call you and say that they will give any amount of loan for other purposes. For a State Government Corporation you are giving Rs. 1.5 crore on State Government guarantee to save those 25 lakh farmers. It burns every drop of my blood.

Madam, we have not come here to sign in the attendance register and go for Rs. 500. We have not come here for this purpose. Hon. Minister, you tell me what are you going to do. Shri Yerrannaidu, you have asked for raising of the duty on imported silk to 60 per

[Shri H.D. Deve Gowda]

cent. It should be 100 per cent. Why is it that I am saying this? Today the stock which has been smuggled or as free import is lying and that itself is sufficient for more than two years...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: I requested for 100 per cent extra. That is why I calculated it as 60 per cent.

SHRI H D. DEVE GOWDA: You calculated well. You are a good bargainer in Union politics also...*(Interruptions)* I want it should be stopped at once. There is no question...*(Interruptions)* Yes, you are doing it and that is regarding the Government in every State. He is not doing it individually, he is doing for his State. I advise him.

But the Chief Minister of my State wants to compete with him as if he is going to bring heaven. Let me speak on this one some other occasion. My worry is that you have so much of stock. I request the hon. Minister to please spare a day with me. We will go jointly and see their conditions. If they have not removed the crops, then I will apologise in this House. I cannot see the condition of the poor reelers who are Muslims in areas like Channapatna, Ramnagar and other places. Madam, you know of all these places. Hon. Minister, how can you allow this to go on?

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Women are also involved largely in these areas.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: Hon. Minister, you please tell me as to what are you going to do. It is not a question of mere Rs. 1.5 crore.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Madam Chairperson is also from Karnataka and she knows everything.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I said women are also involved in large numbers in the State.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: That is why you permitted and gave me a second chance and thank you very much.

Mr. Minister, please tell me. This should be suspended and not in WTO and not in liberalisation. What is liberalisation? Is it at the cost of our farmers and at the cost of Indian rural economy? My hon. friend has suggested other issues. Do not be under the impression that it is a State subject. It is a Concurrent subject.

You forget that. What is the minimum support price? The minimum support price should be Rs. 140 to Rs. 150. You work out the cost of production taking into account the anti-dumping duty. When you suspend further imports at least they will have a sigh of relief.

With folded hands, I will request you that do not cause trouble to the farmers. Otherwise, they would die. Karnataka is producing more than 80 per cent of silk. I do not want to make a political gain out of this. My heart burns. Everybody thinks that Deve Gowda speaks only for farmers. I know what motive the whole world attributes to me. The allocation has been increased to Rs. 450 crore and Rs. 186 crore. Forty-one per cent of this amount has been kept aside for Centrally sponsored schemes, but what about the States? They have no money to pay salaries. I do not want to raise other issues. It may hurt you.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: No I am neutral in the Chair.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: He has said that they also have no money. They have no problems. We have got problems because the Centre is giving a step-motherly treatment to us. I know that. I will stand by my words. Please tell me what you have all mentioned about suspending. He has mentioned it and I do not want to repeat all those things. Anti-dumping duty should be increased and imports should be suspended. Special drive to prevent smuggling should be there. At least now, let the hon. Minister assure the House of stopping smuggling, of stopping import. There are only four people in this country who are importers. I know. When I was in the office, they tried to influence us also. I do not want to take their names. Importers and exporters are going to operate in their own way. Then, there is soft loan of Rs. 1.5 crore to Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation. Why is it being given like we give *baksheesh* in a hotel in the morning? It would be given on the guarantee of the State Government to save its farmers. I do not know what are the ways to save farmers by this money.

Shri Rana is also knowing the background of rural farmers. I would request him to please save sericulture save this industry. This is the industry which is going to help small farmers, small reelers coming from various communities including minorities. Please help them and give a categorical assurance in this House. Please save them from this irony.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: There are two names hon. Speaker has approved, Shri K.H. Muniyappa and Shri R.L. Jalappa. You may speak for five minutes each. Just raise the questions. The problem has been mentioned.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar): Madam Chairperson, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak because I come from a place where there is the largest production of silk in Karnataka, that is, Kolar district. More than one-third of the production comes from Kolar district in Karnataka. It has been rightly said by the hon. former Prime Minister, Shri Deve Gowda, 25 lakh families and more than 1.5 crore of population from West Bengal to Kerala are depending on the silk industry, whether they are in the reeling, in the weaving or in the twisting and all these things.

Apart from all these things, 50 per cent of the families depend upon the silk industry in Karnataka. It has happened in the last one year that the farmers are going to remove this plantation because they are not able to get sufficient price for the crop. This is the situation which has arisen from the year 1993-94 when liberalisation was started.

At that time, we have urged the then hon. Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, and the then Textile Minister Shri Venkataswamy to send a team to study the situation. Immediately, they have sent a team headed by a Minister. They have particularly those areas in Karnataka, like Bangalore Rural District, Kolar, Chitradurg, Tumkur, and found that the water-table has gone down to 500 feet to 600 feet, even in the Northern parts of Karnataka. The Minister visited these places and he has studied the situation of the farmers. Thereafter, he has taken very appropriate measures to stop dumping of silk, whether it is coming from Tibet or China.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Muniyappa, you have to raise the question. It is not a debate; it is only a Calling Attention.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: I will raise the question. I have to inform the august House about this Government's failure and where it has to correct itself.

At that time also, the price of the cocoons has come down to below Rs. 100. Now, it has come down to below Rs. 50 or Rs. 60. They have tried to stabilise it and the rate from that date till last year was varying between Rs. 120 to Rs. 160. Now, it has come down to Rs. 50 or Rs. 60.

As you rightly said, we have to give some suggestions. You have to protect the weaving sector and, therefore, you have to provide whatever they need. For the time being, to protect the silk industry, our country badly needs 6,000 metric tonnes of silk. You have to protect the weaving industry, and we have no objection for that. However, in the name of import, 18,000 metric tonnes of silk is being dumped in our country. That is the reason for the failure. This Government has utterly failed to protect the weaving community, silk-growers and the weavers because there is no control at all.

All right, liberalisation is there. There are provisions which the Government can use. As Shri Yerrannaidu has suggested, you have to impose 70 per cent duty, instead of 30 per cent or 40 per cent duty. The import duty has come down to 30 per cent. It will not be sufficient. You have to impose 70 per cent duty on imports and then only you will be able to protect the silk-growers.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You have to ask questions.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: I will ask the question. Now-a-days, what is happening is that you are supporting the increase of production. The Government of India is supporting that, and we have to welcome that. You are giving Rs 25,000 subsidy for the construction of houses, and the State Government is also giving Rs. 25,000 as subsidy. On the one side, you are giving this assistance, but on the other side, the farmers are not interested. Basically, you have to protect the farmers, and then you have to give these things, which are also needed. In the Central Silk Board, we have suggested that these things are badly needed in order to encourage the small and medium farmers. The Government of India is giving Rs. 25,000 as subsidy and the State Government is also giving the same amount of subsidy.

Now, I would like to give some suggestions. My suggestion to the Government of India is that whatever percentage you are collecting from the State markets, you have to give that amount to the States in the interest of the farmers. With that amount, they have to have price stabilisation programmes in order to protect the farmers, producers of the cocoons and the reelers. You have to put altogether a new mechanism to protect the farmers. Otherwise, there is a competition. There are very, very strong people in the silk industry who can control the whole thing, and as a result, people will be suffering.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please ask your question. You are making a speech. This is Calling Attention. Please raise your question.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: On the one side, you are encouraging development by giving some assistance, and on the other side, you are discouraging improvement.

Sir, I would like to know as to what steps are being taken by the Government in this regard...*(Interruptions)* I know this is not a debate. But you could please bear with us on this matter because we are the farmers and we also are the growers and we know the problem. What would happen when the prices would get doubled?

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Muniyappa, please come to the questions now.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Madam, Chairperson, the State of Karnataka in particular produces top quality silk in the world today. So, the Government has to give protection to the silk growing farmers in the State. Japan is losing out in competition in this field. China is already shifting its products to other countries. So, India would rank first in the silk market at the international level in the near future. So, the Government should give protection to the silk industry.

Madam, firstly, seventy per cent duty should be imposed on imported silk. Secondly, whatever amount of money is collected from the silk growers, an equal amount should be contributed by the State Government for protecting and stabilising the silk industry.

Madam, the World Bank gave an assistance of Rs. 550 crore for development of silk industry. That money has not been properly utilised. This point has been mentioned by our former Textile Minister, Shri Jalappa. This amount of money has not been properly utilised.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Muniyappa, please conclude now.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Madam, this is a very serious matter.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Muniyappa, I am limited by time. In a Calling Attention you can only ask questions and not to make a speech.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Madam, I would like to know as to what are the steps taken by the Government for the improvement of the production, reeling and weaving of silk when the World Bank had given an assistance of Rs. 550 crore for this purpose. What steps have been taken by the Government for improvement of the silk industry in order that they could compete with other countries like Japan and China? Finally I would like to submit that if the Government protects the interests of the silk growers in its totality then automatically the interests of the reelers and weavers of silk would be protected. I would like to earnestly request the hon. Minister to protect the interest of 1.5 crore people who are dependent on the silk industry in this country and would like to know as to what are the steps that have been taken to protect their interests.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Jalappa, please ask specific questions. You know the problem. You were once a Minister in-Charge of Textiles.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA (Chikaballapur): Madam, Chairperson, I am thankful to Shri Muniyappa for having reminded me that I was a Minister of Textiles for some time and so I would like to request you to give me two more minutes to speak on this subject.

Madam, Chairperson, you represent the State of Karnataka and you know very well in what disastrous position the farmers have been put to owing to failure of monsoon in the last year and as well as this year. Nearly eighty per cent of coconut trees have failed because of their being infected by mites. Price of Coffee as well as arecanut crops have crashed and now the silk industry, which is the mainstay for the small and marginal farmers, has also crashed.

Madam, Chairperson, I heard with attention the statement of the hon. Minister. I the very first sentence itself he said that he was investigating the matter. I would like to know as to what sort of an investigation he was doing. The market is flooded with China cloth and China silk. Both of these are either imported or are smuggled through Nepal *via* Bhagalpur and from Bangladesh. What sort of an investigation was the hon. Minister doing?

When I was the Minister, I had written to the Enforcement Department to check smuggling of silk through Nepal, through Bhagalpur and also from Bangladesh. Nobody pursued it further.

Farmers also want to live comfortably. Now they have switched over to bi-voltine. They are forgetting multi-voltine. When I talked to experts, they advised me that if we have to compete with China the quality of our silk must be improved. I was the Minister I encouraged the multi-ended reeling machines to see that gum-knots are avoided and soft weaving is facilitated. That probably is still continuing. That was an important measure.

Madam, Chairperson, you do know about pure silk. It has luster. The silk that is produced in Karnataka has

got a special lustre and people like it. Unfortunately, that sector is crashing day by day. The hon. Minister says that he is giving one and half crore rupees on guarantee by the State. It is nothing but chicken feeding. We do not want this sort of small things. We want the Government to impose at least 70 per cent of duty on imported silk, and stop smuggling of silk into the country. Till then, we will not be able to save our farmers. These offers of chickenfeed will not solve the problem.

Everywhere farmers are staging agitations. In Kolar they have recently called a Kolar *bandh*. In *Kolar district* all buses were stopped, passengers were put to a lot of inconvenience, patients were put to a lot of inconvenience, and some private vehicles were burnt. The same is the case with Andhra Pradesh also. In spite of that the Minister says that he is still investigating. This sort of investigation will not help. He has to take a firm stand. Let him talk to the Prime Minister and see that the duty is enhanced to 70 per cent. Then only he can save us and not otherwise.

The Government is now giving some money for Technology Upgradation Fund. When the prices are crashing, who wants your technology upgradation fund? You have set aside a lot of money but I do not think even one-fifth of that money is spent for technology upgradation. If there are no buyers in the market, who will purchase the goods?

In my place Dodballapur, we had about 14,000 power looms and nearly 10,000 of them were running on pure silk. Now, we hardly find 1,000 power looms. They manufacture a saree costing about Rs. 800 whereas in Surat and other places it is sold at Rs. 360. They are able to do it because they are getting imported silk and they are mixing polyester and dupe yarn. One weighs more and the other weighs less. Our silk costs higher whereas the cost of silk used at Surat and other places where these are manufactured, is lower. How are we to survive?

Many people are selling away their looms in my place, in Bangalore and in Anekal. Still you are investigating the matter, hon. Minister? Please, for heavens' sake, come out of this slumberness. Please understand the position. Please see that the import duty is increased. That would be sufficient for us. No sops will be required. This amount of one and a half crore rupees is nothing. If at all you want to help, please continue encouraging multi-ended reelers, which I did in Shri Deve Gowda's Government.

At that time the contribution of the reeler was 10 per cent, 10 per cent was Government of India subsidy; ten per cent was Karnataka Government subsidy; and 70 per cent came by way of loan without interest which was to be discharged within ten annual instalments.

15.00 hrs.

The scheme was there. I do not know what has happened to that Scheme.

I would request the hon. Minister to please look into it. This will improve the quality of silk also. He should encourage more and more on the production of bivoltine.

Now, they are uprooting mulberry. I would request him please do not give room for that. Our Chief Minister has written a letter to the hon. Minister in this regard. He will be meeting him personally. Probably, he must have taken an appointment with him. He will be meeting the hon. Minister and I will also be coming along with other MPs to request the hon. Minister to take a firm stand to save us from this disaster.

Lastly, Madam, Chairman, I do not agree with the hon. Member Shri H.D. Deve Gowda on the point that our Government do not have the money to pay salaries. We have purchased copra by giving the support price; we have purchased thousand of tons of maize by giving support price; and we are also giving support price on ragi, which no previous Governments had done it. But we have done it.

With only this exception, on the rest of the things, I agree with Shri Deve Gowda.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: When Shri Deve Gowda was the Chief Minister, even he did not take that step. But we have taken it.

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Madam Chairman, the concerns expressed here about the raw silk manufacturers and growers and whatever special...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Madam, he should speak in English because I am not perfect in understanding Hindi...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: I associate myself with the concern, he expressed here, and I also give due

[Shri Kashiram Rana]

weightage to the sentiments expressed and points put forward by hon. Devegowda about it. The Government is very much concerned about the situation which has arisen today and we would talk to Chief Minister of Karnataka in this connection during his stay here as to how can we extend a helping hand to our cocoon growers, reelers and manufacturers under these circumstances. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Shri Chandra Babu Naidu visited, we held talks with him also and as has been stated by Shri Devegowda. We would work out solution on the basis of his suggestions.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: We would accompany them.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: If I have time, I have no objection to go along.

[English

I have no objection to go to the field.

[Translation]

I would like to assure him that we would certainly come out with a solution.

[English]

So many points have been raised by the hon. Members here. One of them was about the prevailing price of cocoon.

In his speech, Shri Muniyappa said that it is Rs. 50 to Rs. 60. But it is not correct.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: I said that the lowest price is Rs. 50.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: On an average it may be Rs. 50 to Rs. 60.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: We are selling it in the market. We are talking about purchasers. The lowest Rice is between Rs. 50 to Rs. 60. It may be Rs. 80 to Rs. 90 about the higher quality.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: I have got today's price list with me here. But I want to assure that whatever the hon. Members have said in the House, I will definitely enquire into it.

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rana, it will take one more year to hold enquiry into it.

[English]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: The hon. Member had mentioned about the prevailing price of cocoon and raw silk.

The raw silk manufacturers are getting more than the cocoon growers.

So far as import duty is concerned, all the hon. Members wanted to raise it to 70 per cent or 100 per cent. But I would like to assure the House that the proposal to restore the earlier import duty rate is under consideration. It is 30 per cent plus 5.5 per cent; that is, 35.5 per cent. We want to raise it from 30 per cent to 40 per cent. So effectively it will come to 44.5 per cent. The Government has to look into cocoon growers on the one side and the industry on the other. With the increase of nearly 10 per cent of import duty, the cost of import will go up by Rs. 300 or more. So, the price of raw silk will definitely increase. I would like to say that the proposal of restoration of import duty is under consideration.

There was a demand from the hon. Members that we suspend the import under OGL. We are living in the modernisation and globalisation age; and all the hon. Members know that there is a gap in the demand and supply of raw silk in our country, to the extent of nearly 10,000 metric tonnes or even more. Our requirement is nearly 27,000 metric tonnes and our production is only to the extent of 17,000 metric tonnes. We succeeded in our effort to increase our production from 14,000 metric tonnes to 17,000 metric tonnes. So, there is a gap of nearly 10,000 metric tonnes and to meet that, we have to import.

They were expressing that in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, there were incidents of suicide, but I do not believe that there had been any such incidents for this reason. We should see what would be the situation, if we suspend the import under OGL. On the one side, we have to protect and help—financially also—the cocoon growers or manufacturers and on the other side, we have

to help the silk industry, from which the country gets nearly Rs. 2,400 crore by way of export of silk yarn, fabric and garments, etc.

In 2000-01, the value of the import of raw silk amounted to approximately Rs. 475.15 crore; in 2001-02, it was nearly Rs. 620.78 crore.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: You may please tell us, what it is, in metric tonnes.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Shri Muniyappa, I am giving the figures of import of raw silk in detail. In 1996-97, it was 2,911 metric tonnes. He was correct in what he said. Shri Deve Gowda also said that. In 2001-02, we imported raw silk to the extent of 6,700 metric tonnes.

In terms of money, we spent Rs. 790 crore on import of yarn, fabric, raw silk. At the same time, we got foreign exchange worth Rs. 2400 crore by exporting silk commodities. So, I would like to clarify the Government's position. We want to restore our earlier import duty...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Members are talking about the stocks which are not moving. Huge stocks are lying which are not moving.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: I am coming to that point...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, the hon. Minister is giving the official figure, which is 6,700 MT. How has this been achieved? This is on account of reduction of import duty. Has the Government made any assessment of the extent to which smuggling in our country is going on? More than double quantity of smuggled material is available in the country and that is why there is a steep fall in the prices. Has the Government made any assessment with regard to the smuggling that is going on every year? On account of reduction of duty by 40 per cent, we could import 6700 MT. To some extent, even 40 per cent increase is also under consideration. Had it been done a few months earlier, to some extent we could have saved the farming community. So, my request is, without waiting for any long, the Government should enhance the Customs Duty by maybe 40, 50 or 60 per cent...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Whatever be the amount, Members want you to decide and announce here.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): We must protect the interest of the handloom producers...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: I agree that the Government of India is allowing import, but it is not 6000 MT. It is 18,000 MT and this import is without the support of the Government of India. The Government may find out a mechanism to check that. We are for the weavers. The Government can import whatever quantity is needed but not more than that. The Government should find out a mechanism to check it and if regulating duty is that mechanism, the Government can definitely control it.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: I have already said that the Government is considering that proposal...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (Aurangabad, Bihar): About 75 per cent of silk is being smuggled. What about the smuggling that is going on in our country? Why is that not being controlled and checked? That is the basic question.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The Members are saying that export is not as much the problem as is smuggling.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: So far as raw silk is concerned, after introduction of OLG system, its smuggling is coming down day-by-day. Nepal border or Bangladesh border...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You cannot go on interrupting like this. We have to take up another Calling Attention also.

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Madam Chairperson, as I have stated we are making arrangements to check smuggling also. We must also take care as to what would happen if we enhance the duty.

[English]

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Please allow Half-an-Hour discussion on this...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: You talked about the stocks and as I have stated, we need rupees 1.5 crore to clear

[Shri Kashiram Rana]

it. We would increase that amount. We also asked the Karnataka Government that if they were ready to provide guarantee we could allocate more funds for that proposal. Not only that, we have also requested the Karnataka Government to send schemes to facilitate stock clearance. If State Government has any scheme, the Central Government is bound to provide assistance to them.

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: I did not want to intervene till the hon. Minister completed his reply. I would like him to please give me a categorical answer. He has to save the industry; we have no objection to it. He wants about 7,000 MT of import to facilitate the requirement. He said that our production is hardly 17,000 MT whereas we want 25,000 MT. I would like to straightaway ask him only one question. China wants to destroy the Indian sericulture industry.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: How can it be allowed? It would go on for hours together like this.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: He would have finished it by now if you had not interrupted him.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: China wants to capture the entire market. Their whole object is to capture the entire market by destroying our sericulture industry. There is no doubt about it in my mind. We also know something about them.

Please answer me whether, while saving the industry, you agree that it is your responsibility to save the farmers also. W... you concede at least this much? Will you please tell us the Minimum Support Price that you are going to give? I demanded that. About the Duty you said you have to strike a balance between the industry and the growers and that you can go only up to 40 per cent. Agreed.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Madam, how can it go on like this? We respect the seniority of the hon. Member. But we have to abide by the rules also. The hon. Minister can call a special meeting in this chamber where he can invite all the hon. Members.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: This is not a chamber matter...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: No cross talk, please. Please listen to the Minister, now, Please address the Chair.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: How can you allow everybody to raise the same questions again and again? This cannot go on like this.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: In that case, if you want to conduct the proceedings of the House, you can come and sit here. I would give up.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair and not one another.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Sir, he is replying to the point that you have raised.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: I have asked him to provide the Minimum Support Price. He said he would disagree with us. Rs. 50 per cocoon is the market price prevailing today; but he disagrees. It is okay. He does not trust us. He must have got some report from the officers. But please tell me whether you are prepared to concede the Minimum Support Price with the cooperation of the State Government, as it is a Concurrent Subject? My friend, Shri Jalappa was telling that you purchase copra. Why not purchase the cocoon also?...*(Interruptions)* You must provide the Minimum Support Price. If you are agreeable to that, then both the Centre and the States should take the responsibility to provide the Minimum Support Price to protect the growers and also the industry. Will you concede this point?

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You call everybody and discuss it.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: The Government is fully committed not only to save the silk manufacturers and cocoon growers, but also to help them financially to clear whatever stock they have.

So, our Central Silk Board has agreed to sanction Rs. 1.5 crore to clear the stock and if there is more need of financial support or monetary assistance from the Government; we would request the Government of Karnataka to send or submit a proposal so that we can share the burden equally.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The Chief Minister is going to come. They will all meet you with the proposal. The matter ends there.

Now, discussion under Rule 193 may be taken up. Begum Noor Bano may initiate the discussion.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): Madam, what about matter under Rule 377?

MADAM CHAIRMAN: They may be treated as laid on the Table.

15.20 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

(i) Need to shift Cement factory situated in Jalgaon Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra which is causing environment pollution

[Translation]

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN (Jalgaon): Mr. Speaker, Sir, an orient cement factory, being run in my Parliamentary constituency, Jalgaon in Maharashtra is causing pollution in the nearby area and the residents are getting afflicted by several diseases. This has led to utter resentment among the residents there and they have been demanding removal of this cement factory for a long time.

I, therefore, request the hon. Minister concerned through you that proper orders for immediate shifting of this orient factory from Jalgoan-parliamentary constituency to some other place be passed in public interest.

(ii) Need for construction of a by-pass in Ranchi, Jharkhand

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the problems being faced by the residents of Ranchi, the capital of Jharkhand, in the absence of a bye-pass there. The population of this State is about 15 lakh and traffic here comes to a standstill for hours together due to non-availability of bye-pass. Commercial vehicles plying between several districts of Jharkhand and some other States take this route. I had drawn the attention of the House towards it on earlier occasion also but positive action is still awaited in this regard. Several small cities have by-pass and it is quite surprising that a State capital lack this facility.

I, therefore, request the Government to take immediate steps to construct a bypass in Ranchi, the capital of Jharkhand expeditiously.

(iii) Need to extend Jammu Tawi Express upto Ajmer, Rajasthan

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Ajmer is located in the heart of Rajasthan. This city enjoys international, fame from the view points of religions education, history, tourism and communal harmony. Lakhs of pilgrims from all over the world come to Ajmer to visit the dargah of Khwaja Muinuddin Chisti and have 'darshan' (glimpse) of God 'Brahma' (the creater) in 'Teerth Raj' Pushkar. So it becomes essential to connect Ajmer to the crown of Mother India i.e. Jammu and Kashmir with railways due to the special status it has acquired from religious, geographical and historical points of view. Vaishno Devi Temple near Jammu and Pushkar near Ajmer both have been the centres of faith for crores of people.

At present, Jammu-Tawi Express which is also called Puja Express runs regularly between Jaipur and Jammu. This train is kept in day long abeyance at Jaipur. Ajmer Pushkar and Vaishno Devi (Jammu) will get connected if this train is extended upto Ajmer. Kashmiris visit the dargah of Khwaja Saheb in Ajmer in thousands to offer their prayers so, the extension of Jammu Tawi-Express is going to prove very useful and important.

Therefore, the Government of India is requested to extend the Jammu Tawi-Express upto Ajmer.

(iv) Need to provide passage to the villagers through Defence land acquired in Jodhpur city, Rajasthan

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Defence has acquired a big portion of land in Jodhpur city under my Parliamentary Constituency, Jodhpur. This led to closure of several approach roads on account of which the people in several villages are facing problems. This land was meant only for housing purpose. If the approach roads passing through the residential areas get closed, it would become difficult for the villagers to go to the city.

I, therefore, request the Union Government to reopen the closed down roads so that the common man may get relief.

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*Treated as Laid on the Table of the House.

(v) Need to safeguard the interests of investors of Sanchayani Finance

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Lakhs of investors in Sanchayani Finance have lost their hard earned savings. Repayments of interest and deposits have been stopped. Immediate action and expediting the legal process is necessary. The coordinated effort by MoF with RBI and DCA is necessary. Action from Government is demanded to see that investors' money is returned.

(vi) Need to create a Railway Zone in Kerala with its headquarters at Trivandrum

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor): Recently, Government has created several new railway zones. But no such zone has been created in Kerala. Kerala is commercially important and a revenue earner for railways. Important railway projects are still pending completion. Some of the projects are yet to take off. In southern India, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka each has a separate zone. Kerala is fast becoming an important tourist centre in the country and it tops in the number of arrivals from foreign countries. Considering its strategic importance and location, creation of a railway zone in Kerala is a must and urgent. I request the Government to take necessary action in this regard urgently with Trivandrum as its headquarters.

(vii) Need to compensate farmers for the losses to their crops and livestock in border areas of Rajasthan due to deployment of forces

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (Barmer): I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the plight of poor farmers/people of Barmer and Jaisalmer districts of Rajasthan bordering Pakistan. The prolonged deployment of Armed Forces and laying of land mines in their fields have totally shattered their economy and ruined their sources of livelihood.

It is pertinent to mention here that main source of livelihood of poor people of the border belt is cattle rearing and some agriculture. Due to deployment of Armed Forces and laying and land mines in their fields along the Indo-Pak border, they have no access to their fields. There is a huge dip in the live stock population in border villages due to heavy death toll.

Under such a situation, I shall request the Union Government for the following action, on priority:—

(a) An expert team be sent to Barmer and Jaisalmer areas for on the spot study of causalties of live stock and to suggest immediate relief measures.

(b) Relief camps/Shelters for crippled livestock to be set up immediately and veterinary doctors detailed to provide medical aid to injured animals.

(c) Immediate relief measures/financial package be given to the affected people.

(viii) Need for creation of a separate railway zone with its headquarters at Nagpur

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): The recent announcement for the creation of seven new railway zones has greatly hurt the aspirations of the people of Nagpur who have been urging upon the Government to create a separate zone with its Headquarter at Nagpur. Nagpur is the second capital of Maharashtra and has a population of about 35 lakhs. With the existing size, population, workload, accessibility, traffic pattern and other operating and administrative requirements consistent with the need of economy and efficiency, the creation of a separate zone with its headquarter at Nagpur has become the absolute necessity.

It appears that two new zones have been created with their headquarters at Raipur and Bilaspur in one State without any detailed examination and not taking into consideration the importance of Nagpur accruing due to its central location and other inherent advantages.

It was assured way back in 1999 that the interest of Nagpur would be kept in view while reviewing the reorganization of railway zones.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Hon'ble Railway Minister to create a separate railway zone with its headquarter at Nagpur.

(ix) Need to set up D.R.M. office at New Jalpaiguri Station, West Bengal

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jalpaiguri): Establishment of a D.R.M. Office at New Jalpaiguri Station, which is the nerve centre for the entire North East, Nepal, Bhutan and Sikkim is perfectly reasonable. All the trains of N.F. Railway viz. Delhi bound, Kolkata bound, South India bound pass through New Jalpaiguri. In addition there are three branch lines viz. (1) Haldibari—New Jalpaiguri (2) New Jalpaiguri—Alipurduar via Siliguri and (3) New Jalpaiguri—Darjeeling hill section originating from New Jalpaiguri. New Jalpaiguri has the entire three Gauges of railway track. New Jalpaiguri itself gives higher revenue than any other station of N.F.R. The present Divisional Headquarters of KIR is situated at extremely of N.F. Railway whereas New Jalpaiguri is almost equidistant from Malda town and KIR Airport, Medical College, University of North Bengal are within 30 kms of range from New Jalpaiguri and all connected by motorable roads.

I, therefore, request you to look into the matter so that the proposal is speedily cleared and the project implemented.

(x) Need to treat at par academicians working in Universities and those in colleges in remote areas for the purpose of granting scholarship of Professor Emeritus

SHRI Y.V. RAO (Guntur): University Grants Commission gives Scholarship of Professor Emeritus to outstanding academicians. I, however, take this opportunity to mention here that UGC gives this scholarship to only those professors and academicians who have worked in the university and retired. But, there are some people who work in colleges in small towns and rural areas and do outstanding research in their subject. But UGC is not encouraging such research scholars by giving professor emeritus ship. Our effort should be to promote research in small places and this is one such area of operation, which should be looked into.

I, therefore, urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development to kindly look into the matter and do justice to the outstanding academicians who work in remote places and retire and give professor emeritus ship to some of the deserving candidates. This will go a long way in encouraging research activities in rural and remote areas.

(xi) Need for all round development of Phulpur Parliamentary Constituency, U.P.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL (Phulpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the powerloom and cottage industries are run in Mauaima, Lal Gopal Ganj, Phulpur, Handia Nagar Panchayats under my Phulpur Parliamentary constituency. The farmers of the entire Phulpur Parliamentary constituency are leading in the farming activities. The powerlooms, cottage industries and agricultural activities have been stalled due to non-supply of electricity and thereby rendering thousands of workers jobless.

I would like to request the Government of India that the Phulpur Parliamentary constituency, Karam-Sthali of the great freedom fighters like Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, Vijay Lakshmi Pandit, Keshav Dev Malviya, Lal Bahadur Shastri, former Prime Minister V.P. Singh, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, Shri Janeshwar Mishra to set up heavy industries there and make available electricity in order to promote powerloom and cottage industries and agricultural activities there. The central Government should set up hospitals there so that the people could benefit from these hospitals.

(xii) Need to ensure that film producers depict true story of historical personalities while making historical films

[English]

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): The Directors and Producers of the Film on Emperor Ashoka have completely ignored all those activities of the great ruler which made him one of the greatest names in human history. The film made on him has concentrated only on some imaginary details of his personal love and love life. They have also ignored Emperor Ashoka how he was transformed into Dharma Ashoka from Chandra Ashoka, who gave up conquest by sword to take up the conquest through dharma.

Similarly, the two films on Shaheed Bhagat Singh dwelt largely on imaginary details of his love affairs including the usual song and dance sequences and forgot focus on his patriotism, bravery and sacrifice.

Lastly, those who made the present version of "Devdas" had no business to play with Sarat Chandra's story and to turn the film into an extravaganza on which they are said to have spent Rs. 50 crores. Some slight deviations from the original story are permissible, but the makers of the film distorted the story to a large extent.

I request the Union Government to ensure that film makers depict true story of historical personalities.

(xiii) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Bihar for all round development of the State

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the sources of income are almost nil in Bihar after the bifurcation of the State. The annual growth rate of Bihar State is lowest in the country. The need of the hour is to bring it at par with that of the other States. The Planning Commission also feels that the electricity, irrigation, expansion of forest cover, flood control are such areas which need immediate improvement and attention If improvements are carried out in these areas, in no time Bihar could be at par with other States. There is poverty, illiteracy and unemployment in Bihar as a result of which people are migrating unemployment in Bihar as a result of which people are migrating from there in large number which in turn is creating crisis for other States too.

[Shri Nawal Kishore Rai]

I, therefore, request the Central Government to release atleast Rs. 800 crore as a special package in the first stage to enable the State to immediately tide over the said problems faced by the State.

(xiv) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Haryana for modernisation of police force with a view to combat terrorism

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (Sirsa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the terrorism from across the border has created such an atmosphere in the country that no place could be termed as a safer place. The adjoining areas of Delhi are also facing the threat of terrorism as Delhi is the main target of attack of these foreign mercenaries. And it has become necessary to have close coordination with the police of neighbouring States to combat such organised crimes. The better arms and better mobile communications system are necessary for the security personnel besides imparting training to them. Only then they could be able to discharge their duties efficiently in such a disturbed atmosphere. The Haryana State Government has requested the Central Government for providing funds for modernisation of Police force of the State and it has also requested the Central Government to review its policy of providing funds to the State for this purpose.

I, therefore, request the Government to immediately take action on the request made by the Haryana Government.

(xv) Need to lay Rail line between Jhargram and Purulia, West Bengal

[English]

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia): A large part of Purulia district is not covered by railways. It is a long standing demand of the people of Purulia for construction of new railway line from Jhargram to Purulia. The survey works for this purpose was made. This work will be made shortest distance route to connect Haldia city to Bokaro Steel City and Dhanbad of Jharkhand. The proposed railway line in backward and tribal areas will help in areas' development and provide additional revenues for railways.

I urge upon to Government to take necessary steps for construction of a new Railway line from Jhargram to Purulia at earliest possible.

15.21 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Government's decision to allow Foreign Direct Investment in Print Media in India

[English]

BEGUM NOOR BANO (Rampur): Madam, at the outset, I wish to thank you for converting the Calling Attention Motion on this important subject regarding the situation arising out of the decision of the Government to allow foreign direct investment in Print Media in India into a discussion under Rule 193 as it would enable more Members to participate in the discussion.

I have gone through the copy of the Statement of the Minister. I, now, propose to seek certain clarifications from the Statement of the Minister.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Madam, Chairman, I have not made any statement at all. Had it been a calling attention, I would have made a statement. I have not given any statement...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

BEGUM NOOR BANO: I have got a copy circulated by you.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Had it been a calling attention. I would have read a statement and there would have been questions. But I did not read any statement...*(Interruptions)* There was nothing like having a discussion under rule 193.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: May be that it was supposed to be a Calling Attention Motion and so, the Statement had been circulated.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: When the discussion is under rule 193, it's alright. The rule should be followed...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Alright. She has got it. Therefore she is referring to it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Madam. How is it possible. It was a calling attention. The statement which I would have read on the Calling attention, questions would have been asked no that. When I did not read any statement at all, what is she referring to...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: All right. Do not refer to the Statement. It has been converted to discussion under Rule 193.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Now there should be discussion under rule 193.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): To facilitate the discussion, I would like to say that the Statement has been circulated to the Members. That is one thing. If the hon. Minister has any objection to the Member referring to the Statement, the Minister say take it that those are the questions put by the member without referring to her Statement.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Alright, she can ask questions without referring the Statement...*(Interruptions)* as I did not read any Statement.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: That Statement was circulated in the House.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Since it was a calling attention. They would have let me speak on the calling attention. But I did not read the statement she is referring to...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: So, please do not refer to the Statement.

BEGUM NOOR BANO: My Party is actually very disturbed and wary of the Government allowing FDI in Print Media. I think we all know that Print Media had helped in the Freedom Movement and had actively associated itself in achieving the freedom of India.

15.24 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

Print Media is considered to be national institutions to safeguard the democratic process. The Congress Government, in 1955, took a Cabinet decision not to allow foreign participation in Print Media. We cannot understand the need of FDI in Print Media now. If the investment had been attractive for commercial financial institutions, they would have grabbed the opportunity to invest. Obviously, the reason we think is that foreign institutions want to have indirect control on thought process which is not in the national interest. And that, Madam, is extremely dangerous.

Anyone who can read or write a little or is educated enough is always really interested in reading whatever is printed. Eventually, the thought process, over a period of time, is affected. So, this particular thinking of the Government now in power, which wants the foreign investment in print media, I think, is very dangerous for the future that is to come, for the children and especially for the educated people. We are very much interested in educating the future generation. If any one can change the thought-process of the children and can change the future, what will happen?

You know very well that the electronic media or the internet is only for a section of the people but the print media goes to every level of the society. It goes to every common man. If anything is printed, if anybody wants to read it, he can read it. So, if everything is in the interest of the foreigners, if foreigners are involved, if foreign investment is involved, it will be sold to them and I think it is a very dangerous thing. Any one who can read it can read. I suppose this is something that should be taken note of very seriously.

Apart from this, it is also learnt that initially magazines and journals are to be published in English. That will help the English-speaking people only. The urban areas will have it. What are the initiatives being taken to benefit the maximum persons living in the rural areas who basically speak Hindi and other regional languages? Obviously, it will go to that level everywhere. How will you verify and know who are the people behind this investment? It could be any extremist. It may not happen now but it may happen after some time. The coming generation or any extremist group or any country can take over this. Money can come from anywhere. How

[Begum Noor Bano]

would you be able to control that? I think it is a very disturbing thing to know this as things are going on in our country.

I find that these are very few and very valid points which I wanted to make. I am sure, the hon. Minister will look into it. Already, the hon. Minister has deleted certain programmes from the television. Madam, at one point of time, you had deleted certain programmes from the television because you did not think they were good for our children to see, for our future generations to be involved with it. So, how can you now allow something like this to take place which will affect the children right from the age of five or six? As the time is coming, at any point of time in their life, the children can be affected. I would just like to ask the hon. Minister this thing. How are they going to verify this? So, that is all I have to say about it.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North-East): Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has raised a very important issue and I also share her concern on this issue.

The press or media occupies fourth place in our democracy and it is termed as the fourth estate. And I am of the view that in view of the importance of this issue, it is but natural to express concern over this issue as this issue concerns our posterity and democracy as well. But I sometimes think that whenever a discussion is held on the F.D.I., foreign investment or multinational only then our sense of patriotism evokes in our mind. Is our democracy so fragile, that whenever a company, a segment or a particular segment is thrown open for foreign investment, it immediately poses a threat to the unity, existence and culture of our country.

[English]

Sometimes I get confused. We must have clarity and clarity must be across the political parties. In 1991, we started going in a totally different direction. In the Indian economy, we can define the development of Indian industry in various stages.

[Translation]

Prior to 1947, Mahatma Gandhi ji used to say that we would get Independence. But what would we do immediately after getting Independence for the masses. Therefore he asked Jamnadas Bajaj whom I consider an era or a generation and the then industrialists to set up industries and he exhorted them not to worry about the extent of profits they might earn but industries must be set up in India. And thereafter, we fanned out in different directions. After Independence we started with a joint sector. The Government said that the Indian entrepreneurs would also be there alongwith the Government undertakings.

[English]

After independence, we started with a mixed economy and joint sector. In 1969 they took a 'U' turn.

[Translation]

The then leadership of the then Government might have felt so. I do not want to give political overtones to this issue. Had it been so I would have said,

[English]

In 1969, who was the Prime Minister? Which party was the Ruling Party at that time? In 1991, once again they took another 'U' turn. Who took that decision? Who was the Prime Minister then? Which party was the Ruling Party at that time? I do not want to convert this debate into a political one.

Sir, in 1969, we started with a monopolistic nature of development. There was monopoly in the Government sector and there was monopoly in the private sector.

[Translation]

How many scooters were available at that time. There was only one scooter company, the Bajaj and to get that one had to wait for ten years. Similarly there were no other brands of cars available in the market except the Ambassador and the Fiat. And same was the case with telephone.

[English]

I do not want to enter into this debate now. We not only had monopolistic culture in the Government, but we had monopolistic culture in the private sector also.

[Translation]

And the same was the position in regard to telecommunication also. There was no other option except the MTNL and BSNL. And they used to increase tariff at their will.

[English]

The Government was encouraging the same thing in the private sector also. There was licence raj and there was monopoly.

[Translation]

If one lakh cars had to be manufactured in the country, then four companies were to be given licences since one company would be able to manufacture 25,000 cars only. And one had to purchase these cars irrespective of their quality. And one used to get low rate of interest on one's deposits also.

I do not want to cast any aspersions on the Minister of Information and Broadcasting. But I want to tell you that the quality of Doordarshan's telecast was very poor.

[English]

It was totally monopolistic. Then, in 1991 the Government or the House started thinking in a different way.

[Translation]

Russia disintegrated. It's monopolistic economy also failed.

[English]

In 1969, England also started the rethinking process. So, we started moving with the world. In 1991, we changed the economic process. We banned our monopolistic culture and started the liberalisation process.

[Translation]

At times our friends make comments and they say that this is the reversal of 1955. Who is responsible for this. Whether only one decision was taken in 1951 and no decisions were taken in 1947. So many decisions were taken from 1947 to 1969. All these were reversed between 1969 to 1989. And we again reversed the earlier decisions after 1989. Was there no Government monopoly on the Doordarshan and telephones.

[Translation]

There were speeches on security etc.

[English]

So, the reversal did not take place either in 1955 or 2002. Our economy is a developing economy and so we have to go along with the world economy.

[Translation]

I want to say that there is monopoly even in the banking sector. Who did the nationalisation?

[English]

Was it not a reversal in 1991? Then this was not the Government. Those people were in the Government.

[Translation]

In 1996 our colleagues from the Congress had only reduced the Government's equity from hundred per cent to sixty one per cent in the banks through passing a Bill. I do not wish to make any comments on that.

[English]

It is a continuous process. You cannot have a cake and eat it too.

[Translation]

You can not do both the things simultaneously. Sometimes, while out of the House we discuss it with our young generation and tell them that you won't understand it and will keep on lamenting.

[English]

Every time, you will try for protection.

[Translation]

Everyone needs protection, youths need it, students need it, industrialists and bureaucrats in the Government need it—will you stop crying.

[English]

It was in 1991 and again in 1996. In 1996, was it not a reversal? When we signed the WTO in 1995, was it not a reversal? You have guidelines, which you cannot reverse.

[Translation]

If we were to lament we would have said that they did not do anything in 1995, 1996 and 1991.

[English]

But we cannot do so. This is a democratic set-up. What I would like to urge upon everybody is that we must accept this challenge.

[Translation]

We should change our mind set to allay our fears that the entry of foreign media would ruin us and that it will form another East India Company.

[English]

You have to cultivate and encourage.

[Translation]

The young generation should come forward to accept the challenge.

[English]

This is the WTO. What are its benefits? You have to explain it and not point out the defects of the WTO? Are you going to change it? Can you change it? Can you reverse it? No.

[Translation]

Why are you lamenting. I want to tell you that it is a miracle in the communications sector. Shri Pramod Mahajan was briefing us today during Question hour that with liberalisation in the telecommunications sector we have progressed in leap and bounds.

[English]

Is it not a challenge?

[Translation]

We travel to foreign countries carrying our mobiles. Excuse me Shri Mulayam ji, there you may receive a call from your party worker not from Itawa but from a suburb of India and you are in Barcelona or in New York and that party worker is surprised to know that. You can take to him from England from your mobile.

[English]

Is it not a challenge? Is it not a miracle? Is it not technology? Who has done it? We have done it?

[Translation]

We have done miracle in the information technology sector. Had we been apprehensive, this would not have taken place.

[English]

In the information technology sector, India is going to rule a few countries of the world.

[Translation]

We must bear these things in mind while deliberating upon a subject.

[English]

This is not a reversal. Logically, this is one step further.

[Translation]

Sir, we are opening electronic media. We will ask Zee T.V. although it is operating, here the cost, shall be borne by Mauritius, Singapore or Malaysia. Similarly we will ask Star TV that its capital will be foreign. It will not be able to levy tax in India. It will float its shares here and the money will be routed to Mauritius, then

[English]

We will open electronic media. Then, we will open Internet. We will open communications.

[Translation]

In this situation God knows what will happen, a devil will come. There is not a devil that can buy India. Nobody can, I fail to understand why appearances are so deceptive...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHYAMACHARAN SHUKLA (Mahasamund): It seems, he has already turned half-English....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not speak while sitting.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Shuklaji, in 1991 when you were in this party then you ratified the WTO agreement in 1995. In 1993, when you set up the electronic media where was your patriotism...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

I would urge you

[Translation]

That the Congress Working Committee should acknowledge the disastrous results of the decisions it had been taking since 1991 till 1996. I would urge upon that you should resolve this matter in presence of your

hon. leader and beg pardon from the people that you betrayed the country, you gave t severe blows, you killed its spirit and made it a slave of Britishers.

[English]

I can quote several different people.

[Translation]

I accept there is a difference of opinion on this subject. There are two sides of the coin—If the Times of India gives an opinion, the Indian Express gives another. Similarly Hindi daily differs in opinion. If the managers of a government newspaper speak in one vein, the Hindi daily Dainik Jagran and other existing one speak in another.

[English]

There is difference, three is a scope for debate, nobody objects to that,

[Translation]

I would urge upon the Government to keep note of the advice for taking caution given by the newspapers that express difference of opinion. I can give you a very long list of supporters and protesters. If you wish to know. Whether the Chief Editor of Indian Express Shri Shekhar Gupta, Prabhu Chawla of India today, Chandan Mitra of Pioneer, Narendra Mohan of Dainik Jagran and Vinod Mehta of the Outlook are all English.

[English]

One newspaper group's business edition argue for each and every sector and they say,

[Translation]

FDI should be there, be it soap or slippers.

[English]

That English newspaper daily write editorial and news items that we want FDI,

[Translation]

We want FDI in manufacturing soap, slippers, hair oil and in retail. Newspapers of larger business groups are also in the same business. Print media will face a competitor in its economic monopoly when it comes to foreign direct investment.

[English]

They start arguing the second side, another angle. I can not understand if it says, yes there is one business group, one business newspaper, which is opposing and simultaneously equally other business group newspaper is demanding FDI. What has the Government done? The Government said that only 26 per cent is allowed and the control will remain with the Indian Chairman, Indian Editors.

[Translation]

I agree, if any changes are required to be made therein, if any caution is to be taken. Then should we not think that there are small newspapers who do not have printing machinery. They need investment. If they take investment in equity.

[English]

There is no financial burden on them because if you earn profit then only you have to distribute the dividend,

[Translation]

Because they are not profitable and do not have quality. They do not have funds and machinery that is why they can not invite good reporters and journalists and good columnists.

[English]

If they go for a bank loan, what is the bank loan?

[Translation]

Today, they have to pay 15-16 to 18 per cent interest.

[English]

Simultaneously, the big group can have equity and that is why they do not have financial burden.

[Translation]

If Foreign Direct Investment will be there then they will get 26 per cent equity.

[English]

Without any financial burden.

[Translation]

When they will earn profit they will give dividend and on getting 26 per cent equity the small and medium newspapers, the language papers will get a new life. They will have a right to compete with their own brethren.

[English]

Who is arguing?

[Translation]

Leading newspapers of the metro cities give one type of argument and the number two newspapers give different opinions.

[English]

But we here would not get carried away by these type of arguments.

[Translation]

We should not do like that. I want to cite an example. Shri Yashwant Sinhaji is not here. In 1998 NDA Government came in power.

[English]

In 1998, what was our foreign exchange reserve position? What was the position in 1989-90? What was the problem in 1996.

[Translation]

Every second or third year we lament over our foreign exchange reserves, we fight over this issue. We have seen even those days when we had to mortgage our gold. Today owing to the dynamic policy and directives of our Government the reserves have increased by $8 billion in 8 months which were $ 50 billion approximately 4-5 months ago.

[English]

Today, we have foreign exchange reserve to the tune of 60 billion dollars.

[Translation]

What does this imply? It implies that Rs. 3 lakhs crore foreign exchange is lying at present in the treasury.

SHRI LAXMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): It should be donated to the drought his areas.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: You are right. We are likely to spend it there but you have taken so many foreign loans during the last 50 years that after clearing that debt whatever will be collected in the next five years we shall divert those funds for relief. You have ruined the country. We will definitely pay off the debts.

[English]

Please do not worry. We appreciate your suggestion.

[Translation]

The inclination of people has grown for electronic visual media in the last ten years.

[English]

According to the latest survey, there is 40 percent readership in the print media. I will quote one sentence. "The oral findings will indicate that TV has emerged as the most commonly used medium in the country. It has covered 72 per cent."

[Translation]

It is a good step to encourage newspapers in competition. 75 millions houses at present are equipped with televisions which means five and a half crores. Four crore houses have cable facility. Investment is there.

[English]

Are they not influencing our culture and our present generation? Is that not a challenge?

[Translation]

I feel if we promote print media then who will be benefited? New jobs will be created in all the newspapers leaving four or five.

New investments would be made, quality will improve and the journalists would get a handsome salary. I think

it is a good step that has been taken. I believe that the Government has taken good step in this regard. We don't want to see it from the view point of the Times of India V/s Mid-Day. I would not say that Mid-Day Group, that has launched a public issue, has campaigned. I would not like to view it even from that angle.

[English]

We should encourage a young newspaper and young generation. If it is coming up, we should not try to crush it.

[Translation]

In all the remaining sectors viz. insurance sector, Finance Sector, Professional Sector.

[English]

During 1991-98, we have opened all the sectors—FDI, FII.

[Translation]

And on the question of FII in the Print Media, lot of hue and cry is made. The Government will have to keep it in mind.

[English]

There should be no investment in the remaining 74 per cent through shell company, through Mauritius company or FII or any other method. It should not be allowed.

[Translation]

I would like that the Minister should include it in the guidelines. The provisions have been made in the Insurance sector,

[English]

There is a loophole in the communication sector. But the Insurance Sector will learn the loophole and will cover it.

[Translation]

There is 26 per cent cap in the Insurance Sector and in the remaining 74 per cent,

[English]

Direct or indirect foreign investment is not allowed.

[Translation]

Necessary guidelines and rules and regulations be issued in this regard.

[English]

No, what you have said, I read it. But then also I would request you to add one more sentence.

[Translation]

Guidelines of Insurance Sector would be incorporated therein but there is no clarity even in those guidelines because there would be one Indian Company of Kirit Somaiya having a part of 76 but that company will have a foreign partner and foreign investment would take place or there would be a company of Megha Somaiya W/o Kirit Somaiya and investment would be made in that company.

[English]

Insurance Sector has banned that specially and very clear cut narration has been included.

[Translation]

Simultaneously I would like to draw your attention towards one thing. You may see the condition and position of the newspapers of the four metro cities.

[English]

It is in a way helping to develop a monopolistic system.

[Translation]

At present we can not bring the newspapers under the fold of MRTP. Fifteen years ago its cost was Rs. 1.50 and even today it is selling at the same price. We will not allow the smaller newspapers to survive. We have allowed it in a number of developing countries of the world. Had we been in the year 1989-1990, we would not have been able to speak while standing. But once we accept globalisation then I believe every newspapers has the freedom to publish any news item in their own way. When Mahatma Gandhi started the Salt Satyagrah, he had organised Dandi March.

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

[English]

one of the top leading Indian English newspapers has written.

[Translation]

Mahatma Gandhi is playing a gimmick. Is the country going to get freedom by this way. That newspaper is still amongst the first two-four newspapers. That is why I wish that the newspapers should be allowed to express their views. But the decision makers here should also keep this thing in mind.

In the end I would like to say

[English]

this is not print versus visual. This is not small versus very big. This is not Express Group versus *The Times of India*. This is not *The Economic Times* versus *Business Standard*. This is not *The Times of India*, Mumbai versus *Mid-day*. This is a challenge. This is development versus backwardness. This is a challenge for protection versus competition. Lastly I would like to conclude that you better go for a challenge.

[Translation]

We should develop such a feeling in the country that if any type of investment is made in the country, we would give direction to that investment as to where that investment should be made. The way the country has brought revolution right from communication sector to Doordarshan sector, and the way we have developed foreign exchange reserve, we must go in the same direction. I would like to conclude my speech by repeating the words of hon'ble Prime Minister that the way the 20th century had belonged to America, let us make the 21st century, a century of India.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Mr. Chairman, Sir, but for the intervention from this side and the decision of the hon. Speaker, we should have missed the opportunity to participate in a debate of such great importance because it is a case of major policy shift in the media sector. Unfortunately even after so many decades since Independence, we do not have any comprehensive media policy. I had the fortune to be a member of one such national media policy group set up by the I&B Ministry, which came to certain conclusions but never taken care of the by the Government.

Later on, there was another body set up in relation to the rules, norms and regulations in regard to the broadcasting sector under the Chairmanship of my esteemed colleague, Shri Sharad Pawar. There also we could not come to any conclusive stage because the Government was not serious about having any such policy. Now, today there is a hasty and steathy move to cause a reversal to the existing media policy for the print media sector. What for?

On the 16th February, 2001, the RBI has said no to foreign direct investment in print media sector. Since the 16th February, 2001, we have heard many voices. We have heard the voices of very many important people within the Cabinet.

We need foreign direct investment in the power sector but who is interested in that? We had given counter-guarantee to Enron. In their 13-day rule, even in the lunch period, they had a special sitting of the Cabinet to permit Enron. We now know what is happening with regard to Enron. We have been told that foreign direct investors would give us lessons discipline and corporate governance. After what has happened with Enron, what has happened with Andersen, what has happened with Worldcom and what has happened with Xerox, do we want them to come here and give us lessons on corporate governance and discipline?

Where do we need foreign direct investment? The advocates of opening up foreign direct investment in print media sector say that the small and medium newspapers are suffering very much, badly in need of financial assistance and are in doldrums. Who is coming forward to advocate this cause? *The Indian Express, Dainik Jagaran* and *India Today* are representing the cause of the small and medium newspapers. Has this Parliament not got any right to give its views on such a very important issue? There is a Standing Committee under the Chairmanship of my esteemed colleague and leader Shri Somnath Chatterjee. There was a majority recommendation of that Committee. I am not saying it was unanimous; there have been notes of dissent but there has been an overwhelming majority. Why should

we participate in the Standing Committee? Once we had asked the Government and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs asking for figures of acceptance of recommendations of Standing Committees. He said that the acceptance was 93 per cent. He said that in most of the cases the Government accepted the recommendations of the Standing Committees.

When we were debating the Insurance Bill, the Minister said that once it has been said that the Standing Committee that brokerage and such other things should be allowed, the Government cannot go back on that. He said that the Government could not go back only because the Standing Committee had made some direct or indirect recommendations. Now here is a majority recommendation by the Standing Committee. How could you dare to neglect it? The Standing Committee is a mini-Parliament. How could it be neglected?

I am not casting aspersions on anyone. The hon. Minister herself is saying "Such are the letters I have received. Let the Committee go through them." A particular Member belonging to another House is coming out openly to the Press divulging all the proceedings, violating all the norms, making observations and comments about the Chairman that are not only in bad taste but which no one can expect from a civilised person. I am sorry to say all these things.

The Government has suddenly woken up to the fact that the nation cannot wait any more for foreign direct investment in the print media sector. The nation can wait for such investment in the power sector and in the infrastructure. The nation can wait for investment when the whole nation is suffering in agriculture, industry and manufacturing sector but the nation cannot wait for foreign direct investment in the print media sector. We know why the nation cannot wait. Some people have got huge sums of money taken away from this country and deposited in foreign banks. They want to bring that money back and invest here as foreign direct investment. We know the names. We know why there is so much of interest in this. This Government is out to destroy the whole fabric of the Fourth Estate. After five decades of Independence, there are more than 50,000 registered newspapers in this country without the help of any foreign direct investment.

16.00 hrs.

They say that if it can happen in the electronic media, why not in the print media. There is a lot of difference.

Sir, a large number of experts have given their views as a witness in this Committee like the Press Council of India, the First Press Commission. The Second Press Commission has gone to the extent of debarring any law, allowing foreign direct investment in the print sector. Are the Indian Newspapers Society, Editors Guild, etc., not responsible people? Do they not have any experience about the print media? Why should their views be neglected? Are *The Indian Express*, such and such people, such and such editor and five names recommended by the hon. Minister are more important than the people of this country? The political parties of this country, particularly the Congress Party, which is the main Opposition Party, have given their views. The Left Parties have also given their views. All these Parties belong to this side of the House. It is only a handful people supporting it. Even people in the BJP, the *Swadeshi Jagran Manch*, BMS Leaders have come openly against this foreign direct investment. Why is this haste? The print media is having a basic difference with the electronic media. The electronic media is on the basic of visuals. but still when you read the editorials, public opinion is formed and public debates take place on the basis of the print media, particularly the regional press. That will be taken over. What for? Is it a profitable area that they will come and invest for the language dailies, vernacular dailies, and English dailies of different regions? The answer is 'No'. It is not that profitable in the Indian conditions, but it is profitable in another area. It can influence the decisions of the Government. It can do and undo Governments. It can decide the elections of a particular area and for the whole country.

Sir, I can cite an example of Mr. John Major. What happened when Mr. John Major decided not to allow Rupert Murdoch in the areas of DTH? Certain newspapers had openly come out against Mr. John Major and books had been written as to how they can do and undo Governments and remove important personalities from the political scenario. What will happen in a country like ours? They are going to do it, ignoring all responsible opinions.

We find that this Government not only had decided to destroy the Fourth Estate, they are speaking about

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

the press freedom that anybody can bring any sort of investment. The press freedom, according to the Indian Constitution, is for the Indian citizens and not for others. They say, no, no it is all right, we have our safeguards. What are the safeguards? Who will control? They say that 26 per cent cap is enough. Behind the scene, there may be so many agreements.

When Shri Swaraj Paul had come to India in connection with the Escorts' case, while going back, he has made a very serious observation that the Indian company is being controlled by shares of 3.5 per cent, some textile company is being controlled by eight per cent, some by 3.5 per cent, some by eight per cent and some by six per cent. Through the evidence of the Department of Company Affairs, we can give a large number of such examples. Companies can be controlled by minority shareholders, far below 26 per cent. It is being said that no, they will be listed. Enron was a reputed company, Worldcom is the most reputed company, Xerox is a very reputed company, Andersen is a very reputed company. And it is said that they will be listed. What has happened to the MNCs? After draining our resources, one after the other, they are getting de-listed from the capital market and the Government has no authority and power to control it. It is said that there will be more disclosure norms. Who is listening to your disclosure norms? We are yet to have any knowledge about the outcome of the JPC on the latest scam. But we know about the earlier one. Who will be following your disclosure norms? Are they following any directive from any Regulator? Every Regulator is admitting that he is helpless. One Regulator is saying, it is not within any jurisdiction. So, the Government is thinking of a Regulating body, but who will control whom? They are also thinking in terms of a Lead Regulator. But nothing is going to be helpful in such a situation because even in the Indian situation we find that a particular house can dominate the PMO. It is an open confession of a bureaucrat while leaving the PMO, while leaving an important job in a particular department of the Government. I am not elaborating that. How can you prevent the Mafia money and have only clean money? What is the deposition of the Home Ministry before the Standing Committee? Although I do not know what has happened, whether the Home Minister has supported it in the Cabinet or not, but as per the Press documents, we do find that the Home Minister has supported it. The Home Ministry people, while deposing, have said that taking into account the present Indo-Pak stand-off and our security concerns, it should not be opened up at this moment of time. There is a deposition of the Home Ministry. We want a clarification from the Minister as to how she proposes to stop Mafia money.

They say that the trans-national corporations should not be allowed. Very funny! I want to know, how. That is whose income? It is not the trans-national corporations which do not have any interest in influencing, who will come; only the MNCs will come. And even if it is not any MNC, the MNCs who spend hundreds and thousands of dollars for their advertisement for capturing the market, for influencing the Government decisions through the instrument of advertisement, will influence this sector, this foreign investment.

It is said that we shall see to it that there is no unfair competition. How can you see to it that there will not be any unfair competition? The total sales of the *New York Times* or the *Washington Post* go up to more than four-five billion dollars and our highest one is Rs. 700 crore to Rs. 800 crore. In such a situation, they are telling that they shall be able to prevent it through a regulatory body, through code of conduct, through proper legislation! They say, where is the possibility or the danger of cultural invasion. Even yesterday we found a surrogate advertisement appearing in the Indian situation. The Minister is very much worried about the advertisements of liquor and cigarettes, but even then surrogate advertisement is appearing. Those who follow the subject, know it better. Their culture is totally different from our culture. They do not hesitate to tell things even about the Prime Minister. This does not mean that driving away a particular journalist for writing something is good for the country.

It is rather unfair. But still, there are separate sets of valuation, value response, value patterns and ideas and cultural standards be it in relation to sex or be it in relation to violence. Even in Finance it so happened—someone was telling us—that in the days of globalisation they are opening up the films and all. I am not saying anything to him. Australia has not allowed any Foreign Direct Investment in their country. Is Australia not interested in globalisation? France has strongly protested against the American domination in French films. Are they not interested in globalisation? There lies the problem.

The hon. Prime Minister says that we should have a consensus on reforms. Yes, we agree to it. We agree that there are areas which require reforms like in the case of old land relationships where there should be reforms. We believe in it. But where is the consensus?

If the opinion of major political parties is being neglected, the majority decision of the Standing Committee is not considered, and even the opinion of the BJP people, the BMS leaders and of the *Swadeshi Jagran Manch* is being ignored, how can there be any consensus?

I think this Government is out to destroy everything. This privatisation or opening up of the Fourth Estate is a danger to the Legislature, is a danger to the Executive, and is a danger to the Judiciary also. Who will be a legislator or who will not be, will be determined by the public opinion created by the foreign media. I have given you one example of this. In the case of Chile we know how not only a particular leader was maligned and ultimately killed, but the preparation for the killing was made by this foreign print media. This is a dangerous thing. We cannot accept the argument of the Government. We oppose it. We believe that the Government should reconsider and have a re-look at the recommendations of the Standing Committee.

We do not require money. Our banks are flush with money. If you want to help the small and medium sector, why do you not set up a new corporation, a new finance corporation? This is not a new idea. A Bill to this effect is pending since 1973. You can set up one special finance corporation to help them. The banks are flush with money.

Regarding technology, we have the technology. Sometimes we can supply our technology to others. Our software people are dominating even California and in the Silicon Valley. Our young people are there. We are proud that in the I.T. sector, in the coveraged broadcasting, computer software and in all these fields are dominating. Even in such a situation you are looking to foreigners for technology. We do not require any technology if the Government has the right mind, right planning, right programme and right direction.

In a multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-cultural society, this foreign investor will bring about such pollution in our public life, in our sense of values and in our outlook that this should be dangerous for the unity and integrity of the country. Not only our security but the unity and integrity of the country also will be at stake.

Sir, I conclude with a warning that the Government may be in haste; but the nation will not just tolerate such a decision. The people of this country will stand up and protest this disastrous decision going to be taken. If the Government comes back to its senses and reconsiders the decision, we shall be happy. Otherwise we shall go on opposing the decision till the Government reconsiders the decision and withdraws the decision.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack): Mr. Chairman, the Calling Attention has been converted into a discussion under Rule 193. At the outset, I should also make it very clear that I was and I am still a Member of the Standing Committee on Information Technology which went through, for about 15 months, the aspects relating to this issue. It started last year in the month of January and the Standing Committee submitted its Report in March this year. There were a number of eminent journalists and officers from different Ministries including the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs who were called for hearing. Officers from the Ministry of Home Affairs also were asked by the Standing Committee to appear before them and a very bulky Report was presented in this House. I am sure that many Members must have gone through that Report. In that Report, I stand out differently because one of my notes has been added to that Report. The Report presented by the Standing Committee does not support foreign direct investment in the print media. There have been a number of dissenting notes also attached to that Report of the Standing Committee. But in that Report, I have given a note and have articulated my opinion in that.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, I want to raise a point of order...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mahtab, are you going to yield?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Just a point of order...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Under what Rule?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, it is an accepted custom, norm and convention that a Member of any Parliamentary Committee may participate in the debate, but usually what transpired in that Committee is not referred to. That is what I wanted to say.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati): Sir, it is a normal practice that a person, who is a Member of any Committee and that Committee has dealt in a particular subject and the Report of the Committee is also submitted to Parliament, is not supposed to speak on that subject because he has already got that opportunity and if he himself has given a different view, which is also part of that Committee's Report, I think, it is very unfair to refer to it. That is the practice. If it is possible, we should protect it.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, the same point should be raised with respect to Shri Rupchand Pal. He had participated in several Committee meetings and again also spoke in the House....*(Interruptions)* He did the same thing and he also participated in discussion in the House...*(Interruptions)* The same thing he mentioned here also on the floor of the House.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I am not a Member of this Committee...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Not this Committee, but in other Committee...*(Interruptions)* You ask him, he will tell you...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mahtab, you should not quote what transpired in the Standing Committee.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Sir, I am only placing the facts. I am not referring to the discussions that transpired in the Standing Committee. I am not referring to what others have said in that Committee.

I am only stating this that I have given not a dissenting note to the Standing Committee Report...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): If the Standing Committee Report is the property of the House, once it is laid in the House. Therefore, it can be quoted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mahtab, you can speak as Member of Parliament, but not as a Member of the Standing Committee here.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: What I have been saying is that Report is a public document...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: If you yield, I wish to say something on the procedure to be followed.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Let me be guided by the Chair.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The convention is, generally, the discussions in the Committee are not referred to in the Parliament. That is the first thing. Second, if the report is given by a Committee and if the Member's views are against the report, he can speak. But if the Member's views are in consonance with the report, he is not expected to speak.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: My point is that Shivraj Patil can go through the Report of the Standing Committee.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: If you agree with the Report, you need not speak. If you do not agree with the Report, you can speak.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: There is a catch in it. The rider is that it is not a dissent note, but I agree with the conclusion.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Then, you have not accepted this Report.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: My only point is this. A mistake was committed in 1993 by allowing Foreign Direct Investment in electronic media. By disallowing Foreign Direct Investment in print media, a dichotomy is being created. You are denying the right to another branch of media. In 1953 or 1955, electronic media was in its womb; it was not an invention at that time. But from 1955, a lot of water passed through the River *Yamuna*. Many changes have taken place. In 2002, a decision is being taken, and I do not support the Foreign Direct Investment in print media. This is my conclusion and this is what I have said. I am opposing Foreign Direct Investment in media *per se*, in toto. This is my version.

In print media also, there are two or three groups. There are big houses, monopoly houses, as has been said here, and they want the monopoly to continue. At the same time, when you are allowing Foreign Direct Investment in electronic media, which has gone into the rural areas also through cable network, the small and medium newspapers are facing a lot of difficulties. This is my only view.

As it has been rightly pointed out, who is going to invest? Is print media such a lucrative business that a lot of people will just run to our country and invest in our print media to earn more money? The second point is that if it is not money for which Foreign Direct Investment will come, then what for will it come? The only answer is to wield more power, the power which media wields in different countries. That is the main reason. As has been rightly quoted by Shri Rupchand Pal, the US has framed a law that only an American citizen can involve himself in different media circles. I think, the present Government, after taking this decision, has to take certain corrective measures.

It has been rightly stated that a fund may be created to help both print and electronic media as such. Secondly, the Indian print media is also excelling in technology. Our printing technology has captured the markets of Europe, America and Africa. A lot of machinery is being supplied to the South East Asian countries. If this is the situation, if getting funds from outside or getting funds from financial institutions is one of the main problem, that can be looked into by our Government, by our society and by our financial institutions.

Sir, the third thing, on which all have agreed, is about the personnel. It says that we can have 26 per cent foreign investment in this sector but the newspaper should have an Indian editor. Why is this so? This is only because we want that the control should be in the hands of the Indians. That is the position since the first Press Commission in 1953. This point has been repeated time and again since then and many enlightened persons of our society would also agree to this point of view.

Sir, I would not like to deliberate on other aspects because there are many other persons who would be speaking on this. My only concern is this. Today there are two segments in the media. One is the electronic media in which investment has been allowed in the last nine to ten years. The other is the print media. Now, the basic question that is being debated today in the society is, should we allow the print media to get into the equity share business as was being mentioned by Shri Kirit Somaiya? If that is done, then should it be confined, according to the laws of the land, within our country or should we allow others also to invest in it? If that is the situation, then we are in deep trouble. Funds should be made available and some funds are being made available.

Sir, another point that I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Members of the House is that the intelligence of our people prior to Independence should not be undermined. Before Independence when information was limited to only a few limited sections of the society at that time also the people knew that here was a newspaper who wrote for the British *Raj* but still there were a few newspapers who were nationalist in nature. People at the time also knew as to who wrote for whom and they knew who is doing what for whom. Now, similarly if there is foreign investment in the print media, then it should not be rejected saying that people would tend to get influenced by the reports of those newspapers. Finally, the readers, after reading the newspapers would know that this news has been planted or published for this particular reason. That is why every newsperson is very much conscious when he writes something in the print media or when he speaks something in the electronic media. It is not just as if he is a buffoon working for somebody else. But at the same time we should be cautious when we are making the law.

Sir, that is why I would like to conclude by saying that once a decision is taken we cannot fall back on the decision of 1955. A lot of things have changed over the years and if the Government has reviewed the decision of 1955, then other additionalities should also be included in that. Methods would have to be devised to protect our ethos, our culture, our sentiments and also our freedom of speech.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say few things in brief in regard to the way we are going to permit Foreign Direct Investment in Print Media in our country.

It is correct that the Honourable Minister may say that it would encourage smaller newspapers published in Hindi. Initially I had a talk with the Prime Minister. I had also written a letter to him. But the result thereof is before us and as such I strongly oppose this bill. You are aware that we both had been against the economic policies right from the very beginning. It is not correct to squarely blame Congress party for it now. Certainly they have committed certain mistakes but what sort of protest was made by the BJP then. The B.J.P. had launched a campaign by the Swadeshi Jagran Manch throughout the country but why did you change your ideology now. What was the compulsion. Who had compelled you to do this. This is the moot question. The Congress Government had of course committed certain mistakes during the year 91-92 which are being mentioned now, but people had some hope from BJP Government. BJP would have been right to comment about the feeling of patriotism only if they would have stuck to their path. But you have invited foreign investment on large scale. It is correct that when we have protested, the pace of FDI by the Congress Government had slowed down a bit but the BJP Government is speedily doing this in all the sectors.

16.31 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Sir, the danger posed by this is that it would lead to the financial slavery and that in turn would lead to political slavery and we have seen that the BJP Government has not been able to defend the borders of the country because the country is getting entrapped in the economic or financial slavery. We don't want to discuss it time and again. But certainly we have not been able to defend our borders, so an example of Maharashtra Government was quoted. When the Chief Minister had opposed, then the ambassador of USA had said in clear terms that if you would oppose, then we would stop giving financial assistance. It is not correct? Economic slavery paves the way for political slavery and when 26 percent of the Print Media would go in the foreign hands, nobody can say as to what would happen thereafter.

[Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav]

Sir, how many people read a newspaper today. Today 76 per cent people read newspaper and the circumstances would be such that it would bring a shift in way of thinking of these very 76 per cent people. Newspaper is not an industry, instead it is a public trust. You have to differentiate between the two and we never hoped so from you. Hon. Speaker has accorded due weightage to this discussion, so he resorted to a short-cut route and arranged discussion immediately. Well, we thank you in anticipation. If I would have had sufficient time, I would have read it out from the newspaper as to what inspired you to bring a shift in your strategy. Our sister Uma Bharatiji is not present here otherwise she also belongs to the Swadeshi-Jagran-Manch. Hon'ble Prime Minister had full control over Swadeshi-Jagran Manch...*(Interruptions)* This is Videshi-Jagran-Manch. Now much more awareness is aimed to be created...*(Interruptions)* They are trying to improve. Is it wrong to get it? Jai-Prakashji changed even the hard-core criminals...*(Interruptions)* We are trying a lot to even change them...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singhji, please address the Chair also in between.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, the decision was taken by the Cabinet headed by Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru in 1955. Ordinance was promulgated by the President even without seeking consent of the Parliament. The representative of the people have been ignored and hence this is a clear case of contempt of the House. The famous saying that Parliament reflects the sentiments of the people does not carry much weight now. Some institutions on one hand and some people on the other are involved in defaming Parliament. This is a challenge to all of us. We would not allow this Government to neglect the Parliament. We would not allow here discussion because this is no trivial matter. It has been stated here rightly that the Standing Committee is just like mini Lok-Sabha, or mini Parliament and it is being neglected. The Standing Committee of the Parliament has strongly opposed it. Despite the protests, hon. Minister of Information has opted for twenty per cent investment. USA is the role model for Government of BJP but they do not allow foreign capital and investment in media in their country. You want America to curb terrorism and made Hindustan prosperous. You do not care for the interests of the farmers of the country. If anybody is capable on taking this country to the path of economic progress, it is only the farmers. Only farmers can help us to clear our foreign debts. But today the Government of BJP is neglecting the farmers. BJP Government held America in high-esteem. But USA is neither allowing nor will allow foreign investment in their media in future. But the BJP Government have left behind the USA in this regard and gone ahead of them, Many felicitations and thanks to Sushma Swaraj ji for that.

Today, even the petty-earners and less educated go through the newspaper. About 16-17 crore people are reading Hindi, English and Urdu editions of newspaper. These people are about 16 crore. Morning newspaper edition is among their necessities just like tea and the breakfast and food. About 16-17 crore people read Hindi edition of the newspaper, although entire country of our is not literate. Despite that so many people read newspaper. You please do not try to change their thinking and encourage people to embrace foreign culture. Please do not encourage them to inculcate alien outlook.

Here is the issue of newspaper. The circulation of thirty Six major newspaper of the country is 76 per cent. They do not favour foreign investment in national interest. Our colleagues have left. Those whom he was naming is among our well wishes but he would not sacrifice national interest in the name of friendship. Names mentioned minutes before are your friends as well as mine. But here arise the question, which relates to the country? What are their intentions? What are the Government's intentions behind twenty six per cent of foreign investment? During last session, when Gujarat was being discussed, media was the target which newspapers were involved therein? These were Times of India, Hindu and Hindustan Times. These were criticised and threatened by BJP Government because they mentioned the Gujarat incident de facto. So, it seems to me that the Government intend to exercise control on such newspapers and teach them a lesson because they brought the true picture of Gujarat before the nation. Three newspapers were named which allegedly worsen the atmosphere but these three alone reported the true picture before the people of the country. Some of the reports on Godhra-incident have also come out. But I do not want to utilise this occasion mentioning as to where the petrol was kept to set fire, wherefrom the diesel came? Now the time to convene discussion afresh thereon has come to reach to the truth. That should come before the country and the world but I do not want to have discussion on the issue right now. This is to invite hazards for the country to allow foreign investment in print media in this haphazard manner. Now the situation has taken such a turn that it has become difficult for the people like us to give explanation to the news appeared in a section of newspaper on the very first day. How the public would change their attitude?

The foreign control over the media conveys the sense that we have become their slaves not only from financial point of view but also get ourselves entrapped therein. Today foreign capital and foreign companies have full control on our economy. We must accept it. You would recollect that the Prime Minister of a South-Asian country, Malaysia, came out openly two-three years before that these foreign companies not only looted us financially but also intervened in political affairs of their country. Today, the same situation started arising in India. I, therefore, request the hon'ble Minister of Information and Broadcasting to please keep aside media. These very people used to say that the youths are very capable, but today they are sad and anguished and depressed. You are going to generate one crore employment opportunities, but slowly you are selling out the PSUs, which is resulting in reduction of jobs instead. So, where the country is being placed. How much resentment it is going to create. So, we apprehend as to whether this Government intend to press the resentment and sense of depression prevailing among the youths due to the unemployment through the media. So, I request the hon'ble Minister to openly announce their plan in this regard today itself. I doubt this move is aimed at teaching a lesson to certain sections of media? We are not levelling charges of benefiting somebody against you. But it seems to me that the Government have some grudge against some newspapers and if foreign investment is allowed in print-media and sense of revenge prevails over, it would pose a serious threat to the security aspects of the country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are occupying a prestigious place. But the people of your party have agreed with our views. I, therefore, would like to ask Shri Rawaleji as to what he is expecting from that side. You please come forward and raise your voice against it. Sometimes Shri Bala Saheb Thakre follows right approach in this matter. I have serious differences with him. But in certain matters we are of the same opinion. So, I request all the members of this House to caution the Government to get to it. I think, I have got some right on hon'ble Minister of Information, Sushmaji and that I can persuade her to make her understand my point of view. I, therefore, request her to accord to my request. It belongs to the security aspects of the country. Please, do not allow foreign investment in print media. I raise my protests against this proposal. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very much pleased to hear the speech of Shri Kirit Somaiya, who have spoken here on part of the Government because for the first time I have observed a change in his thinking. I recall an instance way back in 1987, when I delivered a speech before Chambers of Commerce organised in Mumbai Metropolitan. I asked the Government to withdraw from some of the sectors to bring them on track and improve their deteriorating financial condition. I had used a sentence that the Government should close down its shops and give the chance to private parties to give way to any piece of knowledge and foreign technology and in retribution I got a major attack. I recall it that just after the speech, Shri Kirit Somaiya, who was the President of the BJP branch of Mumbai, organised a big demonstration outside the House on behalf of his party and Shri Manohar Joshi, who was the leader of the opposition spoke at length on this issue. In this manner, they sharped their diatribe against me that the time would came when Shri Sharad Pawar and his colleagues would extend their co-operation in the functioning of the Government. The circumstances and all speeches...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Who was this Manohar Joshi?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: He was a very understanding person. Our colleagues, who used to believe in such ideology have changed their views.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this should be clarified. We would like to have information in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I am not quoting Shri Murli Manohar Joshi ji.

MR. SPEAKER: I am occupying the Chair and that is why I can not respond.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I am happy that a major shift in opinions is taking place. Shri Kirit Somaiya has mentioned two things. First, what inspired you to oppose investment in print media sector and the second was, where were you, when a major change did take place in financial priorities of this country. He asked two questions and I agree with him. This is true that now we oppose it but when we were ruling the country, we voiced our support for it. We supported it. The financial conditions which prevailed in the country in year 1991-92 and the condition which prevails today is totally different. The entire economy was then reeling under the crisis, the gold reserves of the country were mortagaged, foreign exchange reserves were depleted and then, Shri Manmohan Singhji in the capacity of Minister of Finance came to the rescue of this country and paved a new direction for this Parliament resulting a great change in

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the financial conditions of the country which was observed by the entire country as well as globally. The step which was taken by him was somewhat which could be termed as a well thought out strategy. As far as there was a need to opening a sector, we were fully prepared and the field where it was necessary to maintain control, we kept up the restrictions, foreign investment was not allowed in all-sectors.

Look at the agriculture sector, it has been never heard of foreign investment in agriculture sector nor it has been appreciated because seventy per cent of population of this country is engaged in agriculture. My main concern is that the new agriculture policy put fourth in the House by the Government allows the entry of MNCs in the agriculture sector. This move is quite detrimental to the country. Seventy percent of the populace is engaged in agriculture and the farmers have got small holdings ranging between 2-4 acres. If multinationals are permitted in this sector, they would purchase the land on higher prices leading to serious problems for the farming community which constitute 70% of the populace. The idea of foreign investment was rejected in the year 1991-92. Then, we had taken certain steps like we go in for morning walks, for health care, I can recall when I lived in Pune city, there was a big mountain behind my residence. At times, we used to go to that mountain for morning walk for improving our health but we would climb upto a limit, as beyond that limit there was fear of falling down and we never ventured upto that limit. Today, when there is need to formulate a policy for our economic sector then, we should keep our economy in good shape as nobody has put any hindrances in reaching to that level, however, we will have to check because going beyond that limit may cause suicidal circumstances. Today, we have allowed FDI in the print-media which is going to be suicidal for the country, therefore, we oppose it vehemently.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Kirit Somaiya made the mention of WTO. I do feel when the world is shrinking into a small village and the international trade is opening up. India can not remain aloof and sit outside this process.

Therefore, India is also a signatory to the WTO agreement hence it is the responsibility of the people in the power to protect the interests of the Indian producers, farmers and industrialists. Steps will have to be taken to safeguard their interests.

Just now Shri Devegowdaji was talking about the interests of the silk producing farmers. He has said a basic thing. Be it Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh or Maharashtra the economic condition of the silk producing farmers has worsened because steps have not been taken to check the import of silk despite there being provision in this regard in the WTO agreement. Though there is a provision to check import but required steps have not been taken under the provisions of the WTO agreement. The countries which are the front runners in supporting the WTO agreement take whatever stringent steps are required to safeguard the interests of their producers and they even ignore the provisions of WTO agreement so as to protect the interests of their producers.

Mr. Speaker Sir, America has made four fold increase in the budgetary provisions for providing subsidy to the agricultural sector during the last three years. America was to discontinue subsidy for the agricultural sector but today America is making maximum budgetary allocations as to provide subsidy to the agricultural sector. See the condition of steel industry. Production of steel in India has increased to a large extent. Not only in India but steel production has increased all over the world. The American Government which propagated about the WTO a lot have imposed a maximum duty on the import of the steel. I am not against them. The interests of the producers in that country must be safeguarded and it is good that their government is doing so and it is really something very good that they consider it their duty to protect the interest of their producers. We should also protect the interests of our producers treating the provisions of WTO as the very basis for that.

In order to protect the interests of our producers we should also enhance import duty as per the laid down provisions. We should not blindly follow the other countries of the world. We must take care of those people whose interests have been hampered owing to the provisions of WTO agreement but our government is not paying due attention towards this. That is why we oppose this. I am not against the policy as well as the liberalisation but

[English]

One should not just introduce and support liberalisation without protecting the basic interests of the indigenous producer.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, foreign investment in print media is being talked of for the last so many years. A number of members dwell upon its age old history. The first Press

Commission was set up in 1954 which said clearly that we can allow entry of foreigners in any sector but certainly not in the field of print media because it is not a profit earning sector rather it is a powerful sector which mobilize and moulds public opinion. Nobody would enter this field to earn money. If at all anybody enters this sector he would enter only just to divert the opinion of the masses of the country and to grab the power in the country. Nobody would enter this field to help us in framing of our policies rather foreigners will enter this sector to influence our masses and grab the power. Therefore, we should not allow the entry of foreigners in this sector.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I still remember the long speech delivered by the then Minister of Information and Broadcasting Shri Balkrishna Keshkar on 13th September, 1955 in this very House who had told at length about the policy of the country in this regard. Another Press Commission was set up in 1982 headed by Justice K.K. Mathew. Justice Mathew submitted his report to Government wherein he categorically said that we should never allow foreign investment in this sector and he mentioned that.

[English]

"There should be a special legal provision under which no newspaper undertaking should have any foreign ownership either in the form of shares or in the form of loans."

[Translation]

This recommendation of Justice K.K. Mathew was accepted by the then Parliament and the Government. It has been said here that it is a question of the freedom of the Press. I feel that we must deliberate upon this aspect a bit seriously. It is true that freedom of speech and expression has been guaranteed under Article 19 of the Constitution. When we get freedom of speech and expression we also get the right to express our opinion in the newspapers. But only Indian people can get the advantage of this Article. Decision of the hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of Veerendra Vs State of Punjab 1958 can be cited in this regard wherein the hon'ble Supreme Court has categorically stated that freedom of speech and expression under the Constitution of India is available only to the Indian citizens and not to the foreign nationals. There is a clear mention of this in the decision. We are talking of handing over the control of media which is responsible for forming of public opinion to the foreigners. It appears to me that we are violating the provisions of our Constitution.

I agree with the views just expressed by Rupchand Paulji. Nowhere in the world baring a few small cities foreign investment in the print media is allowed. Australia, Canada, America, U.K. France, Italy and Japan none has allowed foreign investment in this field.

[English]

I will correct it, if it is so.

[Translation]

In Japan also there are some restrictions. They have framed rules and regulations about foreign ownership and broadcasting due to which it is not so easy to the foreign investors to invest in that country in this field as has been mentioned by Rupert Murdoch. Shri Rupert Murdoch was an Australian and a renowned person in this field. His dream was to set up a Fox Television Network and he went to America to fulfill his dream. The American Government did not allow him to set up his dream Fox Television Network in that country. He could realise his dream only after he became the American citizen. He was not allowed to set up the T.V. Network in that country. America is also facing the same situation today and it will not be good for us to ignore it.

A number of people has said that a lot of money and technology will come into the country. Today the Indian newspapers do not need foreign technology at all. You see the quality of the 'Times' newspapers published from London and the 'Times of India'. You will find the quality of the 'Times of India' better or atleast at par with the 'Times of London'. We are not all lagging behind in the matter of technology. It is true that more than fifty thousand newspapers are published in our country. I think baring hundred or two hundred newspapers the financial condition of rest of the newspapers is very bad. They do not have funds. I believe once the foreign money is invested in the print media, after some time they will have total control over these newspapers and I am sure that most of the newspapers out of the forty to fifty thousand newspapers being published in our country will be compelled to wind up. They will be unable to stand the competition. I have seen myself that there used to be a tough competition even in Delhi between the two newspapers namely 'The Times of India' and the

[Shri Sharad Pawar]

'Hindustan Times' till some years back. I don't know what is the position at present.

17.00 hrs.

Both were leading newspapers and both slashed their prices. Both were being sold for one rupees for some years or months. This competition adversely affected other newspapers and they reached on the verge of closure. Their financial condition was good that is why they could with stand the competition. When foreign investment will be made in this sector and their will be price competition among the newspapers, I am sure that seventy to eighty percent of newspapers out of these will discontinue their publication within two-three months and the total control of the surviving newspapers will be in the hands of rich people of other countries who want to thrust upon their ideology on the Indian people. At that time we will not be in a position to say anything in this regard. Therefore, we should deliberate upon this matter very seriously.

It has been said here that some journalists have also supported this move and name of some people has been mentioned. It is correct to say that when multinational companies will come here they will give handsome salaries to the journalists besides they will also get more facilities but only handful of them will get good salaries and good facilities. But such people also need not speak like this because circumstances are changing in this field. Before this several commissions and wage boards were appointed to safeguard the interests of the journalists. But to by pass the Wage Boards and Commissions some influential people found a new method and that new system was contract system of appointment. Today Editors, Bureau Chiefs and even senior journalists are engaged on contract basis. The contract happens to be for four or five years. He or she may get slightly higher salary but there is always a fear in his or her mind that he or she can be asked to quit the job any time. They have to perform their duties at the risk of their health. Though they get salary but there is not security of job. I feel that the absence of security would affect the honesty of journalists. There might be certain people who might be happy temporarily by getting more money. But we cannot ignore a stage may come when hire and fire policy is adopted and people may be asked to go at any moment.

It has been said here that adequate precautions have been taken in this regard. Foreigner will be allowed in this sector but the Editors and Members of the Board of Directors will be Indians. When Britishers came to our country the ICS officers were our own people. Only a handful of ICS officers were from Britain and most of the ICS officers were the Indian but the will of the Britishers was prevailing. Similarly the Editors may be Indians but he will implement the policy formulated by his masters in whose hands control of the newspapers will be and the policy formulate by him will have to be implemented by us. It has been stated that only 26 percent share have been offered. It is all right but I want to know as to why it has been 26 per cent why not 25 or 24 percent. In offering 26 per cent shares there is a provision for special resolution and by doing this you have given the right of special resolution to the foreign people in the board and they will have control over the newspaper. Tata group of companies are operating only on 8 percent. The total investment of Tata group is not more than 8-9 percent and despite this fact they are running their group of companies and we are offering 26 per cent. It is correct that several people say that 74 per cent is not in their hands. There is no need to bother about 74 per cent rather we should bother about 26 per cent direct investment as they will enter an agreement with the other investors for their voting rights and in this way have total control of the newspaper, they will definitely find out a way out. Such situation arises in the country in many areas even today. I am of the view it will be fatal for the country to ignore such a situation. When BBC entered into our country, initially the Government laid down a condition that the Chief of Bureau should be an Indian. Today the Bureau Chief happens to be a Britishers instead of an Indian. Mark Tully was a journalist who earned a lot while in India and left the country when he realised the situation because it was difficult for him to tolerate the situation.

A mention of Star T.V. was made here. We should ponder over this aspect as to what would be the impact of Western Culture as depicted by the Star T.V. One should take into account the get and dress of the female newscasters of the Star T.V. We will never find them clad in a Saree. I am not against it but I am against the total impact of the Western Culture on our culture. It is Westernisation of our culture which we are witnessing. It has been stated here in the House that the Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting has a detailed discussion on this. One of the most important aspect of the discussion was that the officers of the Home Ministry were called in the meeting and the officers of Home Ministry informed the Committee page 31, Para 59-

[English]

"The Home Ministry officials stated before the Committee that as people tend to rely more on printed version of the fact, an attempt at disinformation will have tremendous impact on the people and it will be more difficult to control it. So, in the view of the Home Ministry, the internal security scenario is not conducive for an opening up of the print media sector."

The statement is that the internal security scenario is not conducive for opening it up. That is the statement which has been made by the Joint Secretary of the Home Ministry before this Committee eight months back.

[Translation]

What change has been seen in the circumstances that exist today or those prevailed 8 months before. Has the situation at the border improved? Has the terrorism abetted? Has the neighbouring country's stand. Which keeps causing some problem or the other for our country somewhat changed? But what is the haste? No change has been witnessed in the ground realities yet they have asked us to take a decision in this regard. I feel, all the concerned people have opposed it. The biggest organisation of the newspapers—the Indian Newspapers Society (INS) opposed it; the Editors Guild opposed it, the Press Council of India opposed it; Swadeshi Jagran Manch—the organisation from which they seek guidance, opposed it and even the R.S.S-the organisation to which they look for guidance also opposed it. Their main ally Shri Chandrababu Naidu with whose support they run the Government, also opposed it. Again, Shri Bala Saheb Thakarey with whose support this Government is being run and from who they seek advice from Mumbai, also opposed it by writing a hard hitting editorial...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I shall tell him after reaching Mumbai that on mentioning the name of Shri Bala Saheb, you had interrupted me.

MR. SPEAKER: No, it is not like that. It is a mere coincidence that your time was up as soon as you mentioned his name.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Several political parties have opposed it. This is the fourth estate and we shall have to take a decision with sagacity. It was stated here that we should not bring in politics in matters relating to economy. This advice has been given to us. We shall never indulge in party politics on the issues of national interests and we shall always be forthcoming if they want to do anything or have discussions with us across the table or take any steps in national interest. They, however, took such a crucial decision without taking the Parliament or any political party into confidence.

I have heard today itself that their party i.e. the party in Government has finalised a name for the post of Vice-President. That is O.K. in so far as they are within their rights in doing so. However, while taking such a momentous decision if the Government's motive be not take the opposition into confidence then they are mistaken to expect co-operation from our side. Is it proper? This is such a decision which is going to cost dearly to the nation. Therefore, they must think it over again in the backdrop of the views and ideology of their allies. With these words, I shall conclude.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in India, the brain drain started in 1960s. At that time, an engineer went to America. He was at the prime of his youth. He forgot everything about his family and about his children. He put all his blood and sweat to rise in the social hierarchy of the United States of America. His children were born at that time, a son and a daughter. They grew up there. But he did not have time to see what they are doing and how they are growing up. After about 20 years, when he rose very high in the social hierarchy and earned a lot of money, all of a sudden, on one night he finds that his daughter has returned home very late in the night. He asks his daughter: "Why have you come so late?" His daughter says: "I have gone on a dating with a boy." That fellow goes wild with anger and asks: "Why did you go without my permission?" The daughter is surprised and says: "This is America, everybody goes on dating and so I went. What is wrong with that?" The very next day, the same Indian, who had gone to America about 20 years back, come back to India along with his daughter and advertises in the Matrimonial Column of *The Times of India*, *The Hindu* and *The Hindustan Times* saying that we want a Punjabi, Kashyap Gothra bridegroom. After 20 years, if the Americans could not make him forget that he is an Indian, how do you expect that only 26 per cent of FDI in print media will change our value system, our thinking and everything in India?

Sir, Begum Noor Bano said that internet is for some, newspaper is for all. Maybe, it is true today. Today,

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

anybody who knows reading and writing is called literate. But after five years, anybody who does not know how to operate a computer will be treated as an illiterate. After five years, everybody will know how to operate internet. Now, internet has entered our bedrooms. BBC has entered our bedrooms and CNN has entered our bedrooms. But have they really changed our value system? The foreigners of an Indian is only skin-deep. When he is in America, where he has earned money, the first thing he does is to build a temple there. If he is a South Indian he builds a Tirupati Balaji Temple, if he is from Orissa, he builds a Jagannath Temple, somebody else builds Swami Narayan Temple and if he is a Bengali, he builds a Kali Bari.

Sir, Shri Rupchand Pal is not present here. About two years back, when we were debating the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority Bill in this House, he made a speech and I was listening his speech with rapt attention at that time. You compare his speech of today with the speech which he made two years back while we were debating the IRDA Bill. He said the same things and he used the same language that foreigners will come.

[Translation]

shall eat up, dominate, destroy

[English]

But what is the truth? Last year, the Life Insurance Corporation of India has registered a growth of 62 per cent which is unheard of in the annals of LIC's history. This has happened after the opening up of the insurance sector, after the entry of FDI into the insurance sector. So, the argument that India will be swayed away by a mere 26 per cent of FDI in print media is not correct. Even Shri Sharad Pawarji has also mentioned the same thing in his speech. I do not agree with that view. Why is a foreigner coming to India? Why is he investing here? They say that he is investing here not because of money, but because of power. Yes; I agree that newspapers wield a lot of power. My point is, do people only believe what is published is newspapers? Many things were published about Gujarat and about Shri Narendra Modi in newspapers.

Did the people believe it? It is not that whatever the print media would print, the people would believe it. This is not so. It never happens. It is not that because a newspaper writes something against India, people will also read it. We have seen so many news media in India writing so many things against so many Governments. But Government after Government have survived. They have won the elections. So, the print media that will be truthful to the nation and which will have credibility will only survive. Only those types of newspapers would survive. You ask Shri Mahtab. He also knows about it He is an editor of a newspaper. His newspaper survived because of his credibility. His father was a great person. That is why it survives and not because of money.

He made a point that why do the banks not give us money. Why should we not have a Banking Commission to provide money to the newspapers? All right. From the Orissa State Financial Corporation, he has taken money. When I quite my lucrative Civil Service job in 1988, I set up a Press at my native place. I also took money with 18 per cent compound interest per year. Naturally, this newspaper did not survive. It was auctioned last month. I could not manage it.

I am a Member of the Standing Committee of Finance. So, I have come to know that in different countries, the banking loan to the industry is not more than four to five per cent simple interest. The ICICI, the IDBI and other financial institutions do not pick up shares of the media. Their rates of interest are very high. How will they survive? Shri Mahtab said, it is not a lucrative business. I know that it is not a lucrative business. He said that who would come forward. I know, not many people would come forward. At least, if there is a possibility that there could be some equity, we can find a way out. We can try. We can make an effort. Somebody can come. Otherwise, you will have to go to the same financial institution with 18 per cent compound interest which we are unable to pay. This is not possible.

My point is this. Can we have a Banking Commission whose role will be to give loan to print media with a lesser rate of interest and with a higher interest to other industrial institutions? Will it be possible? Will somebody not go to the court? He would say: "Why is this discrimination? Why should such a lower rate of interest allowed to the media and why not to me?" This will happen. So, it is simply not possible that we can have a Banking Commission, which will give money at a lesser rate of interest.

Now, a National Readership Survey was conducted. The print media has added 17 million to its readership base. It has risen by 10 per cent from 163 million to 180 million. The readership base of the newspapers shot up by 20 per cent from 131 million to 156 million. I think, there is a scope for further growth also because as many as 248 million adults are literate. They do not read any newspaper or magazine. So, there is a catch. We can target them provided we have some money. We can develop. We say that there are 50,000 newspapers. You

can ask Shri Mahtab. He will tell you how the Reporters in his newspapers survive. Do they get proper salary? How does he keep on providing salary to his people? Is he capable? I was not capable. I do not think he is also capable of providing it to each and everybody. So, you had them—journalists—survive. I did not mention more about it. so, if there is a scope of increasing the money—more capital—to the print media, at least there will be a possibility.

I know, the cheats are everywhere. But, at least, anybody who is honest and wants to provide better salary to his reporters, he will be able to pay it.

After the induction of the FDI in the print media it can infuse Rs. 150 crore to Rs. 170 crore and in the special magazines, the equity will be 74 per cent. I will simply give you one example. The stock price of Tata Info Media, which publishes special interest magazines such as *Overdrive, Better Photography,* etc., grew by 18 per cent to Rs. 126.80 per day on the day the Government took the decision.

A lot of provisions and safeguards have been provided there. Three-fourth of the Board of Directors will have to be residents of India, and all the editors have to be residents of India. How do we say that somebody else will come, some other news reporters or editor or bureau chief will come from foreign country? This is one safeguard. Another safeguard is that the single largest Indian shareholder must hold more than 26 per cent of the equity.

Hon. Shri Sharad Pawar said that anybody who is having more than 26 per cent of equity is entitled to have a special resolution. That is why the provision has been made that the single Indian shareholder must have more than 26 per cent of the equity and the credentials of each inventor will be thoroughly scrutinised by the Government. The Government's permission has to be sought for change in shareholding pattern and post disclosure will not be allowed. I think, these are adequate safeguards that have been provided by the Government.

I think, this way the regional Press will benefit, the small and medium newspapers will also a scope of just increasing their circulation and it will not remain as a monopoly of two, three or four newspapers, who want it should be their monopoly and nobody should be able to rise. That is why these are the newspapers who are actually opposing it. They do not want any other newspaper to rise and that no other small or medium newspaper should have an opportunity to rise and compete with them.

Finally, let me conclude by saying that Indian being the only functional democracy in the South-East Asia with the traditional free Press, it is ideally situated to becoming a publicity hub. It will attract the same newspapers, the same magazines which are being published in Singapore and other places. The prices will come down and India will become a publishing hub and it will generate new employment opportunities also.

Ultimately, after these foreign newspapers are published also from India—they are already available but at a higher price—these will be available at a lower price if these are printed here and the positive Press will generate all over the world. It will generate positive Press with regard to Indian Government and this positive Press with regard to Indian Government will be enormous in this politically sensible time.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (Barmer): Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. Today, we are discussing about foreign direct investment in print media. I want to bring out here that they have not done the correct thing by revising the decision taken by the Cabinet in 1955 by a resolution moved by great late Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. The decision is taken in a great hurry and is detrimental to the democracy of this country.

As we all know, the Press and print media is the fourth pillar or fourth estate of a country. When I say that media is the soul of India's democracy and should be isolated from the foreign influence. I will not be wrong.

It will weaken the democratic polity of this country. After this policy decision was taken, this has been opposed by all quarters and by all sides. My friends have brought in detail before the House. I just want to highlight a few things. They say that this was an old decision taken in 1955 and we should revise it. I want to bring out here that during our Government, between 1991 and 1996,—it was Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao's Government—this issue came before the Government and it was discussed but it was not accepted because of very obvious reasons. Now, even their allies—on whose strength this Government is existing—are also opposing.

In one of the newspapers, *Business Standard,* New Delhi dated 26th June, 2002, it has been mentioned that the two senior Ministers—the Foreign Minister, Shri Yashwant Sinha and Kumari Uma Bharati—have also said that they are not in favour of it. If that be so, what was the hurry on this? Why has this decision been taken? People are talking very loosely. There is apprehension and there is something fishy behind this decision.

[Col. (Retd.) Sona Ram Choudhary]

This issue was discussed in the Parliamentary Standing Committee. The Standing Committee was formed with some spirit. We call it a mini Parliament. There it was discussed. It was almost a unanimous report except a few. A majority of the members of this Committee have said that this should not be accepted. In spite of that, they have overruled and they have taken this decision. They relied only on the minority views. They have not gone by the Report of the Standing Committee. We know that this Government has been rejecting the views of the number of other Standing Committees and are taking the decisions.

The other thing that I would like to bring out is about what has been mentioned in this Statement. I am only reading out what has been said here in one of the places. The Minister for Information and Broadcasting has assured outside. She said: "Do not worry. These are all cases; we will discuss case by case, on priority and on merit." If that be so, that is case by case basis, then it will result in selective, manipulative and a questionable deal. It is happening in a number of other Ministries also. I am not casting personal aspirations on the Minister. But this will lead to that.

Sir, we are talking about foreign media. Somebody has raised this question. One of the foreign magazines has passed some remarks about the health and habit of our hon. Prime Minister. They have no business. I was in the US. I was hurt when I read it in a magazine. If you open like this, then God only knows what will happen later on.

In some places, you are mentioning about internal security. This is a very valid reason. We know that as of today, most of the so-called developed countries are not happy with the performance and progress of this great country. They are feeling that India will be a great threat to them in the 21st Century so far as performance is concerned. They are already playing mischief. They are supporting the terrorist country. They are supporting the rogue country. If you open to them, they will play a lot of mischief here.

I know I have got in my constituency almost 850 kilometers area near Pakistan. People are coming. A lot of people have been caught. If the print media is open, then they will keep on planting some sort of news. Most of the people are illiterate. Some people read. They will enthuse their minds. This is happening in North-East also. Not only this but giving this to them will be detrimental to the interest of small and marginal newspapers. This will affect not only them but also the major newspapers also. Therefore, this decision is not in the interest of the country. Whatever apprehension or concern you call it, should be heard. This is a unilateral decision or an ill-advised decision. No consensus has been obtained. It was done without discussing it in Parliament. It is detrimental to the national interest. So, as my friends from other Parties have said, a second thought should be given. This decision has to be revoked to look after the national interest and to look after the print media. Do not use print media as a business. You are funding them in a number of places. You can always fund the print media wherever you feel they are not up to the standard.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU (Anantapur): Sir, I am sorry to point out the decision of NDA Government for allowing foreign direct investment in print media. It is against the TDP's view. It is not clear how the FDI will break the monopoly of the Indian newspapers. Global monopoly is not the answer to a national monopoly. We all are aware that during Independence struggle, newspapers played a very crucial role. One has to face a lot of problems to run a newspaper because it is not a business. Also, journalists are not doing jobs only for salaries. This is a profession. So the fact that key editorial posts will be held by resident Indians is of little relevance.

But the 25 per cent ceiling on FDI is likely to be slowly increased to allow majority holding to foreign players as we have seen happen in insurance and other sectors. The electronic media is cited as an example of no harm occurring from FDI. Who knows? As far as the anomaly between print and electronic media is concerned, it could also be dealt with by forcing FDI to withdraw from the electronic media as well.

We can invite foreign investment to develop our country for the uplift of our poor people in this country but not to destruct our culture and our ethical values. No foreign investor will invest his money for safeguarding our national interest or our country's interest.

They will run the newspapers for their profit motto. That is why the TDP is opposing this decision. The Government should revoke this decision and save our Indian newspaper industry with its ethical values.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I rise to oppose the decision to allow 26 per cent foreign direct investment in print media, a wrong policy adopted by the Government on the following grounds.

In a democracy, the Fourth Estate is the strongest pillar. We have the Executive, the Legislature and the

Judiciary; and apart from that the Fourth Estate. Under article 19(1) of the Constitution, there is freedom of speech and freedom of expression, which is extended to freedom of the Press by a decision of the Supreme Court. It is an inviolable right; that right cannot be alienated. We all know that the Supreme Court has held in 1973 in the Keshavananda Bharati case that Parliament has no power to take away the Fundamental Rights. This is a fundamental freedom guaranteed to the Press. Are we constitutionally right in debating or in contributing our views to the Government? The rights are inviolable; they cannot be alienated. In spite of that, the Government has allowed 26 per cent to the foreign print media to acquire ownership. This is a dangerous signal to democracy.

I should say that foreign ownership without any constitutional right would let them encroach upon the freedom of the Press. They are going to mobilise opinion. They are going to develop or disseminate their culture. The Press is the means for collection and dissemination of information. Whey they collect information from different parts of the world and disseminate them here and when our information is transmitted in different parts of the world, would it affect the democratic set up or not? I say emphatically that democracy would be crushed because under foreign ownership, the foreign editors sitting in New York or London or in different capitals of different countries would dictate their local editors to follow or promote a particular party in power and suppress an opposition party because a particular party curries favour with them. In that way, it is a dangerous signal for the future of India. Had it been correct, as early as in 1995, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru would have accepted this formula. The old idea is a golden idea; as the saying goes: "Old is gold". Why should this Government have a new idea of inviting foreign ownership? We have fifty thousand newspapers as has been quoted here. Some of them are vernacular newspapers; some of them have a large circulation. Even among those newspapers, the foreign ownership would try to rehabilitate some of the newspapers or periodicals or journals to their tastes or to their advantage.

Newspaper is not an industry and Press is not an industry. Had it been declared as an industry, the Supreme Court would not have struck down the order of the then Lt. Governor of Delhi while ordering the demolition of Indian Express Building? It was the Supreme Court, which has said, in *The Indian Express* case that even demolishing a building is an encroachment on Press freedom. You cannot demolish a building belonging to a Press.

Now, this foreign encroachment on the freedom of the Press will jeopardise our democracy, will jeopardise our parliamentary and Cabinet form of Government. I do not know how the Cabinet has approved this thing, under what provisions of law because it is not an industry; it is not an item pertaining to Commerce. It is not a commercial item. You are not imposing tax on newspapers daily. They print they circulate because all the people in India are being guided by our local print media. When that is satisfying, why should this 26 per cent be brought in? Is it that had it been 25 per cent they cannot have voting or veto power of resolution? The Standing Committee of Parliament has considered in detail about the dangerous situation, which will arise if 26 per cent FDI is allowed to be invited in India.

Sir, Press barons may be there. They may dance to the tunes of the Government or the Opposition. Even then when our Indian citizens are enjoying the right of freedom of Press...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You had only four minutes. I have given you one minute more.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, first I was given four minutes. To get more time I argue for 20 minutes. However, I will complete within a minute. ...*(Interruptions)* Please allow me.

Sir, you must know the history of the Indian newspapers, which says a State that, continued with border trouble, should have a free Press. Our geographical situation is different, our political combinations are different and permutations are different. We have a number of enemies around the border. While choosing the foreign ownership who is the alien or enemy to our country? How will you identify? There are certain guidelines in the United Kingdom and in the United States. The Government has an inherent power to reject the foreign ownership and to reject a foreign to enter into print media. In that way, it has not been circulated The Parliament has not been posted with material about disinvestment of 26 per cent of print media. We are not the owners. The Government is not the owner. How can you allow a foreign investment of 26 per cent? The barons are the owners. We disinvested a number of public sector undertakings. We are going to disinvest the Shipping Corporation of India. We have disinvested BALCO. They are all Government properties. This is not a Government property. You are going to disinvest the by allowing 26 per cent to be invested here without investing anything. *The Times of India* was not invested and promoted by the Government of India. Likewise, *The Hindustan Times, The Tribune, The Hindu, The Indian Express* were not promoted by the Government. They started the newspapers and circulated the newspapers. They collected and disseminated the information. They taught democracy to all the people in India. Now, there is a threat to their freedom by foreign investors.

[Shri P.H. Pandian]

We have so many courses in different universities. Journalism is being taught in different universities. Are those journalists going to be absorbed by a foreign investor? As Shri Sharad Pawar put it, there is no guarantee for a foreign ownership to appoint or to nominate or to provide employment on contract basis to our journalists here. For some time they will get some salary, but after some time they will be thrown out of employment. As journalists, they are safe in the hands of Indians; they are not safe in the hands of a foreigner. As you know, if India is in the hands of Indians, it will be safe. Similarly, if an Indian Fourth Estate is going in the hands of a foreigner, the security of the country is threatened. How will you allow a foreign ownership to write about our Indian geography, our security conditions, our political permutations and combinations? How will you allow him to write his own editorial about our functioning here? It is not an industry. It is not a commerce sector. So, in that way, the Government should at least reverse their stand and allow our media to go up. You give them some incentives. You promote them. You cannot allow any foreigner to be in our Parliament. You cannot allow any foreign executive to be a part of our Executive. You cannot allow a foreign judge to be a judge of a High Court or of the Supreme Court. Someone may be having the knowledge of the Halsbury Laws of England, but he cannot be a judge of our High Courts or the Supreme Court because in the Supreme Court, they talk about a foreign law in certain cases. So, to protect the Executive, to protect the Parliament, to protect the Judiciary from onslaught of the foreigners' invasion, it should not be allowed. It is an invasion on institutions like the Fourth Estate, Judiciary, Parliament and the Executive. Pen is mightier than sword. Do not give the sword to a foreign ownership.

You believe that foreign investment may develop India. You believe that foreigners have more brain. We Indians have more brain. If an American Foreigner Minister, if an American Finance Minister comes and its here, do you mean to say that he can perform better than our Minister? Will you allow him? You cannot allow a foreign Finance Minister to sit here. In the same way, we must put an end to this proposal. Is it at the proposal stage or is it over, we are not informed. If it is at the proposal stage, close it. If the Cabinet has taken a decision, reverse that decision in the interest of the unity and security of our Indian nation. Thank you, Sir. I oppose this wrong policy.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara): Sir, I take it a privilege to be participating in this very interesting discussion under rule 193 and I am happy that it has come from that side. The fight between the print media and the electronic media has been there for some time. Today, what we are really discussing is whether 26 per cent investment of FDI should be allowed in the print media.

17.49 hrs.

[SHRI P.H. PANDIAN *in the Chair*]

Now, the interesting part is that in the print media, no investment of FDI or FII was allowed while in the electronic media, even 100 per cent investment is allowed. Even if it is not allowed, in India, you can beam on to any of the electronic media and view whatever you want to.

But in the print media you are not allowed to do that. Those who have been against the Foreign Direct Investment have made so many allegations. They said the FDI in print media would jeopardise the national security and that the hon. Minister of Home Affairs was against it. Hon. Member Shri Sharad Pawar also mentioned about it.

Well, actually, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs has never stated anywhere that the national security will be threatened if limited FDI goes in the print media The note submitted by the Ministry of Home Affairs to the Standing Committee on Information Technology stated categorically that on a case to case basis they will be monitoring whatever suggestions that will be coming from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

It is an argument that if FDI is permitted in sensitive areas like maintainance and construction of airports, in power sector and even in nuclear area now, then how can a little 26 per cent really jeopardise the national security. The other thing is that most of the major newspapers are against the FDI. A survey was done and 70 per cent of the journalists supported the FDI in print media. It was only the monopolies and four or five big newspaper tycoons who were against it. Otherwise the journalists feel very excited about it as their salaries will go up and this will really see that employment is generated and they will also get to the international standard of journalism. What is very interesting is that there is no ban on the content of these papers. We have one page in the newspapers where they are quoting from the Pakistani newspapers. We have a full-page coverage from *The London Times*. So, there is no ban on the content side of it. But, as regards the FDI, it is only the tycoons and also the monopolists who feel that their monopolies will be affected.

Hon. Members have stated that it is not a question of money. I feel money is the most important part of the whole thing. If you look at the major, big cities, the metro cities, there are three or four newspapers which are monopolising all the advertisements which are looked at only in these newspapers. If there is competition and if there is 26 per cent FDI made, it will be thrown open and there will be more competition and the advertisements will not be monopolised by these newspapers and other small newspapers will also come up.

The other allegation was that FDI in print media is against the Cabinet Resolution of 1955. Limited FDI in print in any way, is not against the 1955 Cabinet Resolution. The Law Ministry of the Government of India has given its opinion for allowing 26 per cent FDI. Moreover, the First Press Commission categorically stated that if the management and the editorial controls remain predominantly in the hands of Indians, that will not jeopardise the Indian ownership and the ownership will not change. The Cabinet Resolution of 1955 is against the publication of Indian editions of foreign newspapers. The Government of India's Cabinet Resolution of 2002 is not on opening up the publication of foreign newspapers in India.

There is another allegation that the FDI will brain-wash the Indian citizens.

It is wrong to suggest that the FDI will brain-wash the Indian citizens. TV is a much more powerful media. In the electronic media, 100 per cent FDI, as I have already said, is permitted. Even in broadcasting, 40 per cent FDI is permitted now. Neither the TV has been able to brain-wash Indian citizens nor the broadcasting. And, foreign material is available on Internet. The point was made by Shri Kharabela Swain that tomorrow, after five years, people who get on to the Internet are computer savvy and those are the people who are really going to be educated. Even today, on the Internet, you can log on to any paper in the world. As I have said, when you cannot really restrict the content, then why should you be restrictive and why should you ban this FDI in print media?

Lastly, if I am permitted to say so, the Congress Party is afraid of foreign domination of the print media.* They have never been bothered about that. I do not know why they are so worried about this. What I feel is that...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): Sir, this is unnecessary...*(Interruptions)* It has to be expunged. ...*(Interruptions)* He should not be bothered about it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: I have a lot of respect for Madam Gandhi and I feel that if he can...*(Interruptions)* I am supporting their case. They have not been able to understand what I am trying to say. ..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga): Then, we have also to say that Shri Advani is from Pakistan. The issue of citizenship will not come in respect of him. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: I am supporting them. They have not been able to understand what I am trying to say...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: What did he say?

SHRI A.C. JOS. He says that we are opposing this. That should be expunged. ...*(Interruptions)* It is a very strange thing...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is expunged, including your reference.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: What I am trying to say is that the Congress Party, a 100-year old party, has been able to have a *..... and they are happy about it...*..... why are they afraid of FDI of 26 per cent in the print media?

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (Gulbarga): Sir, the Government has decided to allow 26 per cent FDI in print media...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Today, she is not a foreigner. She has been declared by the Supreme Court as a citizen of India.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: I did not say that.

[Translation]

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Sir, this debate was going on peacefully and without casting any as persons against any individuals, however, one honourable Member has diverted the entire debate in to an unnecessary controversy to which I take objection. The Member should not have spoken that and I feel, he should take those words back.

*.....*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

*.....*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already expunged that.

[Translation]

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: The decision taken in the year 1955 on disinvestment and for not allowing foreign investment was taken for various reasons.

[English]

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: What did I say which has been expunged?

MR. CHAIRMAN: In the context you said it, it is not in good spirit. If it is said in a normal way, nobody will object.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: I supported them. They are against FDI of 26 per cent in the print media. *...(Interruptions)* Yet, they are happy about it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: When it offends a particular section of the House, I order expunction.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: My point is that their intention is not good...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): There is nothing unparliamentary about it...*(Interruptions)*

18.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not inconvenient to them. I have not expunged it for that purpose. It is unwanted, and we are talking about Foreign Direct Investment in print media.

[Translation]

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Participating in the debate, Shri Kirit Somaiya said that a lot many changes have occurred since the year 1955 till date and according to him, a change with regard to the Press will also be in place if it is taken out from under Indian monopoly and given under foreign monopoly. This he said in a different way which I object to. The decision taken in the year 1955 was taken in the larger interest of the country and with patriotic wishes. Had there been no Press in India before 1955, in 1947 and before independence, we could have never been able to create the atmosphere against Britishers which we were able to create through patriotic songs and feeling and that would have been done by the Indian Press and not the foreign dominated Press because it is not commerce, industry or business. The Press reflects wishes and aspirations of our society. Our Indian society is unique in that it has various sections, cultures, religions, languages, provinces, and both rich and the poor and all these pulses can not be identified and taken note of the foreign dominated Press.

I would like to ask a question from the Minister as to why this issue was not raised during the last 50 year after being rejected in the year 1955. Now the Parliamentary Standing Committee has rejected it. Thereafter, several agencies including the leading editors of the country have appealed to the Government to review it.

[English]

> "A general discussion organised by the women press group of India had opposed the move and would continue their efforts to persuade the Government to re-examine the issue in the light of the prevailing international practices. According to them, investors in the media sector may be guided by the collateral interests and not purely the profit motive which work against the national interests."

[Translation]

The country is passing through several crises today. Terrorism is fast growing and at the international level many countries have set their eyes on our country. There are apprehensions that our secrets can be leaked out. When some foreign photographer visits India to see Taj Mahal, he takes snap of the beggar sitting there before taking the snap of Taj. He wants to tell the world how poor India is? If a foreign journalist has got such intentions what picture he will portray of India's culture and its problems, this we can understand very well. Therefore, we are of the firm view that foreign investment should not be allowed in this field.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are eight more Members who have to speak. Now, it is 6.05 p.m. I will give five minutes to each Member.

[Translation]

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: I was listed second for submitting my calling attention motion. I, therefore, want that this issue should be discussed threadbare and should not be implemented in haste. I oppose the

foreign investment to the extent of 26 per cent in the Print Media and appeal to the Government to ponder over it again.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, after allowing F.D.I., the Print Media has been opened for foreign capital. Now the Government have allowed foreign investment upto 26 per cent in it.

I on my behalf and on behalf of my party would like to state that the step taken by the Government is not proper. Obviously, this age belongs to globalization but we should endeavour to save the domestic sector as far as possible. Newspaper is not any trade or industry rather a symbol of people's faith and influences the life of lakhs of people. If F.D.I. is allowed in the print media then, we can well imagine the future.

Print media is the fourth pillar of our democracy. India is a very large democracy and to protect and strengthen it the Print Media is considered fourth pillar. I would like to bring out how far foreign interference in print media is justified. Foreign investors will definitely come forward but they will have no interest in our democracy. Our revered leader Shri Balasaheb Thakareji has openly opposed F.D.I. in the print media saying that in our democracy it is considered fourth pillar and how it is proper to allow foreign investment in it and I would like to know it from the hon'ble minister.

What was the haste for the cabinet to allow 26 per cent F.D.I. in the print media. I don't want to blame the Government yet I would like to caution the Government about its ramifications. The Parliamentary Standing Committee did not allow it rather rejected it yet the decision has been taken. Indian Newspaper Society has also advised to consider this decision in the light of its likely effect on our sovereignty. Sixteen to eighteen crores people including small farmers and villagers read newspapers daily. In the morning, we look for the newspaper before asking for bed tea or brushing our teeth.

Such is the importance of newspapers. We have small newspapers also. About 18 crore people read newspapers daily. India's print media is a capable media. Even people living in remote areas also read newspapers.

Sir, what I want to say is that the foreign media cannot safeguard the interests of our country. Foreigners do not know about our culture and civilisation. Foreigners do not know about our culture and civilisation. They do not know about our land and our gods. If foreigners find their entry in India through the print media, how it could be in the interest of our country. This is what we want to know from the Government. We have very small newspapers—weekly and fortnightly, how we would be able to protect these papers. It's a question mark before us.

Sir, several hon. Members also just spoke on this issue. America is the strongest country in the world. They have also not given its permission there. I do not want to say that whatever American says, we should do that only what I want to say is that America is a very vast country. Despite that they have not given its permission there. Then, what is the need to give its permission in a haste. We should keep in view the decision of the Cabinet in 1955. The Members of the House at that time were mostly the people who fought for our freedom. The decision taken in 1955 was related to the contribution of print media to our independence. And it would be in the interest of our country and ourselves to keep that decision in view.

Sir, I want clarification from the Government through you on one-two points. If the Government allows foreign investment in the print media, then how the foreigners would safeguard our national identity and national pride. How far the freedom of the Press would be safe would be a question mark before us. And there are many such other questions too. I think foreign investment in the print media is a signal of danger for the country. Our print media is strong enough to safeguard the freedom of people and independence of our country. Since this is our property and we should not allow foreign interference in it with this humble submission, I conclude.

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much. I had to go somewhere due to some urgent work. I was in a dilemma whether to participate in the debate or not. But my sense of responsibility and duty compelled me to participate in the debate.

I do not know what were the constraints that made the Government allow 26 per cent foreign investment in the print media. This debate is not a debate between the opposition and ruling party. It is unfortunate that whenever any debate takes place, it is dubbed as opposition versus ruling party. And we either support it or oppose it blindly. But this debate concerns our entire democracy. The East India company came to India on this very soil one hundred and fifty years ago. We did not invite them. They had requested the Mughal Emperor that they wanted to come to India for doing business. They wanted to so because perhaps the economic condition of that country was not good at that time. Now again the present

[Shri Rashid Alvi]

Government has allowed 26 per cent direct investment in the print media. As far as the news is concerned, it was not that necessary after the advent of the internet. What is happening in America, England, India and Pakistan, the entire world comes to know about it through the internet. I know that Sushmaji would say in her reply to the debate that the management and editorial would remain in India's hands and there was no cause for concern. I also agree that 3/4 of the Directors would be Indian therefore, they would dominate the scene. One single Indian would hold more than 26 per cent shares and the I&B Ministry would give permission on case to case basis. I agree that you have taken all these precautions but despite all these things, we have to see the phase the country is passing through. Pakistan is interfering in Kashmir almost on daily basis. America is also interfering in our internal affairs. And we are struggling for the last two and half years to find a way out to tackle this situation. The foreign forces are bent upon disintegrating the country. And with all these conditions prevailing, you have given permission in print media for 26 per cent investment in print media. What was the compulsion behind giving 26 per cent foreign direct investment in the print media. There are industries and other things in this country. Allow permission in these things. I am not my legs simply to oppose your policy. There are two words in Urdu 'tankid' and 'tankis'. Tankis means healthy criticism and tankid means opposition. Therefore, I am not doing healthy criticism and rather I am opposing you and I am speaking in the interest of country and I am speaking all these things at a time when 70 per cent media is up in arms against you. My colleague has said that 70 per cent media is supporting you. I have the data with me. Out of 50 major newspapers 34 are against it and have said that it is dangerous, they should not have done so. These are the 34 newspapers which have a readership of about 13 crore people in the country. The readership of newspapers has increased by 20 per cent during the last two years. Despite TV and electronic media, the readership of newspapers has not gone down. Their readership is bound to increase in future also. TV and electronic media may dominate in major cities but in villages and towns the small newspapers are still very popular. And these data which I am giving here relate to big newspapers. Small newspapers are not included in that. If these newspapers are also included, then I think that every fifth person of India reads newspaper. And we have allowed 26 per cent foreign direct investment. You see that in India how foreign forces are capable of making Indians in their favour by virtue of money power. In the case of media which is a very sensitive matter, I would like to request the Government to rethink over its decision. The cabinet should have a second thought on its decision. If foreign players found their entry into the print media through the 26 per cent direct investment, be sure that it would have a major impact on the politics of India. I have been seeing it for the last 10-15 years when the Congress was in power and Shri VP Singh had raised the Bofors issue, 99 per cent media of India was all praise for V.P. Singh and it was the media which made V.P. Singh the Prime Minister of India. You just have an analysis of the last 20 years as to how important role the media has played in the politics of India. It can make or mar anybody. And everybody knows about it. This is very unfortunate for this part of the world. I am note blaming the entire media but I do say that a section of media has been engaged in maligning the entire film industry and politicians. If any MP or MLA goes to a common man weaving the Kurta pyajamas, then people think that if he is a Member of Parliament, then he must be having criminals and black money as well. And he must be doing wrong things. And he is the person who gives shelter to the goondas. This is the image of politicians which has been projected before the public. You and I also know this thing that there could be 15-20 per cent such people in Parliament. But here the majority of Members are from the grass-root level who have risen to this position by virtue of sheer hard work. There is no other work as hard as politics. Common man has numerous demands. How difficult it is to get elected to the Parliament and Assembly. It is very difficult to keep one's character intact while satisfying people. But a section of media in India, I am not blaming the entire media, has indulged in maligning the image of politicians over the last fifty years. If the image of the politicians of the country is maligned, then the image of the democracy stands maligned. These are the apprehensions if foreign media finds entry into the print media. I don't think that the power of protecting the country's sovereignty is in the hands of the right people. They can make or mar anyone. This is what I would like to submit to the Government on this issue.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is regrettable that even the quorum of the House is not complete when such an important issue is being discussed, whereas this issue concerns the entire country and the democracy of the country as well. And this issue concerns the common man too. I would like to request you humbly that there is no need to become adamant. There is also no question of hurting one's ego as to think that since it has been decided by the Government or the cabinet, so it has to be implemented. The allies of the Government are also critical about it. If the Congress is criticising it, it does not mean that now it has to be implemented. I would like to request Sushmaji to do a rethinking on this issue with a cool mind and then decide whether it is advisable to do so or not. This issue should be returned to the

Cabinet to do a rethinking. I am not sure whether I would be heard or not. With this Urdu couplet I would like to take leave of Sushmaji:

Andaze bayan garche bahut shokh nahin hai,

Mumkin hai Utar Jaye-tere dil mein meri baat.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, they would say that it was their compulsion as they could not escape the WTO and WTO was the necessary evil. They mean to say that there was no way out and they had to accept the WTO regime. Now, what are their compulsions in allowing FDI in the print media and thereby indulging in this anti-people act. There decision also amounts to the contempt of the House.

The Standing Committee of Parliament submitted its report in March and they had recommended in their report that the FDI should not be allowed in the print media. Kaul and Shakdher have written in the Practice and Procedure of Parliament. 'The recommendations of a parliamentary Committee are normally accepted and implemented. If in regard to any recommendation the Government hold a different view from that of the Committee, the Government have to apprise the committee and if the committee agrees, it's O.K. and if it does not then the case is referred to the Speaker and the decision of the Speaker will be final.'

This is what is given in the rule. This has also become a tradition. But they have overlooked their recommendations. Rather they have thrown them to the wind. They have also breached the privilege of the parliamentary committee. I don't know what are their compulsions and why do they want foreign money to be invested on newspapers.

Sir, when the freedom struggle was going on under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, then it was said that bring out a paper to take on the sword. The might of newspaper was considered to be more than that of the sword and our forefathers had also acknowledged this fact. And you want foreign money to be invested in that also. Newspaper and journalism have their origin in India. Narad ji might have been the then Chief of Bureau. He propagated it in the world. And we have come a long way since then. Newspapers and journals mould public opinion. Therefore, they should be free, self dependent and their ownership should remain with our country only. Why the foreign investment is needed in them.

Sir, there was a poet named Gopal Singh Nepali, He wrote:

"Mera Dhan Hai Swadhin Kalam

Likhata Hun Apni Marji Se, Bachta Hum Kainchi Darji Se

Adat Na Rahi Mujhe Likhane ki, Ninda Bandhar, Khudgarji se

Koi Chere to Tan Jati Ban Jati Hai Sangeen Kalam

Mera Dhan Hai Swadhin Kalam

Par Mere Pas Kalam waisi, Urne Ko Naubh main Ur jaye,

Par chore nahi Zamin kalam

Mera Dhan Hai Swadhin Kalam

Main Bhi Lahro me Bah Leta to Main Bhi Satta Gah Leta' Iman Bechta Chalta to main bhi Mahlo Me Rah Leta

Raja Sinhasan par Baitha, Sab Tajon Par Asin Kalam

Mera Dhan Hai Swadhin Kalam

Therefore, they should remain free and should not hanker after foreign exchange. Arrival of multinational companies will not serve the interest of domestic trade. They cannot be benevolent. They will come here to make money and to propagate their ideology.

We are aware of the story of Mahabharat. When the great Bhishm Pitamah was lying on the bed of arrows and started sermonising. Draupdi burst into laughter at his preachings. Bhism Pitamah asked why she was laughing. At this she questioned as to where had his wisdom gone on the day when she was being stripped in the open royal Court and what was the use of his preaching now. Bhism Pitamah replied that then he was a be dependent of Duryodhan for his livelihood which had polluted his blood and blocked his wisdom and that now when he was lying on the bed of arrows his polluted blood had flown out leaving only pure blood to circulate in his body and that was the reason why he was giving a discourse on knowledge, idealism and high morality.

When the wisdom of a greatman like Bhism Pitamah could wither by routinely consuming food provided by Duryodhan, whether the freedom of our newspapers would not be gone in similar fashion if this sector is opened for foreign investment. When Bhishm Pitamah could not protect himself, will it be viable for our newspapers to protect themselves against foreign influence. The Government is, however hell-bent in utter disagard of the opinion of the masses. The NDA allies like Shiv Sena and TDP are also opposed to it and the Ministry of

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

Home Affairs has also given unfavourable report. The question remains whether the internal security of the country is considered to be of paramount importance.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has expressed apprehension in its report and has clearly stated that foreign direct investment in the Print Media may pose a threat to the internal security of the country. If it is so why do the Government want to play with the internal security of the country. Several of his own party colleagues are not in favour of allowing FDI in the print media. Shri Sharad Pawar ji has rightly said that the Government have taken some of the persons sitting in INS and the Press Council in confidence and some of the certain newspaper editors have made them to come out with favourable statements. But majority of the people are against it. If the Government seeks a voting on this matter it will definitely get defeated. The Members of TDP, Shiv Sena and DMK are all with us and the whole opposition are unanimous about it. The Government will soon come to know that all are with us not with them. They have overlooked the majority opinion.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, they have also overlooked the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee. The Committee has also recommended that there should be no FDI in the Print Media, but it is strange why the Government in utter disregard of all this, have brought a Bill in this regard with a view to allowing FDI in the Print Media. See it is for direct investment, not some indirect sort of thing. There was some confusion by the talk of 26 per cent participation because it was not clear whether its share would be one fourth or one half. However, Sharad Pawar ji made the confusion clear by saying that if its share would be either 24 per cent or 25 per cent then some deficiency will remain which may pose some problem, but if the investment is 26 per cent, then they will definitely have their say and will be able to achieve, some how or the other, whatever they would like. So allowing FDI in the Print Media shall make the country suspectible to risk.

In the democratic set up of our country, media is called the fourth estate. So the foreign direct investment in this sector would mean opening our gates for foreigners and allowing foreign cultural invasion in our country. That may pose a threat to our culture. Why is the Government indulging in such an anti-national act? What is the logic and compulsion behind the Government's decision? The decision has been taken in violation of all norms. The Government did not consult its NDA allies How was it a passed in the Cabinet? That is beyond comprehension.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, you have taken more than 10 minutes.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman. Sir, I would like to submit that this Bill has been introduced in violation of all without consulting anyone. This not fair. This will not make our democracy stronger. This will create a threat to the internal security of the country. Therefore, this Bill should be withdrawan taking into consideration all these things and efforts should be made to check foreign intrusion in the sector of print media. Our country is already in trouble due to several other intrusions. This Bill will open the gate for foreign capitalist intruders to enter into our country. Our country will be ruined due to this.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our Prime Minister often says that he will run the Government through consensus, but I do not find any consensus being arrived at in matters of allowing the foreign direct investment in the sector of print media. The report of the Parliamentary Committee is against this decision of the Government, and the masses of the country are also against it. Therefore, my demand is that the Government should withdraw this Bill immediately. With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in fact, we had six speakers but two are not present now. So, I will take their time also. Please permit me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Though-time is not transferable, yet I will give you ten minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Calling Attention Motion brought in by Begum Noor Bano which has now been taken up under rule 193 regarding the government's programme of allowing Foreign Direct Investment in Print Media. I rise to oppose the Government's move.

Two three points have come up in today's discussion. Shrimati Sushma Swaraj did not seek any consensus on

this issue. But I am happy that some bold and conscientious Members, belonging to the NDA Partners which are supporting the Governments have opposed it. However, we have already had enough discussion on the subject. The RSS has also opposed it. The Swadeshi Manch has opposed it too. Shri Bal Thakre has also expressed his opposition. Many other people who are worried about the country have equally opposed the Bill. I also come from the same region to which Satkaarat Behan belongs. I am sorry to say that two Members of her party have made a diatribe against our leader on this issue. But as said by an Urdu poet-

Jisko Suli per Latakte Tumne Dekha Hoga,

Waqt Aayaga, wahi shaks Masiha Hoga.

The persons so vociferously branded by Shri V.P. Singh as being of foreign origin out of which a big issue was made I would like to remind you of those times...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already explained it and it is on record. Why do you want to take it up again?

[Translation]

SHRI J.S. BRAR: When you fought elections in Bellari against Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, at that time there was much hue and cry about the foreign origin issue. As per the wishes of the hon. Chairman, I do not want to take the issue further. Newspapers and magazines, as the life blood circulating in the veins of the country, played an important role in securing freedom of the country. What I am worried about most is our posterity. Of course, we are in the age of electronic media, which is bigger we have TV discussions but the reading habit has waned gradually.

I salute in this House the writings of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and also pay my respects to hundreds of those newspapers and magazines that have upheld the tradition and culture of our country for centuries. I am incidently reminded of their contribution of this occasion. The contribution of small newspapers and junior journalists in the Central jail of Lahore has been great. There are 50 thousand newspapers in the country earning their livelihood through their write-ups. In 1925 some pamphlets containing the verse (Nazms) of the great poet Makhan Lal Chaturvedi were circulated in the Central Jail. Those poems were composed in the Bilaspur jail of Madhya Pradesh. When Shaheed-a-Azam Bhagat Singh and his companions were hanged, at that time those songs were recited daily in the evening in jails. The impact of the Print Media, newspapers editorials songs (Nazms) appearing in newspapers and articles in newspapers which were written from the core of the heart was so deep. Raghuvansh ji may kindly pay his attention to what Shri Makhan Lal Chaturvedi has composed which reads—

'Chah Nahi Sur Bala Ke Keshon Main Gutha Jaun

Chah Nahi Samrathon ke Shav Per Dala Jaun,

Chah Nahi Devon ke Sar Chadun, Apne Bhagya per Ethaloan'

Follcwing is the couplet which used to be circulated in jails

"Mujhe Tor Lena Vanmali, Us path Per Dena Pehnk Matrabhoomi Par Shish Chadhane Jis Path Jayen Veer Anek"

Such couplets and songs created such a great revolution in the country. I am sorry to see the way my sister Satkarat has read it and made it into an issue deciding to allow 26 per cent foreign direct investment.

Her credentials and political future will definitely get a set back and I am sorry to say that she would always be blamed for strangulating 50,000 small newspapers and for allowing foreign influence in the field of our politics and our democracy Mr. Chairman, Sir.

[English]

I must mention what Shri Pandiya who is now in the Chair has said.

[Translation]

When he was speaking he raised some fundamental issues. I was happy to hear when he said that foreign direct investment would violate our fundamental rights. The points has not been taken care of while dealing with this issue.

He is one of my three fast friends. He was mentioning about dating.

18.42 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Don't you know that there is mention of friendship calls in every newspaper? Whether issues of grabbing more advertisements will arise after inflow of foreign money? I would like to contradict you on this issue as

[Shri J.S. Brar]

we should take into account the fact that the advertisements of the multinational companies which are being published in the newspapers will basically go to the foreign newspapers after inflow of this 26 per cent of foreign investment. Before me my friend Shri Somayaji spoke on this issue. I don't want to go into the details of what he said here but the way he was talking about foreigners it reminded me of the couplet written by one of our poets. 'Mera Rang De Vasanti Chola', which has now become 'Mera Rang De Firangi Chola'. This move was opposed by the RSS on behalf of Bhartiya Janata Party, Shri Sudarshanji, the Congress Party the communist and other opposition parties. I think we are being entrapped in a big conspiracy against this country.

I do not want to take much time of the House. Though two members from our party did not speak, I request you to kindly give me two minutes more. It is not the question of money alone, it is the question of gathering intelligence of sensitive politics of our country which has been at work in Gujarat and Jammu and Kashmir. If print media is opened for the multinational companies it would become very easy to get sensitive intelligence reports. We have seen that massacre of people went on for one and a half month despite the entire country made every possible effort to check such incidents. If the editorials of foreign newspapers start sharing such intelligence of the country it would have a definite bearing on our masses.

Shri Mitshe was a German philosopher about whom we all have read. He has said a wonderful thing.

[English]

God is dead and we have killed him.

[Translation]

Basically, the people of the country will not forgive us for the invasion on the country and we will have to repent for this.

Shri Faiz Ahmad Faiz has written a four line stanza while he was in jail in Pakistan. Paper was not provided to him for writing poems which had a bearing or the mind of the people of that country. 'Pen is mightier than sword'. He wrote a couplet during his days in the Mountgumeri jail which goes like this:

'mata-e-Lohe kalam chhin gayee to khay gam hai

ki khoon-e-dil mein Dubo lee hain Ungliyan meine,

Juban pe mohar lagi hai to kya,

Rakh di hai Harek Alka-e-janjeer pe Juban mein.

Therefore, I would like to say one thing to my elder sister that you are in the national politics, country's politics she should take caution in this matter and should try to build consensus on this issue.

I will take one minute more. I am surprised to go through the two letters which have been published on page number 102 and 106 of the Report of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. One of the letters is from Shri Narendra Mohanji who is, perhaps, a Member of the other House. I could not understand one thing he has written in his letter and that point is whether he is talking about some personalised agenda or some personal interest. These two letters have been published on the page 106. Hon'ble Minister, I could not understand this and I request you to kindly clarify this thing during the course of your reply to this debate. This letter to Shrimati Sushma Swaraj ji has been written on 24th of May and caries signatures of Shri Arun Poorie, Shri Shekhar Gupta, Shri Chandan Mitra and Shri Menon. When I came into politics, these journalists were associated with some newspapers and I know them personally. It is evident from these two letters that a very personalised agenda is

[English]

I know your background.

[Translation]

You have struggled a lot, you have started your political carrier as a socialist. It is not correct to say that we are opposing reforms, your Government did this or Narasimha Raoji did that. This thing should not be linked with our good or bad ideology we ever had. Three pillars of democracy are already shaking and you want the fourth one also to meet the same fate. You cannot simply blame us because our party men were once in its favour. But today Congress party firmly oppose it. The statement of the Congress President, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi has been published in the print media all over the country and she has firmly opposed it as it is not in the interest of the country. I would not take much time of the House. I request my sister and hon'ble Minister to take these words of mine as words of caution because I do not want to criticise her personally. But for her bright future in the being pursued to bring this 26 per cent direct foreign investment. Therefore, this move should be checked and I think that you should bring it before the country afresh by evolving consensus on this issue in the Parliament.

With these words I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, Uttar Pradesh): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in this debate under Rule 193.

When the policy of liberalisation was implemented in the country at that time also apprehensions were expressed that the country would have to face the ill effects of the economic liberalisation. Scared as we are, the ill effects of economic liberalisation are visible in all of us. Today the way the Government of the Bhartiya Janata Party is inviting 26 per cent foreign capital investment in the print media, is not surprising for members like me. What has surprised me is that my sister Shrimati Sushma Swaraj who started her political carrier as a socialist and created a new wave amongst the masses of the country through her style of functioning has supported foreign capital investment in this sector. It definitely highlights the big gap between the words and deeds of the politicians and it has compelled the masses of the country to think afresh about the dual character of our politicians. Shrimati Sushma Swaraj ji used to advocate 'Swadeshi' even from the 'Swadeshi Jagran Manch'. I have personally tried to listen to her and understand her. At that time she was the champion of Swadeshi. But the way in which foreign capital investment has been invited in the print media that is certainly posing danger to the independence of the country once again.

Our forefathers and lakhs of people of this country laid down their lives to free this country from the clutches of the Britishers. Whenever we take this sort of decision it certainly hurts the soul of our forefathers. Just now my friend Shri Rashid Alvi has said that our media is so powerful that it is able to crown or dethrone any political party at any given point of time. I would like to further elucidate it. Our media is supported by the capitalists and these capitalists work as crowing or dethroning force in our country. It is a bitter truth that the money power of capitalists has influenced our writers to a great extent. But I would like to make it very clear that till now all this competition was within our own Indian environment. The Indian capitalists used to nurture this sort of competition within this environment when we will attract foreign investment, this competition will be come a world wide phenomenon and its ill effects will certainly put a question mark on the identity of the country.

Today Pakistan has brought us on the brink of war as that country is exporting terrorism into our country and we have retraced our forward steps on this front time and again due to American pressure. It seems to me that we have not learnt any lesson from acts of terrorism. By inviting foreign capital investment in the print media, it is evident that this Government is bent upon subjugating the sovereignty of this country to the external forces. Therefore, I would like to humbly remind Shrimati Sushma Swaraj that you have to go a long way in politics and this ministership is not a big thing. You should listen to your conscience and should oppose it strongly. For the sake of this country and its freedom certainly you should oppose it.

With these words I oppose it and conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in this debate. I think this debate on the entry of FDI in print media is not new in our country. Many hon. Members have already mentioned here about the Cabinet Resolution passed by Nehru's Cabinet in the year 1955. That Resolution of the Cabinet was not motivated by protectionism and for economic consideration. Instead, it recognised that newspapers are a part of the democratic process of the country and that they should be protected.

Sir, the distinction between the Press and industry in India is very clear and that remains as crucial as it was in the year 1955. It is known to many of the hon. Members of this august House that during the regime of Shri Narasimha Rao such a proposal was rejected. But it is amazing that the present Government is taking such decisions without consulting the Opposition parties and even without consulting the parties within the NDA. The deliberations of some of the NDA partners in this august House make it very clear that consultation does not take place even within the NDA. So, I am of the opinion that this sort of a decision of the Cabinet, in the name of liberalisation, is an anti-national step.

It has allowed 26 per cent FDI in the print media. I have seen in the newspapers that in the case of special publications, it is 74 per cent. This step has been taken in stark violation of the decisions of the Standing Committee of the Parliament.

I have also seen in the newspapers that while the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, announced the Cabinet's decision, she claimed that enough safeguards have been put to keep management and editorial control. She talked abut so many provisions. We have not understood it. We have to believe that the foreign investors would invest only, and we would run our printing media on our own. It is not believable. One of the hon. Members rightly recalled the

[Shri Prabodh Panda]

situation during the days of the East India Company. I am quoting what Rabindra Nath Tagore wrote:

> "The major stick of a merchant has transformed into a gruelling stick of a ruler just after the dreams of the night."

So, the foreign investors would invest only for business. I think, this is a total betrayal of the nation. We are facing the threat in the cultural, social and political spheres. We are also facing the threat in print and mass media here. So, we must condemn it.

I request the hon. Minister to re-think over it and withdraw such a decision to protect our national sovereignty and our strength. So far as liberalisation is concerned, at least, the newspaper industry is not like other industries. That is my opinion. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the move of the Government to provide assistance to the print media of the country, but we strongly oppose the decision of the Government to allow 26 per cent foreign direct investment in this sector. We should support our own print media. Print media plays a crucial role in economic changes in the country. This media is very powerful all over the world. If we do not support the print media right now we will suffer a lot in the coming elections. Therefore, the sentiment of the Government to support the print media is appreciable but mot of the people who are opposing this are editors and reporters. You are misinformed. I request Shrimati Sushma Swarajji to put up this matter before the Cabinet for reconsideration. There may be apprehension in your mind that you may lose ministerial berth for taking this matter for reconsideration before the Cabinet. I assure you that I will stand by you and you will not lose your ministership, but then is not the question of ministership.

19.00 hrs.

I oppose this move. Foreign money should not come into print media. Britishers came here on the pretext of trade and ruled us for one hundred fifty years. In the name of 26 per cent investment foreigners will come to our country and we will have to leave the country. Therefore, we should take care that such problem do not crop up and you should try to reverse this decision. You are a good minister and we expect you to do good work. With these words I conclude my speech.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today a discussion took place in the House on a very significant decision taken by the Government recently. At the very outset, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to those 19 hon'ble Members of Parliament who participated in the discussion. The discussions were extensive and meaningful. The most heartening fact is that the discussion took place on this grave issue without any heated exchanges and interruptions. I again thank them sincerely. My well meaning colleagues breached all those issues, apprehensions and queries in some way or the other in the House which were being expressed outside the Parliament. Today, I am getting an opportunity to respond to and resolve all those issues, apprehensions and queries.

Sir, I with your permission, would like to resolve all the queries of my colleagues with best of my abilities. Before I dwell on the issues raised by my colleagues, I would like to explain the decisions taken by the Cabinet. They have taken three decisions. First, we have allowed 26 per cent FDI (foreign direct investment) in the matter of newspapers and magazines relating to news and current affairs published by the Indian Institutions. Second, we have decided to allow 74 per cent foreign direct investment in the matter of newspapers and magazines relating to medical, scientific, technical or any other specific subjects which full under the non current affairs category published by the Indian Institutions. Earlier, I said foreign direct investment and now I am saying foreign investment i.e. both direct and indirect. However, I would like to explain the difference between these two as you are feeling that we have committed some grave mistakes. I would like to explain the difference between these two later on. In our second decision, both direct and indirect foreign investment upto 74 percent has been allowed. Third query you made is that the Indian editions of scientific, technical and specific newspapers and magazines published abroad would be brought out here in India. All these three decisions we have taken. Now, I would like to explain the difference between the first and the second decision. The difference is obvious. In news and current affairs category, 26 per cent foreign investment has been allowed and in non current affairs category, 74 per cent foreign investment has been allowed. The second difference is that in first category, we have allowed direct foreign investment and in second category, we have allowed both direct and indirect investment. The third difference is quite fundamental. We have taken a precaution in non-current affairs and non-news magazines and periodicals that the magazines and periodicals are really under non current affairs category. However, while allowing 26 per cent FDI in current affairs category, we have taken several precautions which I would

like to mention here. First precaution is that the verification of antecedents and credentials of the foreign investor has been assigned to the Home Ministry and other agencies of BARC from the point of national security. That means FDI in print media will be allowed only after obtaining security clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs. Second thing which Shri Sharad Yadav also mentioned is that 26 per cent becomes controlling equity on which Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji was quite elated. He felt as if we were hiding something and 26 per cent is less and 74 per cent is more and still there in no problem but Shri Sharad Yadavji made a great revelation that 26 per cent FDI can become controlling equity and therefore, it is dangerous. I agree that 26 per cent becomes controlling equity. Shri Sharad Yadavji rightly said that equity should not become controlling equity and for this very reason-Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh we took the precaution that even the 74 per cent equity should not be scattered as 26 per cent equity becomes controlling equity when the remaining 74 per cent should not be scattered. If some people take 5 per cent or 10 per cent or 12 or 14 per cent share then the remaining 26 per cent equity becomes the controlling equity, therefore, keeping it in mind we have made a provision that there must be at least some Indian investor possessing more than 26 per cent share so that he keeps the controlling equity and other outside investor having 26 per cent equity is not able to keep the control. This provision has been made particularly in the matters relating to news and current affairs. Further, with a view to ensuring that management control does not go into foreign hands, another provision has been made that three-fourth directors should be Indians, not only Indians, resident Indians and not non-resident Indians.

The fourth precaution was keep the editorial control so that all the top positions in the editorial board remain in Indian hands. The term Indian does not include NRIs, these positions will be in the hands of Indians. If somebody wants to change his share holding pattern, then he or she will have to take the prior approval. He would not be allowed to give the intimation later on. He changes the pattern, writes to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Ministry of Company Affairs and concerned agencies about it but he will have to obtain the prior approval. All these five precautions have been maintained in the matters relating to news and current affairs and then only we have opened this field and we would like that all the hon'ble Members should know these details about this decision.

I had two options to respond to it. First option was that I should have responded to the issues raised by all the 19 Members calling their names serially. Second option was that I should respond to all the issues repeated here collectively. I opted for the middle path. I would club all the points. First, I shall respond to the issue raised by certain members. Personal issues have also been raised by certain Member.

SHRI SURESH RAMARAO JADHAV: What was the haste for allowing foreign capital investment...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister is giving the reply and you would come to know about it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharya ji, you will get the answer to your question. Please listen to her. You will certainly get the reply to your question.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Had I sat down without responding to your question then your rising on your legs would have been justified. I have just started my reply and have just explained that what decision has been taken. Why has the decision been taken, I shall take it up in the second stage.

I have listened to you patiently. I am very disappointed to see that the Members who took part in this discussion are not present here in the House. I want that I should respond to each and every issue leaving nothing. Please don't lose patience. I shall respond to all the issues raised by you. Certain things have surprised me yet I shall respond to them also.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would start with what Shrimati Begam Noor Bano stated. She mentioned about the Cabinet resolution of the year 1955. From the Congress Party, four hon'ble Members spoke however, three out of them mentioned about it. Shrimati Noor Bano stated that we have committed a mistake by amending the resolution of 1955 of the Congress Party. Going one step ahead of her, Col. Sona Ram Chaudhary said that we had committed a very grave mistake by amending the resolution passed by Pt. Nehru in 1955 and third thing was stated by Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi that this issue was never raised during the last 50 years and what for we had raised this issue. Through you, I would like to tell the Congress party in general and Apa Noor Bano that we have not amended this resolution. Apa, the Congress party itself initiated the process of amending the resolution and the process was initiated at the lower level. I would like to tell here in the House that this issue was pondered over during the year 1989 and a committee of secretaries was constituted. During the Congress Government, this issue came up before the committee four times. I would mention the dates. First

[Shrimati Sushma Swaraj]

time, in 1992 thereafter in July 1993 two months after in September 1993 and last in Feb. 1995, this proposal was considered in the Cabinet. At that time, Shri P.V. Narasimharao was the Prime Minister in Feb. 1995, Shri K.P. Singh Deo was Information and Broadcasting Minister who took this proposal in the Cabinet and he is now Member in this Lok Sabha. All the details are available in records held by the Ministry. This issue was referred to the Cabinet four times during the Congress Government but what is the difference between the position of today and that time. The only difference is what the Congress thought...*(Interruptions)* Shri Acharya ji, you will have to listen to me as I have listened to you patiently. Have a little patience. I would like to say that the Congress Party pondered over it and when it was time to decide they could not muster enough courage. We do not know under what pressure they lost courage and could not take a decision. But difference with us is what we have shown the courage and taken a decision. It is not so that the Congress Party very much thought over it but no breakthrough could be achieved. When Shri J.S. Brar stood on his legs and stated that the Congress Chief decided it then, I wondered that this issue was referred to the Cabinet on four occasions, everything was thought over and decided but these people could not show courage. The only difference was in taking a decision.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the decision was taken in haste. Shri Roopchand Pal stated that,

[English]

It was taken in a hurry...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Athawale ji is present here in the House. I won't give you permission.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the second issue was raised by Col. Sona Ram Choudhary.

[English]

It was a hasty decision

[Translation]

or how so many synonyms they could use in different styles. Would you still call it a hasty decision. The issue was discussed in the year 1989 and it was proposed to be referred to the Cabinet.

It was discussed and deliberated upon in the Parliament Standing Committee for one and half years. The view points of all political parties were deliberated upon and included therein still you call it a hasty decision. After long 10 years debate, a decision was taken, therefore, this decision is not a hasty one but a well thought out decision.

The issue is what you did in the Standing Committee. Shri Roop Chand Pal Ji, first of all, raised the issue of the Standing Committee. Shri Sharad Pawar ji read out certain parts of the report of the Standing Committee. But the significant thing was stated by Shri Raghuvansh Babu that it is a flagrant violation of the Standing Committee. He has claimed that he can note a rule that's if the decision of the Standing Committee is not accepted then the Hon'ble Speaker has to be approached and he decides the matter. I do not know that he is Presiding Officer also.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: You first study the rule. I will quote from 'Kaul and Shakdher's book afterwards.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: No 'Kaul and Shakdher', I shall read out the relevant rule. You consult the 'Kaul and Shakdher' afterwards.

MR. SPEAKER: You first see the rule, consult 'Kaul and Shakdher' afterwards.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, including the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee....*(Interruptions)* I shall just read it out. I have already stated that not a single issue shall remain unresponded. Just have a little patience. This is rule book of Lok Sabha and I have picked it up from your table only.

[English]

I am referring to rule 331 N—Reports to have persuasive value; is the heading of this rule. It says—

> "The report of the Standing Committee shall have persuasive value and shall be treated as considered advise given by the Committee."

[Translation]

To say that it is mandatory and if you want to keep yourself away from it, then approach the Speaker, he will decide.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: That impression was given only because that recommendation was there from the

Standing Committee at the time of the Insurance Bill and on other occasions...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I must tell you. As far as it is concerned with persuasive value, not only persuasive value, we have gone farther than that.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to go into the disputes arose during the proceedings of the Standing Committee. What happened there or what did not happen, I also do not want to mention all these things. Rather I want to give my thanks to the Standing Committee. I am grateful to the Committee as they have discussed a very controversial and complex issue and gave their recommendations. What were these recommendations? As for the non-news, non-current affairs, the Committee have unanimously recommended that these should be opened up and they have reasoned out and perhaps this is the reason why the entire debate today in the House was confined to news, current affairs only and not the non-news and non-current affairs material. Since it appears that the House is also unanimous on this issue and we all are aware that knowledge is costly. Why it is costly in our country and why our children should be deprived of it. If a medical journal costs two dollars, then the students in India has to shell out Rs. 100/-. And if the same journal is published in India, perhaps he may get if for Rs. 15-20.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, some Members have said that such journals are published in English and the number of the English knowing people is very less here. Perhaps they were under the impression that we were talking about newspapers. Let me tell you first that we have not allowed it in newspapers. You say that the newspapers are published in English and the poor in our country know Hindi and not English so how they would read. We have not allowed publishing of newspapers. Rather we have allowed publishing of non-news, non-current affairs material or the scientific, technical specialty magazines and when these magazines would be published in India, further these would also be translated in the Indian languages. So a student pursuing medical studies in Karnataka or of the IIT would also be able to purchase it. They have recommended that it should be opened up for the non news and non-current material and it has been accepted as it is with a voice vote. So far as it is concerned with current affairs and non-news, let me read out a paragraph of the Standing Committee, para 63 which is the second last paragraph of the report:

[English]

The Report of the Standing Committee says in Para 63, which is the penultimate paragraph:

"Finally, the Committee feels that there is need for a comprehensive print media policy..."

[Translation]

The Cabinet resolution, which you were referring to, I would like to let you know the view points of the Standing Committee on that.

[English]

It further states:

"The Cabinet Resolution of 1955 laid down the basic approach in regard to the entry of foreign print media but it remains an inadequate basis for such a policy in the new situation. There are new contexts and new challenges in the twenty-first century which call for new and adequate responses from the Government."

[Translation]

The Standing Committee itself has accepted it.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Let us know about the comprehensive media policy.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I am coming to that. The Standing Committee itself has accepted that the view point of the Cabinet Resolution of 1955 is inadequate in the present context. New challenges and new contexts have been posed by the situations today and therefore, the Government should give new responses in view of these challenges and contexts. The Standing Committee had also expressed some concerns besides it. Therefore, I would like to tell Rupchandji that we have gone beyond the persuasive value. And the decision which we have taken was addressed to one and each concern of the Standing Committee. What was its concern? It's first concern was that perhaps the people of intelligence agency might also find their entry and they make investment in the print media. We have taken two precautions so that the people of security agencies could not make investment in it. The first precaution is that we would take clearance from the Home Ministry on case to case basis. I felt very much disturbed when Col. (Retd.) Sona Ram Choudhary said that case to case study meant selective and manipulative. This kind of language was used! Tell me, if you want to enquire about one's

[Shrimati Sushma Swaraj]

credentials and take security clearance, would you take it up on case to case basis or not? To address the concern of the Standing Committee about the national security, we decided to take clearance from the Home Ministry on case to case basis. The second thing which they have said that the intelligence agencies might get their entry. Shri Raghuvanshji, I would like to tell you we have not given permission for Foreign Institutional Investment. Since we do not know about the person investing money through the FII whereas in the FDI, we know about the person investing money. Foreign Direct Investment is the investment made by the NRI or through the OCB. In the indirect investment, the money comes through the Foreign Institutional Investors to which we say the FII. In this case some other people invest money and this is called the portfolio investment. You do not know about the person investing money. Therefore, to ensure that any intelligence agency does not invest money in the Indian newspapers through the FII, We have allowed it in the 74 per cent but we have not allowed it in the news, current affairs. Therefore, you people are repeatedly saying that the FDI has been allowed. In response to it, I do say yes we have allowed the FDI and that too knowingly. Since, we want to make full inquiry of the person making investment. Keeping this in view, we did not allow permission of indirect investment. The biggest concern of the intelligence agency was that the intelligence agency should not be able to invest money.

The second concern was about the controlling equity. I have already explained on this aspect earlier. The 26 per cent equity may not turn into controlling equity, we have ensured that an Indian investor will have significantly more equity shares at the minimum than that. As for this concern, I have already told that we have addressed to all the concerns of the Standing Committee and I am grateful to the Standing Committee making recommendations on such a complex issue and enabled us to go ahead on this issue.

The fourth thing which has been said here and I amazed to hear Shri Mulayam Singhji who have said that we have done it keeping Gujarat in view and we have done so to teach a lesson. Shri Rupchand Pal went a step ahead and gave a sweeping remark. He said

[English]

you have done it to destroy the fabric of the Fourth Estate. Have we done it to destroy the fabric of the Fourth State?

[Translation]

The first thing is I need not learn from anybody for pleading the Fourth Estate. I would like to tell Jagmit Brar who was speaking on this issue that they were the people sitting on this side of the Government who fought for the freedom of the Press during the emergency period when the freedom of Press was being curbed. We are not the persons out to destroy the Press. I do not want to take the name of any newspaper group since we are discussion on the policy, why should I take name, but they have taken names. I, therefore, want to know, I would have asked Mulayam Singhji had he been here. He said that we had done it to teach a lesson to three newspapers—The Times of India, the Hindustan Times and the Hindu.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the other hand, Shri Rupchand Pal says we have done so far the benefit of the Indian Express, Outlook and India Today. I would like to ask them as to since when they become the supporters of small newspapers. I would like to ask them the types of reports which were being published in these newspapers during the Gujarat riots, just go through the Times of India, the Hindustan Times, the Hindu and Indian Express simultaneously or just go through those three newspapers which you are referring to and appoint an impartial judge, anyone can say without hesitation that it was the Indian Express which was publishing the most bitter headlines against us. And it was publishing the most critical news items against us. I would like to know only one thing from Shri Rupchand Pal ji whether it was not the Indian Express which wrote the most critical news items about Gujarat?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: You are right here. I did not say that time.

[English]

I said since when these newspapers are advocating for the small newspapers.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I am asking you counter questions. I am asking you questions since you have levelled charges against us

[English]

that this decision has been taken to destroy the fabric of the Fourth Estate.

[Translation]

My counter question is that if our this decision strengthens the Indian Express, do we want to destroy the Fourth Estate by strengthening the Indian Express and do we want to destroy the Fourth Estate by strengthening the India Today? This I want to know. When you say that we are allowing the foreign direct investment in the print media just to favour the Indian Express, the India Today and the Outlook. I would like to ask a question in this regard that how far is your argument right that by strengthening these newspapers, how are we going to destroy the Fourth Estate?

Sir, I want to know from Shri Mulayam Singhji, if we have done it to teach a lesson to all these three, does it going to benefit the Indian Express? Then why should we strengthen the Indian Express. Is the Indian Express our informer? Is the Indian Express report news items favouring the Government or publishes news concerning us? Be it the Indian Express, the India Today or the Outlook, under which category will you place them? In this way, you are contradicting your own argument. By simply saying that this has been done to teach a lesson to someone or in the background of the situation in Gujarat. What I mean to say that if you level any charge, there should be some substance in that, but there is no substance in this charge. When you say that these newspapers are going to be benefited which you have referred to, they are already all out to criticise the Government.

Sir, the another most talked about thing is that it would pose a security threat to the country or it would endanger the Independence of the country. Shri Mulayam Singhji has said that a newspaper is not an industry, Shri Sharad Pawarji has said that the newspaper shapes the public opinion. Shri Srinivasuluji has said that the newspaper is a business. The people who would come here from outside, their main objective would be to earn money and afterwards they would go from here. Therefore, this discussion is against the country.

[English]

It will endanger the security of the nation.

[Translation]

Even Shri Prabodh Panda also said the same thing and when Shri Jagmit Singh Brar started speaking, he delivered a long speech as to what is the impact of the print media and published item. First, I would like to give reply to the point raised by Shri J.S. Brar. Later I will come to the remaining points. He said what is the impact of the print media and published item. What is the impact of a published news item in any newspaper. I would like to ask him as to what is the impact of a thing which someone has seen?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell you that a study was conducted on the audio, visual and reading effects on an individual. The results showed that what one views has 80 per cent effect on him what one hears has 60 per cent effect and reading causes 40 per cent effect on the individual. You know that one needs to be literate for reading and time and aptitude are also required for that. Whereas for listening you do not need that much time. You can do anything while listening but for reading you need time and whereas for watching Television you need not necessarily be literate. Even an illiterate person can switch on a television and can see.

Broadcasting is an open sector, anybody can tune in and see. The point of concern is not broadcasting or any other sector. The moment we talk of opening up of print media sector like other sectors it becomes as issue of serious concern. And it is said that it was a contempt of the House.

SHRI ROOP CHAND PAL: Concern was expressed on that but the Government did not take cognizance of it.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I will discuss that as well. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I only wish to submit that has been done which amounts to contempt of the House. Col. Sona Ram Choudhary has said so. I am surprised. Shri Mulayam Singh ji states that the ordinance has been promulgated ignoring the wishes of the House and it is contempt of the House. I would like to ask them that which ordinance they are talking about? Who issued it and when was it issued? You know if an ordinance is promulgated then a Bill is introduced to replace it and had the bill introduced, the discussion on rule 193 would not have been necessitated if an ordinance had been promulgated I would have brought a bill to replace it. Then Rule 193 and calling attention was not required.

The word Akhilesh ji used right now was Bill. There is no bill. No ordinance was promulgated. God knows who misinformed Shri Mulayam Singh Ji that an ordinance which amounts to contempt of House has been promulgated.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the resolution of 1955 is also a Cabinet resolution. It is always being quoted as a Cabinet resolution. It was never introduced in the House. Even this resolution was passed by Cabinet. It was not supposed to be brought in the House. The resolution of 1955 was never introduced in the Parliament. I would

[Shrimati Sushma Swaraj]

like to ask about the sectors that were opened prior to this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ROOPCHAND PAL: The Standing Committee has not given any such recommendation. We believe that Standing Committee is mini-Parliament.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I have given reply to the Standing Committee. As far as deliberation on the opening up of other sectors are concerned...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Raghuvansh ji, you know the rule. How can you raise point of order in this manner.

[English]

Please do not take anything on record of whatever Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has said. Hon. Minister, you please go ahead.

[Translation]

I am telling you time and again that I will give you permission if you wish to raise a question. How can you ask like this?

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: When you will permit me, I shall ask...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You will raise a question only when I permit you. Nothing will go on record. Whatever Raghuvansh ji has said right now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I was replying to the point raised by Shri Jagmeet Brar ji...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise point of order only when I give you permission.

...*(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

[English]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Sir, he is on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you his advocate? There is no system of appointing advocates for the Members. Hon. Minister, you please go ahead.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I was replying to Jagmeet Brar's question that why in Print Media alone. I am not going into other sectors. I do not talk either of manufacturing or of service sector. I will restrict myself to other sectors of media. When sectors like broadcasting, Films or advertisement, were opened up for FDI no objection was raised in the Parliament. Then why is to now being said that opening up of FDI in Print Media sector is contempt of Parliament. Shri Kirit Somaiya ji said that he failed to understand that all those papers which had been writing in favour of economic liberalisation were supporting it till other sectors were being opened up for FDI. Now when it is the turn of opening up of FDI in Print Media Sector. Why are they opposing it.

[English]

It is an intriguing question.

[Translation]

This is the question which I want to ask. The newspapers who were vociferous in support of economic liberalisation for the last 10 years and were all praises when sectors like manufacturing, service, broadcasting, films and advertisement were opened...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ROOP CHAND PAL: That was right, but this is wrong. That time you took a right stand but now it is not right...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I want to ask that the newspapers which had been putting us in the dock for slow liberalisation, had been writing editorial, articles and news in criticism, now those very papers are talking of national interest when this issue of opening up of print media sector has come up. Shri Kirit Somaiya wants to know the reason behind it. There is only one reason, one mindset behind it. Shri Jagmeet Brar knows the common proverb (Bhagat Singh should take birth in our country but in our neighbourhood). This is the governing principle. As long as liberalisation was made in other sectors it was accepted and they were happy rather we were criticised for its slow pace, we were questioned.

But touch me not, if we will be touched we will raise hue and cry, we will raise issue, we will unite to fight against it. But I may tell you that they could not get united. Sharad Pawar ji said that I.N.S. was unanimously against it....*(Interruptions)* No, Sharadji this is not true...*(Interruptions)* I am talking about I.N.S. resolution. I.N.S. got a poll conducted in its committee. The results were 38 people in favour, 46 in opposition. Thereafter the 38 people who were in favour gave it in writing that votes are caste on group basis, every edition casts its vote, not together in a group. All the groups and editions of Bennett, Coleman and Company Ltd. have cast one vote each. The people of the Indian Express group and the Deccan Chronicle did not cast their vote. If they are put together then they would out number those who were in opposition. But it should not be termed as unanimous resolution. Question of media has been raised here. I have a survey where in 81 per cent people were in its favour and 19 per cent were against it. Which survey you will discuss. Neither the industry nor the political parties reach any consensus. The Government neither takes decisions under pressure nor it revokes the decisions taken by the Cabinet. In view of all this whatever they found right and logical in national interest they did that. You want to know why this decision was taken. This decision was taken following. This logic that all other sectors were opened. And the most logical thing is when a command economy is opened, it is opened in phases. The first phase production & manufacturing sector. Thereafter service sector is opened followed by the media sector and print media is opened in the last...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ROOPCHAND PAL: Why was it not opened. It was opened in the U.S., Australia and other countries.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: If you want I can give reply to all your queries but right now I would like to give reply to a particular one. It is good, Akhileshji is here...*(Interruptions)* Manufacturing sector followed by service sector and media sector and that too print media sector was opened up in the last. Earlier different sectors like broadcasting, uplinking, films, advertising were opened up, and you are asking me under whose pressure these were opened. Akhileshji I wish Mulayam Singh ji were here. But it is better, that you are here since you had alleged me of having double standards. That is why I would like to tell you that it was not opened up under anybody's pressure, it was opened up on the request made by your leader.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to read a letter here. Akhileshji your leader Mulayam Singh ji wrote this letter to hon. Prime Minister. I would like to read this letter written to the Prime Minister of India. The letter was written on the 7th December, 2002 not recently but one and a half years ago when this matter was being deliberated upon by the Standing Committee.

Hon. Prime Minister, liberalisation in certain sectors has ruined the farmer and industry of the country? The institutions of your Parivar like Sangh Parivar and Swadeshi Jagran Manch have also opposed such liberalisation. But two or three leading newspapers in the country are prospering on the basis of their money power and have now become so ambitious that they want to eliminate the regional newspaper cruelly. In this era of computers when the world has been transformed into a village through internet, fax and satellite the small and medium newspapers particularly the leading Hindi newspapers too should get permission to mobilise limited resources from foreign countries, so that they can save themselves from the monopoly of leading newspapers. Undoubtedly, the ownership of newspapers, editorial control, printing and publication should rest in domestic hands. Foreign investment in print media sector, only in restricted quantity should be allowed to the newspapers which will be a positive start in liberating the democratic set up of the country from the clutches of handful of capitalist powers."

Do not seek a reply from me, why it was opened up ask it from your leader who has given all the reasons in this letter and has requested the Prime Minister to mobilise foreign capital for the small and medium newspapers who are on the verge of elimination due to lack of funds.

The answer is here, I do not need to give any reply...*(Interruptions)* Listen, I was saying why it was opened, its reply I will give in the end. The answer is here, all the logics are here, now I do not need to give any reply.

[English]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, I am on a point of order.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I am listening to point of order. You will also get some rest.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, today itself I have listened to the speech given by Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav. Who will authenticate the letter read by the hon. Minister?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I shall do that. It bears his signature.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: She is a Minister and she will authenticate it.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: She should have raised it at the time when he was speaking. He is not present at the moment...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Unlike you, I am not in the habit of interrupting.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: It is not fair to read out the letter which is addressed to him. It should be authenticated.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am giving the ruling.

[Translation]

I have given the ruling. There is nothing like that. You may please resume your seat.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: She should have authenticated it then and there. Reading out his letter to us gives birth to suspicion. I was trying to bring that point house with the hon. Minister. It just happened. We do not know about the letter in question as to when it was written or whether it was written by him at all. He should first authenticate it and place the letter on the Table. First Mulayam Singh Ji should verify the letter only then any discussion on it may be allowed, otherwise no discussion should be allowed.

MR. SPEAKER: There can be no discussion on the point of order. You please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: She is a responsible Minister.

[Translation]

Ramdas Ji I won't allow you to speak on it even for a minute.

[English]

I am not going to accept that point of order.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I am saying something else. This is the difference between me and Raghuvanshji's style. He often interrupts and does not allow other Members to speak. On the contrary, I listen patiently and speak only when it is my turn. I open my cards only then. As a matter of fact, Mulayam Singhji should have been present here. Akhilesh Singhji is sitting here, had Mulayam Singhji been present here I would have read out this letter before him. I authenticate it and place it here.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): You are a Minister, why are you so angry. What is in it to be angry about...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, UP): Shushmaji has referred to a letter allegedly written by Mulayam Singh ji wherein he reportedly favoured foreign investment in small newspapers. However, what Mulayam Singhji has said in the House now on that basis and on the baiss of the steps taken by the Smajwadi Party as on date keeping present circumstances in view, we are totally against allowing foreign investment in the print media.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There is no substance in the point of order raised by you. The speech is before us. I have personally heard the speech. If she had quoted the letter, she is prepared to authenticate that letter. There is no question of any point of order here.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Akhileshji I am going to authenticate it and place it on the Table of the House.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: I am not questioning the authenticity of the letter at all. I am simply saying that what Mulayam Singh ji wrote in the letter in the year 2000 might be correct but the circumstances have changed now in the year 2002...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): If the letter is not a genuine one it will be a breach of privilege.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not saying that. He has every right to change his views. He may say that the views express by him in the

letter written in December 2000 have now changed. I am just saying what you were asking...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I presume that the letter is a genuine one. I presume that the Minister has quoted a letter which is a genuine one. We cannot dispute that until and unless otherwise proved.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I am thankful to you for extending full support.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The Minister is correct. If it is otherwise proved, she will be held responsible.

MR. SPEAKER: It has to be decided by me and not by you whether she is correct or not. I am the Speaker. How can you give a judgement from there?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I am only expressing my opinion.

MR. SPEAKER: I thought you are giving a judgement from there.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: If it is otherwise proved, she will be guilty.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am saying so because he has every right to change his stand, but you were also talking of dual character by recalling the past things while pointing towards me. I say, you are at liberty to change your views as expressed in this letter.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: On every sentence, how can you object?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: You may not change. You can openly say that you have changed your stand from the earlier stand.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sister Sushmaji, when you were a Member of the Janata Party headed by hon. Chandrashekharji, that time there was a national conference of the Janata Party at Palangbari which was attended by me also. At that time, I was the junior member of the Janata Party. She made a speech on that occasion and on the basis of what she has been saying on the issue of foreign capital investment or foreign pressure, I said that she has a dual character.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: What can I say bout your stand you had on 7th December, 2000 and the stand you have now. Akhileshji, what are you talking about. You should not say like that.

MR. SPEAKER: Sushmaji, how much more time you are likely to take?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I am concluding. The question being frequently raised was that why was it opened. Things were discussed without excitement except some excitement on the issue as to why was it opened. He was giving a logic. I shall accept that because Mulayam Singh ji told that Bahanji accepted his contention. He said it rightly. This letter has an important role even while taking its decision. I though that a consensus was being built up. He wrote the letter to the Prime Minister who forwarded the same to me. The reasons are so obvious. I ask what happened in the matter of broadcasting. That may also be taken into account. All the Members were talking in unison while the matter was being discussed. Shuklaji spoke in strong words and the results are all before us. The result of capital investment in broadcasting sector is all before us. At this, the rest of the Members said that if something wrong was done in relation to broadcasting, the something should not be done in relation to the print media. I want to ask a question. All the members sitting here agree that a mistake was committed in relation to the broadcasting, when you talk of the comprehensive media then the media does not only mean the print media. Now the media includes film, print, broadcasting and also advertising. All these things combined together make media. If you have courage enough, you should undo the policy on every front and say that we do not want foreign investment in the entire media sector.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: You hold a discussion, we are ready to participate, when there was a discussion on the national media policy, we had opposed it. You have all the papers in your possession which you may refer to.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Sharad Pawar ji had referred to the names of several channels and questioned as to what kind of news was being broadcast through those channels. If all the members are ready to hold a discussion on investment in broadcasting and other sectors, then let us decide and let the discussion be held.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: We are also absolutely ready.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: If you are ready then let the discussion be held. But one thing I fail to understand is that why you are opposing foreign investment in only the Print media when you had all given your consult. Rashid Alvi is not sitting in the House at the moment.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: You may recall that when the discussion on the National Media Policy was held, we had even then opposed the policy of foreign investment.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the question Hour in which you can ask supplementary questions.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when Jagmit Singhji was speaking, his main emphasis was on the Print-media. Rest of the Members also spoke about disregarding Parliament in matter of Print media. Had Rashid Alviji been present I would have reminded him. He also came to the Print media besides deliberating upon so-many things. I ask why all the arguments are being put forward against the Print media and was it not said that there has been disregard of Parliament when the broadcasting sector was opened for foreign investment and when advertising in films was opened.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: We raised the objection even at that time.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): We should change with the times. We should also have the courage to change the world.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Your parent organisation Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh is also against foreign investment.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: What I want to say is that the precautions which should have been taken while opening print media for F.D.I. were not taken care earlier. While opening print media for the F.D.I., I have cautioned to take five precautions. Shri Raghuvansh Babu was reciting his poem, 'Mera dharam hai Swadheen Kalam'. Raghuvansh Babu, I did not allow the pen to lose its independence. I have allowed genuine-Indian hands will have hold of print-media.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I have also stated the tale of Bhisma Pitamah a character from Mahabharat.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: The direct reply to your point is that Duryodhan was not a foreigner. If such things are being published in local newspapers that Bhisma Pitamah took money from Duryodhan to get to his side, so we will feed very much ashamed. Our conscious do not allow that such things could take place because Duryodhan was not a foreigner. Duryodhan was born here only but it was his vicious thinking and the dependency of Bhishma Pitamah on Duryodhan which led him to take that path. I would like to show you the two newspapers of today, itself i.e. 17th July without reading out the title. These pictures have appeared in these local newspapers...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.S. BRAR: The very newspapers, which you are showing have come in support of the above statement.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I can show to them, who has opted for the same...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI J.S. BRAR: This paper has quoted your views.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I have both the newspapers with me. The first one has come in protest and you talk of cultural invasion. The dependency of Bishma Pitamah on Duryodhan caused him to took the other path. Even local newspapers are not lagging behind making vicious propaganda...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: The people are much more degraded than the newspaper which you are showing. I do not want to speak at length in this matter...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I am speaking the style and the language through which points and arguments have been put across. Hon'ble Shri Rashid Alvi is not present in the House. He stated afterwards, "Andaze bayan garche bahut shokh nahin hai, yah mumkin hai utar jaye tere dil mein meri baat." His style

very fine but arguments are not impressive. But Mr. Speaker, Sir, it seems to me that I have responded to all the points and the several arguments raised here one by one to the best of my knowledge and wisdom. Hence, what I want to say that the arguments must have impressed me if they would have some content. But they lack the same. Thus, I have tried to give satisfactory response to all of those points...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): The Minister has not said anything as to why print media has been opened up. In protest of this, we walk out.

19.52 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Basu Deb Acharia, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other hon. Members left the House.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, I am on a point of order...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is your point of order? You first quote the rule and then come out with your point.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I would like to quote from page No. 770 of Practice and Procedure in Parliament by Kaul and Shakdher...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Are you quoting rule 331 N?

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, we had raised the point...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: First you have to tell the rule under which you want to speak.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I am telling about the book.

MR. SPEAKER: How can you raise a point of order in regard to a book. You quote the rule and state as to from which book you want to speak under the rule.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, my point is...*(Interruptions)* Please, listen to me.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raghuvansh ji, I am ready to listen to you. I am also prepared to extend a helping hand too but you have told that you want to raise matter under rule 331 N and if you want to quote from the book written by Kaul and Shakdher, please come out with the page number.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: It has been written on page No. 770.

[English]

"Disagreement between a Committee and the Government"

[Translation]

I have stated in my speech that report of a Committee is generally accepted and implemented by the Government. If the Government differs with the views of the Committee, it is finally referred to the hon'ble Speaker. It says-

[English]

> "The recommendations of a Parliamentary Committee are normally accepted and implemented by the Government. If in regard to any recommendation the Government hold a view different from that of the Committee, the Government have to apprise the Committee of the reasons that might have weighed with them in not accepting or implementing the recommendation. The matter is considered by the Committee and a further report, if deemed necessary, may be presented to the House

[Translation]

In the end, it says-

[English]

> "Where a difference of opinion between the Committee and the Government remains unresolved, the case is referred to the Speaker for guidance."

[Translation]

We have submitted that the report of the Committee has been ignored and in case the Government does not accept the recommendations of the Committee, then the matter will again go to the Committee and finally the matter is sent to the hon'ble Speaker, provided the Committee is not satisfied with the action taken by the Government, we have made a mention of book authored by Kaul and Shakdher. We have stated in that context that they did not presented any follow-up-action taken report to the Committee. This Government have taken decision in violation of the recommendations of the

Committee. They have ignored the Committee and also the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, would you like to respond?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: No, this is not at all needed. He himself read-out from the book authored by Kaul and Shakdher.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai-South-Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, What I want to say is...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you do not want to speak on your point of order, then, please sit down.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let me dispose of his point of order first...

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir...

MR. SPEAKER: Are you on a point of order?

SHRI J.S. BRAR: No, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Then, sorry. You have to wait for some time.

If there is a difference of opinion between the Committee and the Cabinet, then it is to be referred to the Committee if the entire report is seen. This matter was not referred to the Speaker at all because there was no substantial difference of opinion. Most of the point of the Standing Committee were accepted by the Cabinet. Therefore, the question of referring to the Committee and finally to the Speaker never came up.

Therefore, there is no substance in the point of order raised by Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: We are not satisfied with the reply given by hon'ble Minister, so we are staging a walk-out from the House.

19.58 hrs.

At this stage Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and some other hon. Members left the House.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hold Hon'ble Minister in high-esteem...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I would like to know through you from the hon'ble Minister that the source of first hand information for the forty percent populace is print–media...*(Interruptions)* you said forty percent people are affected therefrom.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I did not say that. What I meant to say is that a study was conducted to find out the audio-visual and reading effects on an individual and the study found that what one visualises leaves 80 percent effect and hearing out anything leaves sixty percent effect on people whereas reading causes forty percent effect on an individual...*(Interruptions)* I did not talk of only print-media.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: You have agreed to forty—percent. But the outsiders would slowly bubble-out poison against the nation through their pen...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: We have not given them right to write. I have told that right to draft editorial policy would be given to the resident Indians. I am, therefore, repeating it time and again that this perception that nothing would be sold-out or they would be free to write here is not correct. Editorial policy would be drafted by the Editorial Board and it would be controlled by the Indian, not by foreigners.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, the 18th July, 2002 at 11.00 a.m.

19.59 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, July 18, 2002/Asadha 27, 1924 (Saka).

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