

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Tenth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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CONTENTS

[Thirteenth Series, Vol. XXVII, Tenth Session, 2002/1924 (Saka)]

No. 13, Wednesday, July 31, 2002/Sravana 9, 1924 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 241-243	2—36
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 244-260	36—105
Unstarred Question Nos. 2451-2629	105—340
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	340—342
STATEMENT BY MINISTER	
Situation Prevailing in the state of Jharkhand	343—345
Shri I.D. Swami.....	343—345
RE : REPORTED PRESS STATEMENT MADE BY KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE, M.P. ABOUT GODHRA TRAIN INCIDENT.....	346—347
RE : BIFURCATION OF EASTERN RAILWAY ZONE.....	385—385
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	386—392
(i) Need for construction of a bypass on National Highway at Modi Nagar in Ghaziabad district, U.P. Dr. Ramesh Chand Tomar	 386
(ii) Need to start Mumbai suburban train service on Vasai-Diva railway line in Maharashtra Shri Chintaman Wanaga	 386—387
(iii) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Jharkhand to promote literacy in the State Shri Ram Tahal Chaudhary	 387
(iv) Need to exempt small units from compulsory furnishing of 'C' form on inter-state sale in Union Territory of Daman and Diu Shri Dahyabhai Vallabhbhai Patel	 387—388
(v) Need for construction of a flyover at Chitilla in Pratapgarh district on Faizabad-Allahabad National Highway, U.P. Shrimati Rajkumari Ratna Singh	 388

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

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(vi) Need to accord sanction to proposal of Cochin Port Trust Board for setting up transshipment-terminal at Vallarpadam in Kerala	
Shri George Eden	388—389
(vii) Need to provide employment opportunities to apprentices who completed apprentice course training in Chittaranjan Locomotive Workshop, West Bengal	
Shri Bilkash Chowdhury	389
(viii) Need to reduce basic excise duty on life saving medical equipment	
Dr. (Shrimati) C. Suguna Kumari	389—390
(ix) Need to include left out villages for construction of link roads under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojna particularly in Jalesar Parliamentary Constituency, U.P.	
Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel	390—391
(x) Need to protect the interest of workers engaged in manufacturing of high density poly-ethylene monofilament yarn mosquito nets in Karur Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu	
Shri M. Chinnasamy	391
(xi) Need to look into the problems being faced by the students of Mizoram University in seeking admission in other Universities	
Shri Vanlal Zawma	391—392
(xii) Need to frame guidelines for allocation of funds for proper maintenance of National Highways in hilly regions, particularly in Himachal Pradesh	
Shri Suresh Chandel	392
DEMAND FOR EXCESS GRANTS 1999-2000—GENERAL AND SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS 2002-2003—GENERAL	392—482
Shrimati Margaret Alva	397—408
Shri Chinmayanand Swamy	409—413
Shri Moinul Hassan	413—416
Dr. B.B. Ramaiah	416—419
Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmuni	419—423
Shri Kirti Somaiya	423—433
Shri Rupchand Pal	433—436
Shri Prabhunath Singh	436—439
Shri Ramji Lal Suman	439—442
Shri Sohan Potai	442—444
Shri P.H. Pandian	444—446
Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	446—449

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
Shri Bhan Singh Bhaure	449—451
Shri Pravin Rashtupal	451—453
Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale	453—454
Shri Anandrao Vitthoba Adsul	454—455
Shri Jaswant Singh	455—481
Demand for Excess Grant—General—Voted	481
Supplementary Demands for Grants—General—Voted	482
APPROPRIATION (NO. 4) BILL	
Bill Introduced	482
Motion to consider	482
Shri Jaswant Singh	482
Clauses 2, 3 and 1	483
Motion to Pass	483
APPROPRIATION (NO. 5) BILL	
Bill Introduced	483
Motion to consider	484
Shri Jaswant Singh	484
Shri Basu Deb Acharia	484
Clauses 2, 3 and 1	488
Motion to Pass	488

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, July 31, 2002/Sravana 9, 1924 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, due to famine, two persons have died in village Dhankuwar Kalan ke Majra in Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please raise this issue during the Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir. This is a very serious issue. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I understand that both the questions are important.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, two deaths have taken place in district Naugarh due to starvation. What else a serious situation can there be. The Government and the hon. Minister of Agriculture say that a huge quantity of foodgrains is stored and if it is correct then why these deaths are taking place? What I had said earlier is now proving to be completely true. Labourers and poor farmers cannot store foodgrains for more than a month or two. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very serious issue, I know that please raise this question during 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Hon. Prime Minister is sitting here. There is a famine like situation in the entire country. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I know situation in the entire country is serious as a result of drought. I very well know that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall allow you to speak during 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall allow you too.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Q. No. 241—Shri C. Sreenivasan.

11.02 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Role of NGOs in Afghanistan

*241. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage NGOs to carry out social and humanitarian works in Afghanistan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) A statement is placed on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Government believe that public, private and voluntary contributions to the rehabilitation and reconstruction effort in Afghanistan would be mutually complementary and synergetic.

Government has provided extensive humanitarian, financial, and project assistance for reconstruction and rehabilitation in Afghanistan, and is also making contributions to institution building process *inter alia* by providing training facilities and deputation of experts or setting up of training center. Government has also facilitated private sector visits and interactions. Interested voluntary organizations were also encouraged to examine potential for their contribution to the reconstruction effort.

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Sir, the hon. Minister has not provided a detailed answer. But still I would like to raise questions based on whatever information I have.

The Government has said that it will encourage Indian NGOs to do social and humanitarian work. I would like to know why the Government has encouraged only 12 Delhi-based NGOs when there are many NGOs working all over the country.

I would also want to know whether any NGO dealing with the preservation of cultural monuments has also been sent to Afghanistan to renovate Bamiyan Buddha statues.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Sir, I did not get the question.

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Sir, my question was whether the Government propose to encourage NGOs to carry out social and humanitarian works in Afghanistan. But you have given a different reply. What is this?

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: What is your specific question to me?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Mr. Minister, he is saying that your reply is not correct, it is not appropriate, you may say that the reply given by you is correct.

[English]

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Sir, the hon. Minister has not provided a detailed reply. But still with the information that I have, I want to raise some questions. ...*(Interruptions)*. Mr. Minister, you kindly put on your headphone.

Otherwise, you cannot follow me, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)* The Government has said that it will encourage Indian NGO's to do social and humanitarian work in Afghanistan. Why has the Government encouraged only 12 Delhi-based NGOs when there are many other NGOs all over the country?

I also want to know whether any NGOs dealing with preservation of cultural monuments have been sent to Afghanistan to renovate the Bamiyan Buddha statues.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Government has provided extensive humanitarian, financial and other assistance in Afghanistan. In this regard, we welcome the efforts taken by any NGO which undertakes humanitarian work and provide other assistance to the people of Afghanistan. The decision to visit Afghanistan would be that of the NGOs and the Government would be happy to familiarise the NGOs with the existing security and political situation in Afghanistan. We would also facilitate their interaction

with Afghanistan authorities and other relevant organisations on their visit in Afghanistan. We would, however, expect the NGOs to respect the local sentiments and sensitivities of the country being visited by them.

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Why have you selected only 12 Delhi-based NGOs? I have asked you a separate question and you are giving some other story. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Sir, I have not selected any NGO. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Why have you selected NGOs only from Delhi and not from other places?

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: I have not selected any NGOs. This is my answer to you.

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: You have already told so. It is there in your reply.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Not at all.

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Government reply is there. You kindly go through the reply. If you have the correct reply, please send it to me. ...*(Interruptions)*

My second supplementary is this. When our Indian Airlines flight was hijacked from Nepal to Afghanistan, we were helpless before the Taliban regime. As we propose to send our NGOs there, we must ensure their safety in Afghanistan. It is a must. As there is a friendly Government in Afghanistan, I would like to know whether the Government is taking any steps to have the Extradition Agreement signed in the social and security interest of the people of both the countries.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Sir, may I repeat my answer which I have given earlier? Government has never sent any NGOs there but we have facilitated the NGOs which have gone there and it is not confined only to Delhi. NGOs from other States like Maharashtra and Rajasthan have gone to Afghanistan. We, as a Government, were just a facilitator for them. I want to clarify this point.

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: What about the Extradition Treaty? What steps have you taken in that regard?

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: I am coming to that. As you know, there is an interim Government in Afghanistan which will be there for two years. After two years, there will be a formal election there and a new regime will come there. Now, as far as the Extradition Treaty is concerned, we are taking care of it.

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: There is a friendly Government there now. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: The Prime Minister of Afghanistan, Shri Hamid Karzai, is having American bodyguards. The country has not yet been able to provide security even to its Head of the State. So, the major requirement in Afghanistan is not build a strong Army and Police there. Since we require a very strong Government in Afghanistan for the sake of peace, what is the Government of India doing to provide assistance to Afghanistan to have a strong Army and Police there?

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Army is their internal affair. But as far as Police is concerned, we are giving training to their Police personnel in this country. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Sir, he did not reply to my question and he is again giving a wrong reply. I know that the question of Army is different. But as the Minister of State for External Affairs, he should know about the Extradition Treaty. ...*(Interruptions)* That is why, I have asked the question to him. Sir, in any case, please convey to him to send me a reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: May I ask the hon. Minister as to what is the role of Indian Government in the context of political arrangement consequent upon the political agreement which has been arrived at among the contending factions, which was broken by the UN? I am very much in agreement with Shri Swain that Afghanistan had played a great part in favour of Pakistan as it provided a strategic depth to Pakistan. In the post-*Taliban* regime, it has got a severe jolt. Now, for bringing peace, a model Afghan National Army is a pre-requisite. I would like to know whether the Government is contemplating over the creation of a model Afghan National Army in conjunction with the international body. Most of the NGOs are facing an uphill task to overcome the disjuncture between relief and development work in Afghanistan.

How many NGOs from India have so far been engaged in de-mining the areas in Afghanistan? It is because during the *Taliban* regime also, most of the NGOs were engaged in education, health and de-mining.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Sir the Government has set up a special Afghan Unit of the Ministry of External Affairs precisely to meet such requirements as the hon. Member has just asked. This Unit would be happy to assist any NGO desiring to visit Afghanistan, to provide background information on the prevailing situation in Afghanistan, including information about the NGOs, who desire to work

in Afghanistan. This Unit would also facilitate interaction in Kabul and other places in Afghanistan through our Embassy in Kabul.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: I have asked a different question and you are veering around in another area. You have not at all replied to my question.

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Thank you, Sir. I sought permission from the hon. Speaker to raise a question about Indian nationals languishing in Pakistan jails. Their fault is they have gone there to eke out their livelihood. Actually, they went to Lebanon. Somebody misguided them to Italy. Italians have just sent them to Iran. Iranian authorities, without knowing what for they are there, have handed over these people to Pakistan. Pakistani authorities have arrested them and they are now in Pakistani jails. Even the court in Pakistan have released them after finding that they are at no fault. But still they are languishing in jails. I would like to mention particularly about one Shri Rajni, who is from my constituency. He, along with Shri Jagjit Singh, is now languishing in the jails of Pakistan.

I have been writing letter after letter to the hon. External Affairs Minister and also to the hon. Home Minister, but yet to receive a very satisfactory reply. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether we can take any positive step to get them released from the Pakistan jails. They are suffering for no fault of theirs. They are acquitted by the Pakistan court. They are awaiting a word from the Indian Government. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he can take any positive step to get those people released quickly and immediately.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Sir, though hon. Member's question is not related to Afghanistan, I can assure the hon. member that if he brings this case to my notice, I will definitely look in to it.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India has set up any Task Force to provide financial assistance or any other assistance for re-construction of Afghanistan. I would like to know also from the hon. Minister whether the Government has taken up with the Afghan Government the matter of *Buddhist* statues which were destroyed during the *Taliban* regime.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Sir, as you are aware, and as the hon. member must be aware, the Government of India has decided to give 100 million dollar aid to Afghanistan.

We have already given more than \$ 21 million to Afghanistan including \$ 10 million to their Budgetary provision. As far as that part regarding the reconstruction of Afghanistan is concerned, we are already helping Afghanistan in so many ways. We have provided recently 50 buses to Afghanistan for the road transport purpose.

As far as the Buddhist statues are concerned, we are not immediately in a position to say anything on that.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: The question is pertaining to the NGOs who are working in Afghanistan. I would like to put the question to the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, that if these NGOs, who are going to Afghanistan go through the process of security check up. Are the Intelligence Bureau, the Ministry and the RAW involved in clearing these NGOs who go to a foreign country like Afghanistan? If it is done, at least the name of this country is not smeared in any manner. Is there any provision for that?...*(Interruptions)* I would like to know whether these NGOs are deserving to go to Afghanistan.

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as regard the question asked by the hon. lady member we take due care in this respect. We look into the background of the NGOs, which are given an opportunity by us to go abroad, their prospective activities and functions are also considered. We take care of all these facts.

Shortage of Medicines in CGHS Dispensaries

*242. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that the patients have to face a lot of difficulties due to shortage of medicine in CGHS dispensaries; and

(b) if so, the corrective measures taken by the Government to ensure availability of medicines in the CGHS dispensaries and prompt supply of medicines to the beneficiaries?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) CGHS dispensaries supply the available medicines immediately to the patients. The medicines, which are not available in the dispensaries, are indented against individual prescription from the authorised local chemist attached to the concerned dispensary. The chemists supply the indented medicines to the dispensaries, which are then given to the patients. In case of emergency, an authority slip is issued to the patient for collecting the medicine directly from the authorised chemist.

Medical Store Organisation (MSO) generally procures medicines on the basis of a formulary in bulk, which are supplied to CGHS dispensaries on indent. A new comprehensive formulary of drugs has been recently approved for CGHS in order to streamline the supply of drugs to CGHS dispensaries so that the dependence on local purchase is minimised. Rates are being finalised for the drugs to be procured under the new formulary.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, It has been stated in the reply that the medicines which are not available in the CGHS dispensaries are procured from the market. These medicines are indented against individual prescription from the authorised Chemist. The Medicines are available with the Chemist but most of the times either CGHS dispensaries are on strike or the Chemist's shop is closed. In such a situation what arrangements would Government make to ensure the availability of medicines in CGHS dispensaries. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Sir, where is the hon. Health Minister?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: The Cabinet Minister is not here...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, this is not fair on the part of the hon. Member. I am also a Minister in the Health Ministry. I am having my own accountability to the Cabinet Minister and to the Prime Minister...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): Hon. Member wants the reply to question of Shri Shatrughan Sinha?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: They all know the rule that the State Minister can also given reply on behalf of the Cabinet Minister.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: We have got five Questions today. Where is the Cabinet Minister?... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: The hon. Prime Minister is here but the Cabinet Minister is not here. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I can understand your anxiety for a reply from the hon. Minister Shri Shatrughan Sinha.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Sit down, please. Mr. Minister, you can definitely reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, the hon. Health Minister Shri Shatrughan Sinha has not replied to a single Question in the House. He is avoiding the House. He does not want to attend the House. So, please convey to him that he should at least try to avoid the dates of Parliament for his shooting. He can give priority to shooting but he should not by-pass Parliament. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I do not think he is by-passing Parliament. He must be busy in the other House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are all aware that it is not compulsory that the Cabinet Minister must be present here.

[Translation]

Everyone knows that hon. Member Shri Sharad Pawar has made a request. I would say to the hon. Minister that he should come on such a request and he will come.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please let the Questions Continue. Next questions are very important.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shatrughna Sinha ji would definitely be present next time.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: He is absent from the House without any intimation. He has not given any intimation. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have given a ruling on this matter that it is not compulsory for the Cabinet Minister to reply to questions. However, I am going to put the request of the hon. Members to the Minister. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

Why are you wasting time like this?

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: I want to know whether he has taken permission of the House that he would be absent. The rule that a minister has to give prior intimation and seek Hon. Speaker's permission if he wishes to absent himself from the sitting of the House. Has the concerned Minister taken any such prior permission. ... (Interruptions) After all, this House has to be run as per rules. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I want to know whether you have received any intimation in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Please listen to me.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he was acting in a drama day-before-yesterday. What is the difficulty in coming here? ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he must be present here during the Question Hour. If he is out of town or if he is sick, he should take prior permission from you. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: In this case I have already made it clear that the replies to the questions can be given by the Minister of State. Since the whole House has desired that he should be present here, I will definitely take it to Shri Shatrughan Sinha and I assure you that he would be answering all the questions next time.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Sir, we would like to know whether the Minister has taken prior permission from the Chair not to be present in the House during the Question Hour.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, let the Minister come here now.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister of State has every right to reply in the House and he is replying on behalf of the Cabinet Minister.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me. If you do not listen to me, how can I speak? I have given you enough liberty to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister of State is entitled to give reply, but the Minister concerned, Shri Shatrughan Sinha should have given in writing to the hon. Speaker that he won't be present and hon. Minister of State would give reply on his behalf has not offended the House right from the beginning. Even his Bill introduced on earlier occasion was not piloted by him but by the hon'ble Minister of State. Hon. Prime Minister, who is present here should take notice of it. He may caution him you have already taken cognizance of it.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we highly respect your observation. We shall abide by that. We have so much regard for the Minister of State. He is competent to answer any questions. But the point we raised is, if a senior Minister does not inform you about his availability in the House and treats the House so casually after taking oath, then it is a total disrespect to the entire Parliament. That is why we brought it to your notice. But we will abide by your ruling.

MR. SPEAKER: Since you have raised this question, I went through the Parliamentary Practices and Procedures. I may tell you that the rules and procedures in Parliament are very clear. I do not want Shri

Shatrughan Sinha also to be misunderstood. Therefore, for his personal reasons or if he has to attend the other House, he can always ask his deputy to reply. In this regard, it has been made clear in the Parliamentary Practices and Procedures that during the Question Hour, the Parliamentary Secretary or the Deputy Minister concerned generally answers the questions put down in the name of their Ministers in the List of Questions.

Therefore, whenever the Deputy Minister or the Minister of State is replying to the questions, it is not necessary that he has to inform in writing to the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please let me complete.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: How can you disturb me when I am reading this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand that this is not the way in which you can disturb me. I have tolerated enough. Now, let me give the ruling.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am giving a ruling. When the Chair is giving a ruling, the Member has to listen to the ruling. Why should I say that again the again? there are important questions ahead. I have already said that in this case, it has been clearly said that the Deputy Minister or the State Minister can remain present. The Ministers or the Ministers of State can intervene when they find it necessary to clarify certain points raised by way of supplementaries. So, if it is found necessary, the Minister can also intervene. But the Minister of State is entitled to reply. Therefore, let the Minister of State go ahead with the reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That is the procedure.

SHRI E. AHAMED: But I am asking a question.

MR. SPEAKER: No question now. I am sorry. Shri Raja, go ahead with the reply.

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, I am having high regard for the senior Members, Shri Sharad Pawar and Shri Dasmunsi. Of course, I should express my thanks for the encomiums

showered upon me by Shri Dasmuni that I have come to answer before the House. But I should tell the House that the allegation levelled by the hon. Member, Shri Sharad Pawar that the Cabinet Minister, Shri Shatrughan Sinha, is evading from the Parliament is not at all true. He introduced a Bill in the other House and got it passed.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, you go ahead with your reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the Minister does not know the parliamentary system. ...(Interruptions)
He has been further misleading. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, he is replying to the question.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You reply to the question, please.

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, coming to the question being asked by the hon. Member, it is true that there are some strikes threatened by the chemists and other recognised Dispensaries on the ground of MRP. Whenever we float tenders, the conditions stipulated by the Government are that they should not add sales tax to the price of medicines while these are supplied by the private chemists. But they used to include the sales tax apart from the MRP. We floated the tenders for MRP alone. They agreed to it. Against the terms and conditions contemplated in the tender documents, they wanted to get more sales tax in the market to which the Ministry declined.

We are confined to uphold 10 per cent of the bills to settle the dispute between the chemists, the Ministry and the CGHS. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete the reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go ahead.

SHRI A. RAJA: The strike took place for four days, that is, between 21st February, 2002 and 25th February, 2002. There was again one more strike between 1st April, 2002 and 12th April, 2002. This has been settled by the Ministry. Now there is no delay at all in payment. We will take further care. If any specific case is brought to my notice, I would take care of it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hospitals of Central Government are mostly closed on account of strike due to which medicines are usually not available. When indents are placed for medicines, some of the indented medicines do get supplied but for the rest substitutes of medicines are supplied instead of those prescribed. Therefore, storage of medicines is essential so that all the prescribed medicines are available in the hospital itself.

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, there are two systems available under CGHS. One is that we procure medicines directly and keep these medicines for supply. Suppose a patient, covered under the CGHS, came to the CGHS Dispensary and found that the medicines were not available. Then, we can refer the matter to the chemist.

Some chemist have been approved by the Ministry. So, the approved chemist can reimburse the bill and give the medicine. Suppose in the rarest of rare cases, that recognised chemist was also not having such drugs. Then, the rules permit the patient or that particular person could go for private purchase. Later, on it can be reimbursed through the chemist that has been permitted by the Department.

In spite of all this, if any difficulty is being faced by some members, we will take care of it.

[Translation]

DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question asked is about irregularities in medicines purchased by CGHS from chemists and medical suppliers organisation and also about the immediate supply of medicines. I would like to tell that there is a vicious circle in which the personnel of the Department, chemists and MSO are involved. All three are hand in glove in committing these irregularities.

I would like to give an example. If someone needs amloguard manufactured by Pfizer company the cost of which is Rs. 63 per strip of 10 tablets. There is another tablet with the similar sounding name of Amlodepin. If the Doctor prescribes Amloguard and chemists give Amoldepin then the chemist saves Rs. 40 per strip and this amount is shared among chemists, Ministry officials and MSO. This is a big scam. I have given the example of just one medicine. There are many more drugs which are expensive and the substitute drugs supplied in their place are much cheaper. In this way, money is being

embezzled, thus while on the one hand Government is being put to loss, the patients are not getting proper medicines on the other hand.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the month of September is the time when Malaria spreads. The drugs for malaria are not available today. Our medical Department will indent for malaria drugs only when Malaria spreads, and the drugs will be supplied by January and February by which time Malaria would be over. Sir, a task force was formed to inquire into irregularities in the purchase of medicines. After inquiry it has submitted its report. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what action has been taken on the report and to eliminate the vicious circle comprising of chemists, some personal of the Department and MSO alongwith the manner in which the Government propose to stop these irregularities?

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, as the hon. Member put it, we are having a system of Formulary of the medicines. What are all the medicines that can be procured by the MSO? To make the difficulty we are facing in regard to this transparent, I would like to tell the House that the Formulary has not been revised for the past five years. What has happened during these five years? From the date of the last Formulary was approved till this date, there have been new outcomes in the market. There are new medicines, which may be generic or proprietary. If you call for 'Tolaper', it is proprietary. If you call 'Paracetamol', it is generic. So, during this gap, there have been new outcomes in the market and from the outside world. Unless it is approved by the Formulary, the MSO or the CGHS Dispensary are not able to supply the medicines directly.

Knowing full well these difficulties, a Committee was constituted on 14.2.2002. They revised the Formulary. They approved it. The approved Formulary is going to be in operation. I think, within 10-20 days, we need not go for private purchases. Everything would be available in the MSO and the CGHS Dispensaries. So, this question would not arise after about 20 days. In spite of that, I would like to assure the hon. House that the difficulties would be sorted out in a short while.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much. The question is important because lakhs of Central Government employees and members of their families depend on the Central Government Health Scheme. Being a retired Government employee, I am also a CGHS cardholder in Gujarat. Even Members of Parliament in their constituencies take medicines from the CGHS Dispensaries in cities.

I want to inform the hon. Minister, who is trying to reply that my total service with the Central Government was 37 years. That might be equal to your age.

The question was regarding difficulties faced by the patients in the CGHS dispensaries. The hon. Minister is facing only supplementaries here, but the doctors and the staff, sitting in the CGHS dispensaries in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Ahmedabad, are facing the angry patients. I want to put two specific supplementary questions.

MR. SPEAKER: Only one.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Let it be (a) and (b). This is in our interest.

MR. SPEAKER: You can make a second part and put it.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Right Sir. According to my information the CGHS Employees' and Officers' Federations themselves have informed the Government as to how this issue can be solved.

Now, the point is that every CGHS dispensary has only one pharmacist. Suppose he takes a casual leave for a day, who will give medicine to the patients when the medicine is prescribed by the doctor in the same dispensary, even if medicine is available there? Do you have any facility for that?

Secondly, suppose a Government employees is in his office and his spouse goes by bus to the dispensary with her child, who is suffering from Malaria, diarrhea or dehydration and the pharmacist prescribes local purchase and gives it to the lady, what will she do? Does he have foolproof system in CGHS to provide all required medicines for emergency cases and how is the going to improve the situation in CGHS dispensaries all over the country?

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, regarding the first part of the question, no doubt there is only one pharmacist in every dispensary. If his leave is intimated in advance, we can make alternative arrangements in the dispensary with another pharmacist. But if somehow it could not be intimated in advance, then we make immediate arrangements with the nearest dispensary. Even if that is also not possible then as I explained earlier, the patient can get the prescription from the doctor, go to the private chemist, get the medicine and the bill will be reimbursed to him. We can certify that since the default is ours as the pharmacist was not available, we can reimburse it. There is no problem in that.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, the hon. Minister has not replied to the important part of the question.

SHRI A. RAJA: Regarding emergency cases, one need not follow any rules. Suppose a person has a heart attack, he need not go to any dispensary, he can go to the approved hospital, get the treatment there and it can be reimbursed. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, he is making a serious statement. When the bill comes for payment for treatment of emergency cases, they reimburse half the bill. So, the patient has to get only half the treatment. ...*(Interruptions)* After that you are entitled to go to the CGHS dispensary. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. RAJA: I was stating about the utmost extreme emergency cases only. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Gudhe, please ask your question.

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, not only the Central Government employees but also the MPs and Members of State Legislative Assembly have been provided the facility of taking medicines from CGHS dispensaries. But stockist, as Shri Jaiswal pointed out, do not supply drugs properly nor do they provide adequate services.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask the question.

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: A number of MPs have complained to the Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members in this regard, but no decision has yet been taken. Where even MPs are not treated properly, the condition of Government employees can easily be imagined. In the reply, hon'ble Minister has stated that generally medical stores organisation procures and supply medicines in bulk on the basis of formulary. I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that Medicines are not available adequately even in the medicine shops of Delhi.

Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the number of medicine agencies appointed by the Government for drug supply during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 and also the number of agencies who have expressed their inability in supplying the drugs. Did they supply drugs, if not, why? I would also like to know the action taken against them for not supplying the drugs even after their appointment and also names and addresses of the companies which are supplying drugs?

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, the Members of the Legislative Assembly are not at all covered under CGHS.

As regards the second allegation that has been made by the hon. Member, with due respect to him, I would like to say that I have not received any specific complaint that the service of CGHS is not at all reaching fairly to the Members. If any specific allegation is given to me in writing, definitely I will take stringent action against them. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri N. Janardhana Reddy.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: The two companies that were appointed, are not supplying medicines. What did you do in that regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA: Kindly give me the details. I will take action. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri N. Janardana Reddy, you can now put your question.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a number of questions that are being asked by the Members to the Minister show that there are a lot of loopholes in the system. Nowadays, super-specialty is the order of the day and patient's paramount confidence on the doctor is important. The medicines are being given to the patients only by CGHS recognised doctor's prescription. How are you going to overcome all these aspects besides the technical problem as they are not getting the medicines? There are complaints about it.

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, for super specialty cases, suppose for a heart ailment or transplantation of heart valves and other things, throughout the country we recognised the private hospitals like Apollo, Ganga Ram and other hospitals under CGHS programme. They have been permitted to do whatever be the need of the patient and later it can be reimbursed. For the information of the hon. Member, in the city of Hyderabad we are going to recognise more than 35 institutions like this. So, for super-specialty cases, if the patients are not able to reach the Government hospitals in the States or in the rural areas, they can go to the super-specialty hospitals recognised by CGHS scheme and they can get whatever be the need and later it can be reimbursed. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: If the doctor is not recognised by CGHS, what will happen?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, we are having two systems. Directly we are treating patients under CGHS and giving medicines to them. Suppose for super speciality, we are approving the private hospitals like Ganga Ram, Apollo and other hospitals throughout the country. What the hon. Member is asking is this. If it is not between these two, what can be done by the Ministry? Of course, I am inclined to take up this question. We can relax the rules. But mere giving relaxation of the rules should not give room for the bogus activities and illegal claiming of bills. For that, I can convene a meeting of the hon. Members to have a foolproof system apart from this. At present, I cannot do anything. I cannot give any assurance before this House.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I would like to inform, through you, to the hon. Members of the House and the Government that the Members of Parliament should first get all support through CGHS. I would like to inform you of what peculiar rule exists today. If a doctor declares that a particular patient cannot be treated in our centre with the available facilities, he is advised to go abroad for the treatment. But the Government does not give a certificate that he deserves the treatment outside. The living example is that of our distinguished colleague, Shri V.M. Sudheeran, a Member of Parliament from Kerala. He has been struggling for his life for the last one year. He approached all the concerned. Sir, he might have met you. While the All India Institute of Medical Sciences has declared that they cannot treat him, the Board is not prepared to give a certificate. He had to arrange money by borrowing and then he left for the United States for his treatment there. These are the things which are creating problem through bureaucracy. The Government should take care of this.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the second thing which I would like to bring to your notice is this. Will the Minister assert if whether my information is right or wrong? There is no cardiologist either in the Parliament House Annexe or in this Parliament House. Day before yesterday when I went for an ECG for some friend, I checked up this. The technicians say they are here for the ECG machine. There is no cardiologist in the entire vicinity. There is no cardiologist either in the Annexe or here. This is what is going on. Will the Minister answer both the issues as I narrated?

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, the first part of the question is, I think, that this is the rarest of rare occasion that a Member of Parliament or other CGHS cardholder has to

go abroad and get himself treated. We can sit and devise the new rule.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I said that the AIIMS told him that they could not treat this particular disease which can only be treated in the United States. Then, the Board has to give a No Objection Certificate which they gave in the case of Shri Ajit Panja. In case of Shri Ajit Panja, while he was a Minister of this Government, he had a problem in his pancreas. The Board gave a certificate that they cannot treat him. So the whole cost was taken care of. He was treated in London. In case of Shri V.M. Sudheeran, the Board did not give him the certificate. The doctors said that they could not treat him. He had to go with shedding tears yesterday night to the United States. This is what I am talking to you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, in this particular case, Shri Sudheeran had also approached me and he had made a request that for want of a certificate, the Department need not refuse the aid to be given to him. I am already seized of the matter. You can sit along with me and we will see that whatever reimbursement is to be done can be done in this particular case. Therefore, I think, we will be able to resolve this question on Shri Sudheeran.

As regards the other question which he has asked here is about the availability of cardiologists in the premises of Parliament. You can just reply to this.

SHRI A. RAJA: I do not know whether a specific allegation has been made to the hon. Member that cardiologists are not available in the Parliament House Annexe. But in toto, at the outset we are having plenty of cardiologists in the CGHS programme again in the AIIMS. ...*(Interruptions)* I will come to your question. I think that the first man who did the transplantation of valve for the heart, Dr. Venugopal, is here in the AIIMS only. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. RAJA: However, it is a mere matter of deputation to the Annexe and other hospitals. Under CGHS, we can depute a person to the Annexe for some time and we will get back to some other hospital. If the specific allegation is true, I will take care of this.

[Translation]

HIV/AIDS Infected Persons

+
*243. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:
SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:

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

(a) whether according to the UNAIDS report about 3.97 million people in India have been suffering from HIV/AIDS which is more than in any other country except South Africa;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this population is not scattered across the country, but concentrated in certain pockets of the North-East and metropolitan cities;

(c) if so, the names of such metropolitan cities/pockets alongwith number of HIV-infected persons;

(d) whether the Government are aware that mostly the AIDS-infected persons are drug users;

(e) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(f) the amount spent by the Government to control this epidemic during each of the last three years uptil now?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (f) A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement

(a) to (f) The Joint United Nations Programme on AIDS (UNAIDS) has released "Report on the global HIV/AIDS epidemic—July, 2002". The chapter on Asia and Pacific in the report on page 28-31, mentions as:

"At the end of 2001, India's national adult HIV prevalence rate was under 1%, yet this meant that an estimated 3.97 million Indians were living with HIV/AIDS—more than in any other country besides South Africa".

These figures are derived from the National Sentinel Surveillance conducted by National AIDS Control Organisation in the year 2001.

2. The National AIDS Control Organisation has been conducting annual rounds of a nationwide HIV Sentinel

Surveillance in designated sites since 1998 in order to track the geographical spread and heterogeneity of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. During the year 2001, the estimates were made on the basis of 320 sentinel sites, spread over both high risk as well as low risk groups of population. Based on the analysis of the data of year 2001, the States and Union Territories could be divided into three categories:

High Prevalence States: Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland where the HIV infection has crossed 1% or more in antenatal women.

Moderate Prevalence States: Gujarat, Goa and Pondicherry where HIV infection has crossed 5% or more among high risk groups but the infection is below 1% in antenatal women.

Low Prevalence States: All other States/UTs where the HIV infection in any high-risk groups continues to be less than 5% and is less than 1% among antenatal women.

3. For the convenience of all members, the Statewise prevalence rates of HIV infection during the year 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001 is enclosed as Annexure-I. Government has also identified 49 districts/cities having reported high HIV prevalence rates. Statewise list of these districts is enclosed as Annexure-II.

4. The HIV infection in India is perceived as being spread primarily through high risk sexual behaviour. About 85% of the transmission of HIV has been reported as through the sexual route followed by transfusion of blood and blood products (3.2%), Injecting Drug Users (3.1%) and perinatal transmission (2.4%) i.e. from mother to child. In the remainder of 7% of the cases, the exact route of transmission could not be traced.

5. However, in the States, like Manipur, Nagaland and Metropolitan cities like Mumbai and Chennai, Injecting Drug Use was found to be the most predominant route of transmission along with the previously identified sexual route. The HIV prevalence rates among injecting drug users in States of Nagaland and Manipur was reported to be 5.5% and 56.3% respectively. In cities like Delhi, Bangalore, Mumbai and Chennai, the HIV prevalence rates among injecting drug users were reported to be 2.4%, 2.0%, 41.4% and 24.58% respectively. The main reasons for high HIV transmission rate among injecting drug users is due to sharing of needles and syringes by them without sterilization. In order to prevent HIV transmission, Govt. has initiated Targeted Intervention projects for injecting drug users under which they are provided peer education

and counseling, new syringes/needles, bleach solution for disaffection of injecting equipment, condom promotion, treatment of sexually transmitted infections and care & support services.

6. Government is implementing a comprehensive National AIDS, Control Programme in all States and UTs through State AIDS Control Societies. It is a 100% centrally sponsored scheme. State AIDS Control Societies are provided funds based on the annual action plans submitted by them to Govt. of India the amount spent by the Govt. of India on prevention and control of HIV/AIDS during last three years up till now is as follows:

Year	Budget Estimate (in crores)	Revised Estimate (in crores)	Expenditure incurred (in crores)
1999-2000	140.00	1400.00	135.20
2000-2001	145.00	180.00	179.64
2001-2002	210.00	229.70	228.49
2002-2003 (upto May, 02)	225.00	—	08.00

A large component of the annual budget is earmarked for the implementation of the project through State AIDS Control Societies.

Annexure-I

HIV Prevalence Levels State wise : 1998-2001

S.No.	Name of State/UT	Number of sites	HIV Prevalence 1998 (%)	HIV Prevalence 1999 (%)	HIV Prevalence 2000 (%)	HIV Prevalence 2001 (%)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	STD 4	24.90	29.50	30.00	26.60
		ANC 9	2.250	2.60	2.00	1.50
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	STD 2	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00
		ANC 1	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	STD 2	2.10	2.40	0.61	1.49
		ANC 3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Bihar	STD 5	1.35	0.60	0.50	1.20
		ANC 7	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.13
5.	Chhattisgarh	STD 3	—	—	—	1.40
		ANC 5	—	—	—	0.33
6.	Delhi	STD 4	1.60	0.80	3.26	4.65
		ANC 4	0.25	0.30	0.25	0.13
		IDU 1			5.00	2.41
7.	Goa	STD 2	19.40	13.50	12.02	15.00
		ANC 2	1.20	0.80	1.17	0.50
		CSW 1			53.20	50.79

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8.	Gujarat	STD 8	2.50	6.70	4.65	4.14
		ANC 7	0.00	0.40	0.50	0.50
9.	Haryana	STD 4	2.60	5.30	2.75	1.08
		ANC 3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.41
10.	Himachal Pradesh	STD 5	2.00	0.40	0.40	0.26
		ANC 7	0.36	0.30	0.89	0.13
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	STD 2	1.83	1.20	0.40	0.80
		ANC 3	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.25
12.	Jharkhand	STD 3	—	—	—	0.25
		ANC 6	—	—	—	0.08
13.	Karnataka	STD 7	16.70	15.50	12.80	16.40
		ANC 10	1.75	1.00	1.68	1.13
		IDU 1	—	1.30	4.23	2.00
14.	Kerala	STD 3	2.60	3.20	5.20	6.42
		ANC 3	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.08
15.	Madhya Pradesh	STD 6	3.50	0.20	1.60	2.69
		ANC 10	0.00	0.30	0.12	0.25
16.	Maharashtra	STD 9	16.00	20.00	18.40	9.20
		ANC 14	2.00	2.10	1.12	1.38
17.	Mumbai	STD 3			33.33	21.06
		ANC 5			2.00	2.25
		IDU 1			23.68	41.37
		MSM 1			23.94	23.60
		CSW 1			58.67	52.26
18.	Manipur	IDU 3	70.70	48.80	64.34	56.26
		STD 2	4.15	12.00	11.60	10.50
		ANC 8	0.75	2.30	0.75	1.75
19.	Meghalaya	IDU 1	0.00	0.00	1.41	1.39
		STD 2	0.13	0.30	0.00	0.00
		ANC 2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
20.	Mizoram	IDU 1	1.00	1.50	9.61	2.00
		STD 2	1.49	0.76	2.00	2.20
		ANC 3	0.48	0.48	0.37	0.33
21.	Nagaland	IDU 2	13.20	7.60	7.03	5.50
		STD 1	11.10	4.40	6.90	7.40
		ANC 4	0.70	1.30	1.35	1.25
22.	Orissa	STD 7	2.86	1.20	2.60	0.80
		ANC 4	0.00	0.10	0.27	0.25
23.	Punjab	STD 3	0.00	2.00	0.80	1.61
		ANC 4	0.00	0.40	0.00	0.40
24.	Rajasthan	STD 6	5.20	3.20	2.84	4.00
		ANC 6	0.00	0.30	0.25	0.00
25.	Sikkim	STD 1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		ANC 2	0.13	0.10	0.00	0.00
26.	Tamil Nadu	STD 5	16.30	10.40	16.80	12.60
		ANC 10	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.13
		IDU 1			26.70	24.56
		MSM-1			4.00	2.40
27.	Tripura	STD 1	0.00	0.80	1.34	3.20
		ANC 1	—	—	—	0.25
		IDU 1	—	—	—	—
28.	Uttar Pradesh	STD 10	1.60	0.60	1.80	0.90
		ANC 11	0.24	0.00	0.12	0.00
29.	Uttaranchal	STD 4			—	0.40
		ANC 2			—	0.00
30.	West Bengal	STD 6	0.40	1.40	1.96	0.60
		ANC 8	0.62	0.10	0.50	0.13
		IDU 1			—	—
31.	A & N Islands	STD 1	1.20	0.40	1.20	1.20
		ANC 3	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.16

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
32.	Chandigarh	STD 2	2.95	1.80	3.35	3.78
		ANC 1	0.47	0.80	0.00	0.00
33.	D & N Haveli	STD -	0.00	0.00	—	—
		ANC 1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25
34.	Daman & Diu	STD -	0.00	0.00	—	—
		ANC 2	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.25
35.	Lakshdweep	STD - 1	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
		ANC 2	0.60	0.00	0.00	—
36.	Pondicherry	STD 3	7.20	5.80	4.10	2.0
		ANC 1	0.50	0.90	0.25	0.25

Note: 1. HIV Prevalence values in States with more than 3 sites are median values, while in States/UTs with 3 or less than 3 sites, the values are mean values.

2. Replaced HIV prevalence value to be used for estimation purposes is the average value of prevalence in 2000 and 2001. States with "0" prevalence have been replaced by mean of low prevalent States for STD and ANC as "1.60 for STD" and "0.50 for ANC".

3. Sites with 75% coverage of desired sample size (STD : 250 & ANC : 400) are included for analysis.

Annexure-II

Districts with high prevalence of HIV among STD, IDU and ANC attendees : State-wise 2001

S.No	Name of State/UT	Name of the district	
1	2	3	
1.	Andhra Pradesh (7)	Hyderabad	Chittoor
		Vishakhapatnam	Kurnool
		Guntur	Warrangal
		East Godavari	
2.	Goa (1)	South-Goa	
3.	Gujarat (3)	Ahmedabad	Baroda
		Surat	
4.	Karnataka (10)	Bangalore	Dakshin Kannada (Mangalore)
		Mysore	
		Dharwad (Hubli)	Udipi
		Bellary	Bijapur

1	2	3
	Belgaum	Shyamraj Nagar (Kollegal)
	Gulbarga	
5. Maharashtra (14)	Nagpur	Kolhapur
	Sangli	Nasik
	Pune	Satara
	Aurangabad	Solapur
	Chandrapur	Thane
	Latur	Mumbai
	Ratnagiri	Jaigaon
6. Manipur (4)	Imphal	Bishnupur
	Churachandpur	Thoubal
7. Nagaland (3)	Kohima	Mokok Chung
	Tuensang	
8. Tamil Nadu (7)	Madurai	Namakkal
	Trichy	Tirunelveli
	Salem	Chennai
	Coimbatore	

[Translation]

SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to thank hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare for taking concrete steps against AIDS. There are many aspects of the prevention and cure of AIDS in our country, the most important among them is to give adequate and correct information to the common man with regard to the infection and disease. Even the doctors and nurses in big cities and big hospitals continue to have misgivings and apprehensions about HIV and AIDS.

Newspaper reports from time to time have tended to indicate that mainly people migrating from rural to urban areas become victims of the disease, mainly out of their ignorance of some vital information about the disease. As per an advertisement by the Government, information is prevention.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask the question. Now we have very little time and replying to that may become difficult.

SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: I am coming to that. Low rate of literacy is a big problem. A large section of our population have to wander from one place to another in search of livelihood. There are more than 26.5 thousand Primary Health Centres in our country but even in those centres there is no dissemination of information regarding the disease. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether proper implementation of programme for the prevention of AIDS will be ensured through 36.5 thousand health sub-centres located in rural areas?

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, this is of course a very important question. Although we are having medicines to cure AIDS, preventive measures should be taken, for which awareness is a most important factor in the programme. As a matter of fact, we are spending Rs. 1,450 crore approximately including our own Budgetary support and aids obtained from foreign countries and organisations like WHO. Out of this amount, 20 per cent of the fund is being spent for creating awareness.

Regarding social stigma, it is true that whenever a person attacked by AIDS or HIV, the general apprehension in the mind of other people is that he should be isolated from the community. We have come to know that some of the State Government hospitals are having separate wards to treat AIDS patients like patients of leprosy, etc. So, we have given clear directions to the State Governments that there should be no isolation.

Regarding awareness, we are taking all care to ensure that awareness reaches the PHC level but at present the very important thing is at least in the district level we should have the testing facilities for what is called 'Sexually Transmitted Diseases' or STD where a person can go and check whether he is affected by HIV or not. It is true that it has not reached the district level but efforts are being taken by the Government, along with the State Governments, to ensure that it reaches the PHC level very soon.

[Translation]

SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Second supplementary to the hon. Minister is regarding the role of NACO (National AIDS Control Organisation) in control and cure of AIDS during last 15 years. I would like to have the information regarding various programmes of NACO and the places where they are being implemented. I would like to know the details of funds provided to it by the Government of India and international institutions.

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, we have established the National AIDS Control Organisation in the Ministry. A Secretary is being deputed to look after the organisation. It is a decentralised organisation have started their own societies and those societies are getting funds from the State Governments. The main activities of the NACO are peer based programmes targeting high risk groups like commercial sex workers, truck drivers, migrant population and injecting drug users, all of which may include heterosexual and homosexuals; targeted interventions to treat drug users; management of sexually transmitted infections; and establishment of safe blood banks. The blood banks are having a major role in the area of AIDS. Unless pure blood is going to be injected to patients or the voluntary test facility given by the NACO does well, we cannot reach the people or achieve the targets.

So, these areas are being taken care by the NACO be reach the target. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question was not answered by the hon'ble Minister...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister admitted that it is a very important question, you too have taken note of the feelings of the House, but if it is an important question, then the answer should also be commensurate to it. In the written reply, hon'ble Minister has spoken about three matters. First he has spoken about rate of growth, second is about the means of HIV and third relates to the expenditure which has gone up from Rs. 135 crore to Rs. 228 crore. In the end, he mentions that National AIDS Control Programme has been chalked out. It is a specific question.

[English]

There is no specific answer from the hon'ble Minister...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

I would like to point out three deficiencies in the answer. Firstly, hon'ble Minister said that it is 100 percent an awareness programme, but their target has not been mentioned.

[English]

What is the target of hundred per cent awareness.

Secondly, there is no effective integration.

[Translation]

Since a number of institutions are working on AIDS, the Union and State Governments, NGOs, many scientists and hospital, Research institutes, social workers are also working in this field.

[English]

But there is no effective integration.

[Translation]

Hon'ble Minister said that for examination purpose, a laboratory has been provided for in each district headquarters. Third deficiency in my opinion, is—

[English]

here is no rural exclusive plan and programme

[Translation]

If at all it is there, what is the status thereof?

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, as far as population affected by the HIV and AIDS is concerned, there are 3.97 million of people in the country who are affected by HIV and AIDS.

Sir, it is endless to submit before the House that HIV is one thing and AIDS is another thing. It is a declared full-blown disease. As observed by the NACO, AIDS-affected persons are only 13,500. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Sir, my supplementary has not been replied by the hon. Minister. The times is very short. I have only three questions. What is the target for hundred per cent awareness? What is the exclusive plan for rural areas; and there is no integration of all factors like the Union Government, State Government, NGOs, pharmaceutical companies, research institutes, socialists, etc. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Subodh Mohite, let the Ministry reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. RAJA: Now, the NACO project is going on and I had already stated about the allotment that has been made for it.

Apart from this, to create awareness, we have devised a National Blood Policy to achieve the zero level of new infections by 2007. No doubt, we are treating the existing cases and we are giving care and support for the existing cases, but our target is to achieve zero level of new infections by 2007, by devising a National Blood Policy and National AIDS Prevention and Control Policy.

Sir, as a matter of fact, we conducted a survey. The anguish and expressions made by the hon. Member are true. I want to react to them. We made a similar survey to find out as to how far the awareness has reached the public. We came to know that 76 per cent of the people know that the disease is being taken through sexual route; 72 per cent of the people know that it can be passed through blood transfusion; 54 per cent of mothers are well aware that not only by giving birth, even by breast-feeding also, the disease can go to the child; and 20.7 per cent of the people know about nexus between the opportunistic disease and AIDS. Tuberculosis is an opportunistic disease. Suppose, a person is being treated for TB and when HIV infection is inside the body, then

TB will welcome the disease immediately and give a rapid and fast growth. So, we conducted a survey about what are all the diseases, opportunistic, HIV and AIDS and how it can be cured in time. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Sir, there is no answer to my question. ...*(Interruptions)*

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Unani Medicines

*244. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received regarding poor quality of medicines of unani system procured in CGHS dispensaries/units in Delhi/New Delhi during the last three years;

(b) whether complaints have also been received about purchase of unani-medicines from the medical and para medical staff working in these dispensaries during the said period;

(c) if so, the number thereof;

(d) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry into the matter;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) the action taken against the officials found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (f) It has been decided to get the enquiry conducted by a Committee headed by Director General of Health Services with Joint Secretary (Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy) and Drug Controller General of India as Members. The Committee has been asked to submit its report within one month.

Investment in IT

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

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

(a) whether a high-powered Indian delegation visited Switzerland to attract investment in information technology sector; and

(b) if so, the details of the discussion held with the Swiss authorities and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. A high level official and business delegation went to Switzerland in June 2002 in connection with organisation of 'Destination India' event to create awareness about the good investment climate in the country and attracting foreign direct investment in various sectors of the economy including information technology sector.

(b) During the 'Destination India' event in Zurich, the presentations were made highlighting IT opportunities that India has to offer in the fields of IT outsourcing, opening of offshore development centres and the skills of IT professionals. It was also mentioned that grant of the visa should be on a priority basis for the IT workforce.

Family Welfare Centres

*246. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Family Welfare Centres functioning in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) the funds provided to the States during each of the last three years and the amount earmarked for the current year, State-wise;

(c) the targets fixed and achieved for Family Welfare programme during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check population growth in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) A state-wise statement-I giving the number of the Family Welfare Centres is enclosed.

(b) A statement-II showing the funds released to the States/UTs during last three years and the amount earmarked for the current year for Family Welfare Institutions is enclosed.

(c) Since April 1st, 1996, 'Target Free Approach (TFA)' has been adopted all over the India and focus laid on decentralized participatory planning based on Community Needs Assessment Approach (CNAA). Under this new approach, attention is being paid to enlarging areas to basic and essential family planning services and ensuring community participation in the implementation of the Family Welfare Programme at the grass-root level. Statements-III to VI giving achievements in respect of (a) Sterilization (b) IUD Insertion (c) Oral Pill use and (d) Condom used during last three years are enclosed.

(d) Some effective steps recently taken by the Government for checking population growth are as under:-

(i) In 2000, the National Population Policy (NPP) including specific goals to be achieved was launched envisaging population stabilization by 2045;

(ii) A National Commission of Population (NCP) on 11th May, 2000 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission as Vice Chairman to review, monitor and give directions for the implementation of the National Population policy;

(iii) State Governments have been advised to formulate State Population Policies with State specific strategies and also constitute State Population Commission under the chairmanship of Chief Minister.

(iv) To facilitate preparation of area specific programmes with special emphasis on the 8 low performing States, viz. Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Uttaranchal and Orissa, an Empowered Action group has been constituted in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(v) The National Population Stabilization Fund with Rs. One hundred crore as seed money, has been established to leverage sourcing of additional funds from private and corporate sectors for addressing infrastructure gaps and other local needs in low performing regions/ States.

(vi) For achieving the goal of Population Stabilization some of the initiatives taken by the Government are listed below:-

- National Maternity Benefit Scheme

- Community Incentive Scheme for Reward to Panchayats
- Provision of Referral Transport to Indigent Families for Obstetric emergencies
- Strengthening of Infrastructure Units - Revision of funding Norms for contingency, rent. etc.
- Social Marketing of Contraceptives
- Increasing compensation for Sterilization
- Increased Participation of men in Planned parenthood
- No Scalpel Vasectomy etc.
- Training of Dais (Traditional Birth attendants)
- Camps for Reproductive and Child Health Services
- Contractual appointment of ANMs, Staff Nurses, Laboratory Technicians, Anesthetists and Gynecologists, etc.

Statement-I

Sl.No.	State/UT	Services Delivery Infrastructure			
		Sub Centres	PHCs	CHCs	RFWCs
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10568	1386	219	420
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	273	65	20	0
3.	Assam	5109	610	100	146
4.	Bihar	10337	1648	101	399
5.	Chhattisgarh	3818	512	114	185
6.	Goa	172	19	5	13
7.	Gujarat	7274	1001	242	251
8.	Haryana	2299	401	64	93
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2069	302	65	77
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	1700	337	53	82
11.	Jharkhand	4462	561	47	188
12.	Karnataka	8143	1676	249	269
13.	Kerala	5094	944	105	163
14.	Madhya Pradesh	8129	1178	228	275
15.	Maharashtra	9725	1768	351	428
16.	Manipur	420	69	16	31
17.	Meghalaya	413	85	13	23
18.	Mizoram	346	58	9	14
19.	Nagaland	302	46	9	7

1	2	3	4	5	6
20.	Orissa	5927	1352	157	314
21.	Punjab	2852	484	105	129
22.	Rajasthan	9926	1674	263	232
23.	Sikkim	147	24	2	15
24.	Tamil Nadu	8682	1436	72	383
25.	Tripura	539	58	11	35
26.	Uttaranchal	1524	257	23	79
27.	Uttar Pradesh	18629	3551	287	828
28.	West Bengal	8126	1262	99	335
29.	A & N Islands	100	18	4	0
30.	Chandigarh	13	0	1	1
31.	D & N Haveli	36	6	1	0
32.	Daman & Diu	21	3	1	0
33.	Delhi	42	8	0	8
34.	Lakshadweep	14	4	3	0
35.	Pondicherry	80	39	4	12
All India		137311	22842	3043	5435

[Figures are Provisional]

Sl. No.	State/UT	Post Partum Centres		Health Posts	Urban Family Welfare Centres
		District Level	Subdistrict Level		
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	28	55	0	131
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	1	0	6
3.	Assam	11	30	0	10
4.	Bihar	28	34	0	26
5.	Chhattisgarh	7	13	16	8
6.	Goa	4	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	33	55	28	113
8.	Haryana	13	20	16	19
9.	Himachal Pradesh	11	22	0	89

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	11	6	0	12
11.	Jharkhand	9	20	0	16
12.	Karnataka	39	64	0	87
13.	Kerala	22	60	0	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	40	62	83	55
15.	Maharashtra	52	69	278	74
16.	Manipur	3	1	0	2
17.	Meghalaya	3	1	0	1
18.	Mizoram	2	4	0	1
19.	Nagaland	1	1	0	0
20.	Orissa	19	60	8	10
21.	Punjab	19	35	64	23
22.	Rajasthan	35	100	90	61
23.	Sikkim	1	2	0	1
24.	Tamil Nadu	32	87	100	65
25.	Tripura	1	3	0	9
26.	Uttaranchal	8	13	9	3
27.	Uttar Pradesh	64	134	141	78
28.	West Bengal	27	55	0	111
29.	A & N Islands	1	0	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	2	0	10	3
31.	D & N Haveli	0	0	0	0
32.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0
33.	Delhi	9	5	28	69
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	3	0	0	0
36.	Central Sector	12	0	0	0
All India		550	1012	871	1083

[Figures are Provisional]

#: Figures prior to reorganisation of States.

Statement-II**Grants-in-Aid Released during 1999-2000**

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Rural F.W. Service				Urban F.W. Service		
		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
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2700.00	2775.00	104.00	375.00	250.00	—	258.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	79.43	—	10.00	23.00	—	—
3.	Assam	1022.00	4089.00	38.00	255.00	28.00	—	115.00
4.	Bihar	3770.00	5500.00	31.29	348.00	105.00	—	335.00
5.	Goa	80.00	38.00	—	—	—	—	38.00
6.	Gujarat	1610.00	2690.00	9.01	375.00	293.00	100.00	280.00
7.	Haryana	590.00	892.28	0.81	138.00	40.00	44.00	95.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	490.00	656.22	10.85	152.00	85.00	—	85.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	520.00	702.51	—	42.00	18.00	—	93.00
10.	Karnataka	1730.00	2950.00	51.70	438.00	230.00	—	352.00
11.	Kerala	1040.00	2410.00	—	410.00	—	—	205.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2950.00	4040.00	92.36	512.00	170.00	300.00	365.00
13.	Maharashtra	2750.00	3860.00	112.19	470.00	170.00	1050.00	480.00
14.	Manipur	217.00	245.45	5.08	10.00	10.00	—	42.00
15.	Meghalaya	161.00	174.04	3.89	10.00	6.00	—	30.00
16.	Mizoram	98.00	78.54	1.60	40.00	6.00	—	20.00
17.	Nagaland	49.00	157.08	1.64	10.00	—	—	10.00
18.	Orissa	2010.00	2360.00	69.23	410.00	33.00	34.00	150.00
19.	Punjab	830.00	630.00	28.82	240.00	60.00	225.00	175.00
20.	Rajasthan	1480.00	3630.00	27.95	685.00	130.00	139.00	278.00
21.	Sikkim	105.00	86.00	0.71	20.00	6.00	—	10.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	2463.00	3440.00	—	595.00	100.00	390.00	325.00
23.	Tripura	245.00	341.00	5.51	30.00	20.00	—	16.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	5820.00	6890.45	271.33	1010.00	275.00	653.00	641.23
25.	West Bengal	2150.00	3605.00	126.90	375.00	312.00	—	312.00
Total - States		34880.00	52320.00	992.87	6980.00	2370.00	2935.00	4710.23

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
UTs with Legislature								
1.	Pondicherry	55.00	—	0.50	—	—	—	22.00
2.	Delhi	45.00	—	—	40.00	460.00	—	88.00
Outlays for UTs without Legislature								
1.	A & N Islands	—	59.00	0.45	—	—	—	11.80
2.	D & N Haveli	—	16.00	0.05	—	—	—	—
3.	Chandigarh	20.00	9.00	1.10	—	35.00	—	37.20
4.	Lakshadweep	—	11.50	0.05	—	—	—	—
5.	Daman & Diu	—	10.00	—	—	—	—	—
Total - UTs		120.00	105.50	2.15	40.00	495.00	—	159.00
Grand Total		35000.00	52425.50	995.02	7000.00	2865.00	2935.00	4869.23

Grants-in-Aid Released during 2000-2001

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Rural F.W. Service				Urban F.W. Service		
		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
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2693.00	3000.00	52.00	365.00	256.00	—	250.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	85.00	—	14.00	35.00	—	—
3.	Assam	1238.00	3020.00	19.00	365.00	43.00	—	165.00
4.	Bihar	3765.00	6000.00	15.65	300.00	108.00	—	280.00
5.	Goa	84.00	50.00	—	—	—	—	35.00
6.	Gujarat	1610.00	2900.00	4.50	360.00	300.00	103.00	265.00
7.	Haryana	598.00	980.00	0.41	130.00	41.00	45.00	90.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	495.00	750.00	5.42	147.00	87.00	—	80.00
9.	Karnataka	1725.00	2575.00	25.85	420.00	236.00	—	341.00
10.	Kerala	1046.00	2530.00	—	395.00	—	—	195.00
11.	Madhya Pradesh	2948.00	4300.00	45.74	512.00	174.00	310.00	365.00
12.	Maharashtra	2744.00	4025.00	56.10	455.00	174.00	1085.00	460.00
13.	Manipur	263.00	185.00	2.54	14.00	15.00	—	60.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
14.	Meghalaya	196.00	195.00	1.95	14.00	9.00	—	44.00
15.	Mizoram	118.00	75.00	0.80	58.00	9.00	—	30.00
16.	Nagaland	59.00	140.00	0.82	14.00	—	—	14.00
17.	Orissa	2014.00	2550.00	34.61	410.00	29.00	35.00	150.00
18.	Punjab	826.00	700.00	14.41	235.00	62.00	234.00	168.00
19.	Rajasthan	1488.00	4500.00	13.98	685.00	133.00	144.00	278.00
20.	Tamil Nadu	2466.00	3600.00	—	575.00	103.00	404.00	314.00
21.	Tripura	298.00	310.00	2.76	43.00	30.00	—	23.00
22.	Uttar Pradesh	5825.00	8540.00	135.66	1010.00	282.00	675.00	631.00
23.	West Bengal	2147.00	4300.00	63.45	363.00	321.00	—	310.00
Total		34646.00	55310.00	495.65	6884.00	2447.00	3035.00	4548.00
24.	Jammu & Kashmir	526.00	850.00	—	38.00	19.00	—	88.00
25.	Sikkim	128.00	90.00	0.35	28.00	9.00	—	14.00
Total (J&K+Sikkim)		654.00	940.00	0.35	66.00	28.00	—	102.00
Total - All States		35300.00	56250.00	496.00	6950.00	2475.00	3035.00	4650.00
UTs with Legislature								
1.	Delhi	68.00	21.00	—	50.00	300.00	150.00	112.00
2.	Pondicherry	102.00	29.00	0.25	—	—	—	28.00
UTs without Legislature								
1.	A & N Islands	—	105.50	0.40	—	—	—	7.50
2.	D & N Haveli	—	12.30	0.05	—	—	—	—
3.	Chandigarh	24.60	9.00	0.50	—	35.00	—	41.70
4.	Lakshadweep	—	10.50	0.50	—	—	—	—
5.	Daman & Diu	—	13.50	—	—	—	—	—
Total - UTs		194.60	200.80	1.25	50.00	335.00	150.00	189.20
Grand Total		35494.60	56450.80	497.25	7000.00	2810.00	3185.00	4839.20

Grants-in-Aid Released during 2001-2002 (Summary)

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Rural F.W. Service				Urban F.W. Service		
		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
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3135.00	3450.00	49.42	430.00	302.00	—	311.00
2.	Bihar	2981.00	3725.00	10.12	222.89	85.15	—	258.59
3.	Chhattisgarh	1381.00	1280.00	15.20	104.87	29.55	72.47	67.84
4.	Goa	95.00	55.00	—	—	—	—	44.00
5.	Gujarat	1875.00	3350.00	4.29	425.00	354.00	114.54	330.00
6.	Haryana	693.00	1110.00	0.39	153.00	48.00	50.04	112.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	574.00	815.00	5.15	173.00	102.00	—	100.00
8.	Jharkhand	1404.00	3155.00	4.75	131.11	42.85	—	89.41
9.	Karnataka	2008.00	3650.00	24.57	495.00	280.00	—	425.00
10.	Kerala	1216.00	3000.00	—	465.00	—	—	242.00
11.	Madhya Pradesh	2054.00	2550.00	28.68	500.13	175.45	272.26	387.16
12.	Maharashtra	3196.00	4800.00	53.32	536.00	205.00	1206.55	572.00
13.	Orissa	2344.00	2935.00	32.89	484.00	34.00	38.93	187.00
14.	Punjab	962.00	785.00	13.70	280.00	74.00	260.21	210.00
15.	Rajasthan	1733.00	4520.00	13.29	808.00	157.00	160.13	345.00
16.	Tamil Nadu	2860.00	4280.00	—	678.00	122.00	449.25	390.00
17.	Uttar Pradesh	6185.00	5852.00	109.92	1085.67	320.58	706.82	717.93
18.	Uttaranchal	590.00	1463.00	19.01	105.33	12.42	43.80	67.07
19.	West Bengal	2502.00	4485.00	60.30	428.00	379.00	—	385.00
	Total (Other States)	37788.00	55260.00	445.00	7505.00	2723.00	3375.00	5241.00
20.	Jammu & Kashmir	612.00	870.00	—	45.00	22.00	—	109.00
	Total (J&K)	612.00	870.00	—	45.00	22.00	—	109.00
	Total (States-NER)	38400.00	56130.00	445.00	7550.00	2745.00	3375.00	5350.00
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	185.00	—	22.00	82.00	—	—
2.	Assam	2315.00	4700.00	19.00	564.00	100.00	—	306.00
3.	Manipur	492.00	390.00	2.54	22.00	35.00	—	112.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
4.	Meghalaya	365.00	300.00	1.95	22.00	21.00	—	82.00
5.	Mizoram	223.00	185.00	0.80	90.00	21.00	—	55.00
6.	Nagaland	112.00	285.00	0.82	22.00	—	—	26.00
7.	Tripura	555.00	510.00	2.76	64.00	70.00	—	43.00
	Total (NE States)	4062.00	6555.00	27.87	806.00	329.00	—	624.00
8.	Sikkim	238.00	195.00	0.35	44.00	21.00	—	26.00
	Total (Sikkim)	238.00	195.00	0.35	44.00	21.00	—	26.00
	Total (NE+Sikkim)	4300.00	6750.00	28.22	850.00	350.00	—	650.00
	Total - All States	42700.00	62880.00	473.22	8400.00	3095.00	3375.00	6000.00
UTs with Legislature								
1.	Delhi	80.00	30.00	—	100.00	350.00	200.00	180.00
2.	Pondicherry	120.00	40.00	0.26	—	—	—	40.00
UTs without Legislature								
1.	A & N Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Total - UTs	200.00	70.00	0.26	100.00	350.00	200.00	200.00
	Ministry of Defence	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Ministry of Railways	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Total - Other Ministries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Grand Total	42900.00	62950.00	473.48	8500.00	3445.00	3575.00	6200.00

Grants/Releases/2001-2002/Summary

Allocation of Grants-in-Aid during 2002-2003

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	Sub-Centres	Urban F.W. Service	
			Urban F.W. Centres	Urban health Posts
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9940.00	580.00	—
2.	Bihar	9720.00	150.00	—

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Chhattiegarh	3592.00	52.00	—
4.	Goa	160.00	—	—
5.	Gujarat	6844.00	600.00	160.00
6.	Haryana	2164.00	70.00	70.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1948.00	170.00	—
8.	Jharkhand	4196.00	86.00	108.00
9.	Karnataka	7680.00	460.00	—
10.	Kerala	4792.00	—	—
11.	Madhya Pradesh	7648.00	290.00	356.00
12.	Maharashtra	9148.00	345.00	1620.00
13.	Orissa	5576.00	59.00	52.00
14.	Punjab	2680.00	120.00	348.00
15.	Rajasthan	9336.00	270.00	220.00
16.	Tamil Nadu	8164.00	200.00	568.00
17.	Uttar Pradesh	17520.00	519.00	912.00
18.	Uttaranchal	1432.00	21.00	76.00
19.	West Bengal	7644.00	640.00	—
	Total (Other States)	120184.00	4632.00	4490.00
20.	Jammu & Kashmir	1600.00	35.00	—
	Total (J&K)	1600.00	35.00	—
	Total (States-NER)	1201784.00	4667.00	4490.00
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	650	44.00	—
2.	Assam	12260	56.00	—
3.	Manipur	1005	16.00	—
4.	Meghalaya	990	8.00	—
5.	Mizoram	830	8.00	—
6.	Nagaland	720	—	—
7.	Tripura	1290	36.00	—
	Total (NE States)	17745.00	168.00	—
8.	Sikkim	345	8.00	—
	Total (Sikkim)	345.00	8.00	—
	Total (NE+Sikkim)	18090.00	176.00	—
	Total - All States	139874.00	4843.00	4490.00

1	2	3	4	5
UTs with Legislature				
1.	Delhi	52.00	496.00	201.60
2.	Pondicherry	100.00	—	—
UTs without Legislature				
1.	A & N Islands	123.00	—	—
2.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	44.00	—	—
3.	Chandigarh	16.00	20.00	22.00
4.	Lakshadweep	17.00	—	—
5.	Daman & Diu	26.00	—	—
Total - UTs		378.00	516.00	223.60
Grand Total		140252.00	5359.00	4713.60

*The fund for Post partum centres and rural family welfare centres have been transferred to states/UTs w.e.f. 1.4.2002

Statement-III

Statewise Achievements of Sterilisations

Sl. No.	State/UT/Agency	1999-2000	2000-01*	2001-02*
1	2	3	4	5
I. Major States (Population 1 crore or more)				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	792,108	814,335	808,063
2.	Assam	25,880	13,865	26,413
3.	Bihar	215,857	107,504	152,219
4.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	96,364
5.	Gujarat	260,223	253,901	254,903
6.	Haryana	96,443	96,755	87,959
7.	Jharkhand	—	—	NR
8.	Karnataka	414,732	412,726	399,142
9.	Kerala	154,168	151,043	150,231
10.	Madhya Pradesh	407,658	431,871	327,999
11.	Maharashtra	558,176	677,071	696,372

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Orissa	110,013	85,391	91,474
13.	Punjab	126,061	114,198	109,964
14.	Rajasthan	226,272	267,390	251,711
15.	Tamil Nadu	374,195	375,654	390,195
16.	Uttar Pradesh	377,746	391,684	418,453
17.	West Bengal	289,076	313,817	282,425
II. Smaller States/UTs				
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	1,596	1,755	1,908
2.	Delhi	42,241	36,194	39,065
3.	Goa	5,101	5,122	4,969
4.	Himachal Pradesh	31,783	34,398	34,508
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	11,040	14,863	15,646
6.	Manipur	1,321	1,304	849
7.	Meghalaya	1,710	2,213	2,294
8.	Mizoram	3,238	4,586	2,437
9.	Nagaland	1,233	2,575	616
10.	Sikkim	1,348	965	830
11.	Tripura	8,165	7,476	6,094
12.	<i>Uttaranchal</i>	—	—	28,268
13.	A & N Islands	1,943	1,936	2,127
14.	Chandigarh	3,474	2,747	3,003
15.	D & N Haveli	704	710	814
16.	Daman & Diu	458	550	588
17.	Lakshadweep	38	52	33
18.	Pondicherry	11,617	11,379	12,811
III. Other Agencies				
1.	M/O Defence	17,554	16,379	13,695
2.	M/O Railways	22,294	14,809	10,440
All India		4,595,466	4,667,218	4,726,882

*Figures are provisional

Statement-IV**Statewise Achievements of IDU Insertions**

Sl. No.	State/UT/ Agency	1999-2000	2000-01*	2001-02*
1	2	3	4	5
I.	Major States (Population 1 crore or more)			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	296,921	282,257	280,492
2.	Assam	39,198	39,275	38,632
3.	Bihar	227,067	132,285	145,310
4.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	104,643
5.	Gujarat	414,350	410,900	402,358
6.	Haryana	162,763	163,014	159,220
7.	Jharkhand	—	—	NR
8.	Karnataka	371,373	349,514	322,863
9.	Kerala	83,143	79,650	73,438
10.	Madhya Pradesh	579,555	548,491	465,903
11.	Maharashtra	411,008	433,808	460,117
12.	Orissa	190,971	189,315	171,173
13.	Punjab	394,631	374,589	351,922
14.	Rajasthan	238,720	245,897	238,235
15.	Tamil Nadu	440,216	397,130	388,568
16.	Uttar Pradesh	2,099,609	2,130,333	2,256,101
17.	West Bengal	86,918	87,736	74,790
II.	Smaller States/UTs			
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	2,554	2,398	2,663
2.	Delhi	61,807	64,863	63,421
3.	Goa	2,950	2,797	2,701
4.	Himachal Pradesh	34,752	35,088	32,100
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	13,537	12,990	18,839
6.	Manipur	6,625	4,334	6,315
7.	Meghalaya	2,846	2,808	2,407
8.	Mizoram	1,721	2,480	2,047

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Nagaland	2,011	1,660	2,267
10.	Sikkim	1,175	1,091	1,098
11.	Tripura	4,134	4,407	4,097
12.	Uttaranchal	—	—	105,088
13.	A & N Islands	924	1,139	1,127
14.	Chandigarh	5,267	5,340	4,874
15.	D & N Haveli	299	347	276
16.	Daman & Diu	241	297	291
17.	Lakshadweep	52	33	40
18.	Pondicherry	4,142	4,553	4,137
III. Other Agencies				
1.	M/O Defence	7,923	6,671	6,585
2.	M/O Railways	10,471	9,237	8,263
All India		6,199,845	6,026,506	6,202,399

*Figures are provisional

Statement-V*Statewise Achievements of Oral Pill Users*

Sl. No.	State/UT/ Agency	1999-2000	2000-01*	2001-02*
1	2	3	4	5
I. Major States (Population 1 crore or more)				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	255,618	248,633	241,776
2.	Assam	26,149	28,093	20,468
3.	Bihar	88,365	58,036	84,105
4.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	170,433
5.	Gujarat	177,125	178,552	187,940
6.	Haryana	65,175	68,198	68,064
7.	Jharkhand	—	—	NR
8.	Karnataka	148,828	149,696	158,033
9.	Kerala	30,046	30,795	26,811

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Madhya Pradesh	623,084	542,874	520,999
11.	Maharashtra	360,257	332,128	338,523
12.	Orissa	117,174	126,440	128,392
13.	Punjab	115,009	120,997	138,269
14.	Rajasthan	426,787	479,310	533,251
15.	Tamil Nadu	205,160	200,516	191,222
16.	Uttar Pradesh	836,333	887,082	816,165
17.	West Bengal	330,111	386,724	394,167
II. Smaller States/UTs				
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	2,098	1,900	1,589
2.	Delhi	6,648	13,772	16,299
3.	Goa	268	1,790	1,776
4.	Himachal Pradesh	24,785	26,505	22,899
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	5,269	4,696	7,129
6.	Manipur	1,447	639	824
7.	Meghalaya	1,718	2,780	2,873
8.	Mizoram	2,232	1,624	2,270
9.	Nagaland	468	256	1,564
10.	Sikkim	2,349	2,543	3,407
11.	Tripura	21,230	18,336	32,866
12.	Uttaranchal	—	—	46,384
13.	A & N Islands	633	911	1,045
14.	Chandigarh	297	413	579
15.	D & N Haveli	90	41	157
16.	Daman & Diu	248	238	341
17.	Lakshadweep	100	92	82
18.	Pondicherry	1,143	1,340	1,559
III. Other Agencies				
1.	M/O Defence	3,748	3,877	3,597
2.	M/O Railways	4,321	4,531	4,496
3.	Comm. Distn.	3,861,215	3,631,749	3,304,596
All India		7,747,528	7,556,107	7,474,950

*Figures are provisional

Statement-VI**Statewise Achievements of Condom Users**

Sl. No.	State/UT/ Agency	1999-2000	2000-01*	2001-02*
1	2	3	4	5
I. Major States (Population 1 crore or more)				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	564,766	602,018	543,403
2.	Assam	30,829	33,310	25,944
3.	Bihar	139,286	45,146	63,144
4.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	284,539
5.	Gujarat	883,545	903,936	893,049
6.	Haryana	357,862	334,367	277,838
7.	Jharkhand	—	—	NR
8.	Karnataka	271,065	276,117	277,838
9.	Kerala	142,869	127,281	101,540
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1,404,116	1,380,883	1,239,408
11.	Maharashtra	511,429	455,040	410,223
12.	Orissa	278,709	284,775	261,907
13.	Punjab	412,890	397,158	447,533
14.	Rajasthan	963,803	1,035,234	1,056,778
15.	Tamil Nadu	274,730	246,263	230,250
16.	Uttar Pradesh	1,871,433	1,876,703	1,568,740
17.	West Bengal	349,256	393,941	357,869
II. Smaller States/UTs				
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	1,370	1,270	953
2.	Delhi	189,351	174,308	182,407
3.	Goa	180	1,324	1,242
4.	Himachal Pradesh	68,108	69,127	68,958
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	12,278	11,804	12,524
6.	Manipur	5,657	3,735	2,708
7.	Meghalaya	191	587	1,176
8.	Mizoram	1,496	1,633	1,355

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Nagaland	105	42	215
10.	Sikkim	1,367	629	1,318
11.	Tripura	17,633	10,800	16,614
12.	Uttaranchal	—	—	74,729
13.	A & N Islands	1,995	1,518	1,561
14.	Chandigarh	6,833	11,274	12,129
15.	D & N Haveli	9	2	9
16.	Daman & Diu	1,151	1,154	1,229
17.	Lakshadweep	435	462	445
18.	Pondicherry	8,682	9,758	11,312
III. Other Agencies				
1.	M/O Defence	27,379	21,567	20,711
2.	M/O Railways	56,301	38,404	32,651
3.	Comm. Distrn.	9,278,472	9,298,472	6,020,694
All India		18,135,491	18,050,042	14,568,929

*Figures are provisional

Central Assistance to States

*247. SHRI B.V.N. REDDY:
SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central assistance provided for various development projects in various States particularly in Bihar remained un-utilised during the last financial year;

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

(c) if so, whether unutilised fund have been allotted again in the current financial year; and

(d) the additional funds proposed to be provided to bring Bihar State at the National level in all fields?

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) Central Assistance given to the States comprises (i) Normal Central Assistance, (ii) Additional Central Assistance for Externally Aided Projects, and (iii) Additional Central Assistance for specific programmes, projects and areas. Non-utilisation of central assistance is applicable to the third category of Central Assistance. Many states including Bihar could not utilise one-time additional central assistance provided for specific development projects, programmes and areas during the last financial year.

(b) The main reasons for non-utilisation of programme and project specific central assistance are procedural and implementation constraints usually at State level. Statement-I showing state-wise details of one-time Additional Central Assistance not utilised during the last financial year including those not utilised by Bihar is enclosed.

(c) Programme and Project specific Central Assistance sanctioned but not fully or partially utilised are re-validated for use during the succeeding year if the States concerned provide sufficient justification for revalidation. Statement-II showing list of the Additional Central Assistance sanctioned during last year and revalidated for use during 2002-03 is enclosed.

(d) During the current year 2002-03, Additional Central Assistance for specific projects and programmes to the tune of Rs. 796 crores would be provided for Bihar state in addition to Normal Central Assistance of Rs. 1353.74 crores and Additional Central for Externally Aided Projects of Rs. 51.14 crore. Statement-III showing details of central assistance provided to Bihar during the year 2002-03 is enclosed.

Statement-I

List of Project specific—One Time Additional Central Assistance not utilised by States during 2001-02

(Rs. Crore)

Sl.No.	State/UTs	Name of the Scheme	Amount
1	2	3	4
1.	Assam	(i) For Protection of Dainigaon Hatisal area from erosion or river Brahmaputra to project Jorhat Town	4.00
		(ii) For A/E measures including widening of Dikshow bund L/B at different reaches from Namdang outfall to Dikowmukh	1.00
		(iii) For R/S to B/dyke from Khutiaputa check bound to N.R. dyke Ph-I	2.00
		(iv) For Strengthening of Dhubri town work from Siva Mandir to Sikh Temple, Stone Spur No. 3 & 7 including construction of revetment and apron in between timber dampener no 2 & 5 for a reach of 280 m.	1.00
		(v) For R/S Bhogdoi L/B from J.B. Road to Chengellati including A/E works.	1.00
		(vi) For Protection of Katlichara Bazar from the river Katakhal on its L/B (Ch. 2590 m to 3060 m.)	1.00
		Total Unutilised	10.00
		Out of Total Sanctioned	80.50
		%age utilisation	87.58
2.	Bihar	1. Million Shallow Tubewell Scheme	20.00
		2. Construction of Chappra Engineering College Building and opening of an Extension Centre of Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra (Ranchi) at Patna	9.00
		3. Re-establishment of Irrigation Capacity and Execution of Pending Projects	7.00
		4. Extension of pending Bateshwar Ganga Pump River Scheme.	0.80
		5. Integrated Waste Resources Development Prog.	5.00

1	2	3	4
		6. Joint Forest Management under Food for Work Programme	5.00
		7. Improvement of Patna Medical College	7.00
		8. Cleanliness, Sewerage, Solid Waste Management and Addl. Health related facilities, Patna, Chappra & Gaya	7.00
		9. Development of SCs/STs	3.50
		Total Unutilised	64.40
		Out of Total Sanctioned	100.00
		%age utilisation	37.48
3.	Kerala	For Kerala Institute of Local Administration	1.00
		Total Unutilised	1.00
		Out of Total Sanctioned	52.00
		%age utilisation	98.08
4.	Maharashtra	Preparation of State Human Development Report	0.24
		Total Unutilised	0.24
		Out of Total Sanctioned	50.28
		%age utilisation	99.52
5.	Uttar Pradesh	For Assistance to Gaushalas through Gausala Ayog	2.50
		(i) For Kanpur Goushala Society	0.50
		(ii) For preparation of Bridge over Haha Nala on Ghazipur Sonadi Road, Mau Janpad	0.50
		(iii) For preparation of Bridge over Kondhari Ghat Rapti River, Janpad Bakrampur	0.60
		(iv) For preparation of Bridge on Dhobi Ghat of Ishan River, Gyr Sausang likha Road, Kannoj Janpad	0.90
		(v) For Bridge on Barolia, Prithviganj	0.10
		(vi) For Bridge on Dhala River	0.40
		(vii) For Bridge on Saryu River at Chistighat	0.30
		(viii) For completion of Taramandal in Lucknow	2.06
		Total Unutilised	7.86
		Out of Total Sanctioned	252.70
		%age utilisation	96.89

1	2	3	4
6.	Delhi	For Value Oriented Education & Personality Development to be implemented through Ramakrishna Mission in New Delhi	2.00
		Total Unutilised	2.00
		Out of Total Sanctioned	2.00
		%age utilisation	0.00

Statement-II

List of project specific—Additional Central Assistance sanctioned during 2001-02 and Revalidated for use during 2002-03

(Rs. Crore)				
Sl. No.	State/UTs	Date of Revalidation	Name of the Scheme	Amount
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Assam	27.05.2002	(i) For Protection of Dainigaon Hatisal area from erosion or river Brahmaputra to protect Jorhat Town	4.00
			(ii) For A/E measures including widening of Dikshow bund L/B at differnt reaches from Namdang outfall to Dikowmukh	1.00
			(iii) For R/S to B/dyke from Khutiaputa check bund to N.R. dyke Ph-I	2.00
			(iv) For Strengthening of Dhubri town work from Siva Mandir to Sikh Temple, Stone Spur No. 3 & 7 including construction of revetment and apron in between timber dampener on 2 & 5 for a reach of 280 m.	1.00
			(v) For R/S Bhogdoi L/B from J.B. Road to Chengeliati including A/E works.	1.00
			(vi) For Protection of Katlichara Bazar from the river Katakhal on its L/B (Ch. 2590 m. to 3060 m.)	1.00
2.	Bihar	20.06.2002	Irrigation	32.90
			Education	16.00
			Environemnt & Forests	5.00
			Urban Development	7.00
			Social Welfare	3.50

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Kerala	08.05.2002	For Kerala Institute of Local Administration	1.00
4.	Maharashtra	21.05.2002	Preparation of State Human Development Report	0.24
5.	Uttar Pradesh	13.06.2002	For Assistance to Gaushalas through Gausala Ayog	2.50
		10.07.2002	(i) For Kanpur Goushala Society	0.50
			(ii) For preparation of Bridge over Haha Nala on Ghazipur Sonadi Road, Mau Janpad	0.50
			(iii) For preparation of Bridge over Kondhari Ghat Rapti River, Janpad Balrampur	0.60
			(iv) For preparation of Bridge on Dhobi Ghat of Ishan Ruver, Gyr Sausang Ikha Road, KannoJ Janpad	0.90
			(v) For Bridge on Barolia, Prithviganj	0.10
			(vi) For Bridge on Dhala River	0.40
			(vii) For Bridge on Saryu River at Chistighat	0.30
			(viii) For completion of Taramandal in Lucknow	2.06
6.	Delhi	02.05.2002	For Value Oriented Education & Personality Development to be implemented through Ramakrishna Mission in New Delhi	2.00

Statement-III*Central Assistance provided to Bihar in Annual Plan 2002-03*

	CENTRAL ASSISTANCE	2200.88
1.	Normal Central Assistance	1353.74
2.	A.C.A. for Externally Aided Projects	51.14
3.	Others	796.00
● Others include in Rs. crore		
i.	Accelerated Power Development & Reforms Programme	138.13
ii.	Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP)	150.00
iii.	Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY)—Other than Rural Roads	241.73
iv.	Roads & Bridges/State Highways	33.90
v.	National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)	62.27
vi.	Rural Electrification	23.00
vii.	Grants-in-Aid under Article 275 (1)	2.09
viii.	Tribal Sub-Plan	5.57
ix.	Urban Infrastructure	15.20
x.	Slum Development	16.83
xi.	Border Area Development Programme (BADP)	7.28
xii.	One time ACA for special priority schemes	100.00
(Details to be furnished by Bihar Government to Planning Commission)		

Vaccine for Rabies

*248. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that most of the vaccines used in the country for rabies and typhoid are outdated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Chloramphenicol being given to patients, has been banned in the developed countries for causing cancer; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (d) To prevent Rabies, two types of vaccines namely Neural Tissue Vaccine (NTV) and Tissue Culture Anti Rabies Vaccine (TCARV) are being produced in the country. In view of the WHO's recommendations to prefer the use of TCARV, a decision has been taken to phase out NTV gradually.

There are three types of typhoid vaccines namely Whole Cell Killed Typhoid Vaccine (conventional typhoid vaccine), Ty. 21a Typhoid Vaccine and Vi-Polysaccharide Typhoid Vaccine. The production of Whole Cell Killed Typhoid Vaccine, which was stopped for some time, has been permitted to CRI, Kasauli and Haffkine Bio-Pharmaceutical Corporation, Mumbai for its limited requirement to the Defence personnel.

Neural Tissue Vaccines and Whole Cell Killed Typhoid Vaccines are officially included in the Indian Pharmacopoeia.

There is no report of banning of Chloramphenicol in developed countries. Chloramphenicol and its various dosage forms like suspension, injection, eye drops and capsules are permitted to be used in the country.

WLL Services

*249. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new WLL services is actually well beyond the reach of the common man;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to provide the benefits of this new service to all the consumers/subscribers?

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) On 4th July, 2002, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has removed the floor rental of Rs. 450 per month and has brought down the ceiling rental from Rs. 550 per month to Rs. 200 per month. The incoming calls are free and outgoing calls are charged at a rate of Rs. 1.20 per three minutes.

Software Technology Parks

*250. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Software Technology Parks of India, State-wise with the quantum of investment;

(b) the number of software units registered with these parks;

(c) whether the global recession in the software industry has affected these parks and units; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to promote software industry?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) was set up as an autonomous society under the Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Government of India in 1991 with an objective to implement the STP Scheme. STP has so far set up 35 centres in various States in the country. The detailed list is enclosed as Statement-I. The cumulative investment in 35 STPI centres is around Rs. 86.8 crores (upto March, 2002). The number of software units registered under STPI Scheme upto March 2002 is 7202.

(c) In spite of global recession, software exports from STP units have grown by 47% during 2001-02 over the year 2000-01.

(d) Steps taken to promote Software industry are enclosed as Statement-II.

Statement-I

Sl.No.	STPI Centres	States
1	2	3
1.	Bangalore	Karnataka
2.	Manipal	Karnataka
3.	Mysore	Karnataka
4.	Mangalore	Karnataka
5.	Hubli	Karnataka
6.	Bhubaneswar	Orissa
7.	Rourkela	Orissa
8.	Pune	Maharashtra
9.	Navi Mumbai	Maharashtra
10.	Aurangabad	Maharashtra
11.	Nagpur	Maharashtra
12.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
13.	Vizag	Andhra Pradesh
14.	Vijayawada	Andhra Pradesh
15.	Warangal	Andhra Pradesh
16.	Thirupati	Andhra Pradesh
17.	Nodia	Uttar Pradesh
18.	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh
19.	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh
20.	Dehradun	Uttaranchal
21.	Gandhinagar	Gujarat
22.	Thiruvananthapuram	Kerala
23.	Chennai	Tamilnadu
24.	Coimbatore	Tamilnadu
25.	Trichy	Tamilnadu
26.	Madurai	Tamilnadu

1	2	3
27.	Mohali	Punjab
28.	Jaipur	Rajasthan
29.	Guwahati	Assam
30.	Kolkata	West Bengal
31.	Indore	Madhya Pradesh
32.	Srinagar	Jammu & Kashmir
33.	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh
34.	Bhilai	Chhattisgarh
35.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry

Statement-II

Steps taken by the Government to promote the Software Sector

1. Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme (EPCG) has been rationalized and extended uniformly to all sectors without any threshold limit on payment of 5% duty.
2. Approvals for all foreign direct investment proposals relating to the Information Technology sector, with the exception of Business-to-consumer (B2C) commercial under the automatic route.
3. Software Technology Park (STP) Scheme is implemented under the aegis of the Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, through a single window mechanism of the Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee (IMSC).
4. DTA access upto 50% of the FOB value of export is permitted for software units under EOU/EPZ/STP schemes.
5. Accelerated depreciation norms applicable to computers and computer peripherals for units under Export Oriented schemes (EOU/EPZ/EHTP/STP). These shall stand depreciated to overall limit of 90% over a period of 3 years.
6. The Depreciation of Computers is allowed @ 60%.
7. In the Budget 2002-03, customs duty has been reduced on stepper motors for computers/printers

from 5% to 0%, floppy diskette and unrecorded magnetic tape for 15% to 10% and on ink cartridges/ribbon assembly/ribbon gear assembly/ribbon gear carriage for use in printers for computers from 25% to 5%. Customs duty Computers snap Peripherals continues to be @ 15% and all storage devices, integrated circuits, microprocessors, data display tubes and deflection components colour monitors continue at 0%. Customs duty on Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items of WTO (IT and Telecom products) continues @ 15%.

8. Information Technology Software is exempted from Customs and Excise Duty.
9. Second hand capital goods upto 10 years are freely importable.
10. EOU/EPZ/STP units are eligible for Income Tax benefit on export profits, upto 2010, in terms of Sections 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act.
11. Exemption of withholding tax on interest on External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) is available to the IT sector.
12. Definition of Computer Software, as in Section 80 HHE of the Income Tax Act covers transmission of data.
13. Benefit of Section 80 HHE is available to supporting software developers.
14. IT Enabled Services are eligible for Income Tax benefit under Sections 10A, 10B and 80 HHE of the Income Tax Act.
15. Threshold limit for obtaining 'Export House' status reduced to Rs. 5 crores from Rs. 15 crores for Small Scale Industry, tiny sector, cottage sector, units located in North East States/Sikkim/J&K; exporters exporting to countries in Latin America/CIS/Sub Sahara Africa and units having ISO 9000 (Seines) status. The status holders are eligible for the following new/special facilities:
 - 100% retention of foreign exchange in Exchange Earners' Foreign Currency (EEFC) account;
 - Enhancement in normal repatriation period from 180 days to 360 days.
16. The donation of computers, imported duty free by EOU/EPZ/STP/EHTP units to recognised non-commercial educational institutions, registered charitable hospitals, public libraries, public funded research and development establishments, etc., two years after their use by the said units is permitted.
17. The second-hand computers and computer peripherals donated by an outside donor to Government schools and recognised schools run on non-commercial basis by an organisation are exempted from customs duties.
18. Income by way of dividends or long-term capital gains of a Venture Capital Fund or Venture Capital company from investment made by way of equity shares in a Venture Capital Undertaking, which has been expanded to include the Software and IT sectors, will henceforth not be included in computing the total income.
19. To give thrust to Venture Capital finance, SEBI has been made the single point nodal agency for registration and regulation of both domestic and overseas venture capital funds.
20. There will be no tax on distributed or undistributed income of Venture Capital Funds. The income distributed by VCFs will only be taxed in the hands of investor at the rates applicable to the nature of the income. VCFs will continue to be eligible for exemption even if the shares of the VC undertaking in which the VCFs have made the initial investment are subsequently listed in a recognised stock exchange in India.
21. Under policy on portfolio investment, Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) are permitted to invest in a company upto an aggregate of 24% of equity shares, extendible upto 40% subject to approvals. This limit was raised from 40% to 49% in the Budget 2001-02.
22. Tax holiday under provisions of Section 80-IA (Infrastructure Status) has been extended to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and Broadband Network providers.
23. Two-way fungibility has been permitted for ADRs/GDRs. Local shares can be reconverted into ADRs/GDRs, subject to sectoral caps.
24. Indian Companies wishing to invest abroad may now invest upto US\$ 100 Million on an annual basis through automatic route without being subject to the three years profitability condition, up from existing limit of US\$ 50 million (Budget announcement 2002-03).

25. Indian Companies making overseas investment in joint ventures abroad by market purchases may now do so without prior approval upto 50% of their net worth, up from existing limit of 25% (Budget announcement 2002-03).
26. To induce more investment for-R&D activities, a weighted deduction of 125% on the sums paid to any university, college or an institution or a Scientific research association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research is available.
27. Information Technology Act 2000 dealing with Cyber Security, Cyber Crime and other information security related legal aspects is in place to encourage expansion of a commerce through internet.

Indo-Russia Agreement

*251. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have entered/propose to enter into an agreement with Russia to combat the cross border terrorism and exchange information on matters related thereto; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The issue of cross border terrorism is discussed between India and the Russian Federation in the context of the meetings of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Afghanistan, which was set-up during the State Visit to India in October 2000 by President of the Russian Federation Mr. Vladimir Putin. Five Sessions of the JWG on Afghanistan have already been held. India and the Russian Federation have also discussed the issue of cross border terrorism in the context of the meetings of the Joint Coordination Group on International Terrorism under the aegis of the National Security Councils of the two countries. A Moscow Declaration on International Terrorism between India and the Russian Federation was signed during the State Visit to the Russian Federation by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in November 2001. The Government have also proposed to the Government of the Russian Federation an Agreement for the setting-up of an Indo-Russian Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism. The response of the Government of Russian Federation is awaited.

Action Plan for Athletes and Coaches

*252. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:

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

(a) whether any action plan has been formulated by the Sports Authority of India for the athletes and coaches for the next Olympics;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether SAI has focused on certain events;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the special benefits being given to the sports persons undergoing training for Olympics?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. A Long Term Development Plan (LTDP) for each discipline has been finalised in consultation with concerned Nationals Sports Federations, former international sportspersons and expert in training methods in order to prepare sportspersons & terms for major sports events like the Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and Olympic Games. Intensive coaching camps, latest sports equipments, services of foreign coaches and experts and foreign exposures are being provided to the probables. India may participate in events like (i) Athletics (Throws & Relay); (ii) Badminton; (iii) Boxing; (iv) Hockey; (v) Sailing; (vi) Shooting; (vii) Tennis; (viii) Weightlifting; (ix) Wrestling and (x) Yachting, depending upon qualifying standards being attained. However, the final decision regarding the events will be taken only after assessing the performance of sports persons/teams in the 2002 Commonwealth and Asian Games.

In addition to the facilities mentioned above, special nutritious diet and dietary supplements as per the recommendations of experts are being provided to the sports persons undergoing training at the National Camps organized for the purpose.

Abolition of CAT/SATs

*253. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to abolish Central Administrative Tribunal and its equivalents in the States as reported in the *Statesman* dated June 18, 2002;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have consulted the Government employee's federations/State Governments in this regard;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what would be the fate of litigations/cases pending in CAT/SATs?

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 Government is not considering any general proposal to abolish Central Administrative Tribunal and its equivalents in the States. However, a bill or amending the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 which provides, inter alia, a provision to abolish, if deemed necessary, any Administrative Tribunal or a bench thereof, is likely to be introduced in Parliament shortly.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Amendments to the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 do not require prior consultation with the State Government or employee's federations.

(e) The proposed amendment requires that any proposal for abolition of a Tribunal should also contain a mechanism, finalized in consultation with the concerned High Court, for handling pending cases.

Private Funds for Inland Water Development

*254. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to allow private funds on Inland Water Development;

(b) whether any concrete proposals have been worked out in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Trading of human Organs

*255. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that illegal trading of human organs particularly kidneys, are on the rise in the country;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported during each of the last three years; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to stop this menace?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (c) The Transplantation of Human Organs Act was enacted on 8th July, 1994 to provide for the regulation of removal, storage and transplantation of human organs for therapeutic purpose and for the prevention of commercial dealings in human organs and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The said Act is applicable in the whole of the States of Goa, Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh and all the Union Territories. It has been adopted/enacted by all the States except Bihar and Jharkhand. Under Section 18 to 23 of the said Act, necessary provisions have been made to check such trade of human organs. Further, under Section 13 (2) of the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994, the State Governments are empowered to appoint by a notification one or more officers as Appropriate Authorities for the purpose of the Act. Sale and purchase of human organs including kidney is banned under the provisions of the Transplantation of Human Organ Act, 1994. The Act has provisions for punishing any one who commits such acts. The information relating to incidents involving the selling of human organs which is against the provisions and punishable under the said Act should be available with the State Government(s) concerned in whose jurisdiction the offence takes place. The Director General of Health Services has been appointed as the Appropriate Authority in respect of all the Union Territories including the N.C.T. of Delhi. Two cases of people selling their kidneys pertaining to Delhi have come to the notice during last three years.

Company Freebies Influence Doctors' Prescription

*256. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "company freebies influence doctors' prescription" appearing in the Times of India dated June 1, 2002;

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

(c) how the Government propose to regulate such tendencies on the part of the pharmaceutical companies to influence the doctors in prescribing drugs which have not been fully tested elsewhere?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (c) No specific instance of the inducements being offered to medical professionals for pushing the sale of drugs has been brought to the notice of the Government. As regards the reported news item 'India has become a testing ground for experimental drugs' and there has been a 400 percent increase in the filing frequency of Investigational New Drugs (IND) with the Drug Controller General of India during 1999-2000 it may be stated that most of the applications received in the office of the DCG (I) are for drugs already approved and marketed in other countries. These are not investigational new Drugs and only confirmatory clinical trials are to be conducted as per the requirements of Schedule Y of the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules. These can not be considered as testing grounds for experimental drugs as alleged in the news item. Only seven IND applications have been submitted by the Indian Pharmaceutical industry since 1999.

As per Pharmaceutical Policy 2002 announced by Government of India, the objective is to encourage indigenous endeavours in pharma R&D through appropriate fiscal incentives etc. Any act of accepting or soliciting gifts or other inducements by the doctors for prescribing drugs which have not been fully tested elsewhere; or contravention of the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics act and the regulations made thereunder, would be construed as unethical or an act of misconduct under the provisions of the Indian Medical Council (Professional conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002. Under the above Regulations, Chapter-8, provides for punishment and disciplinary action which can be taken against doctors contravening the provisions of the regulations. If specific complaints are brought up before

the Medical Council of India, the same shall be referred to the State Medical Council concerned with which the doctor is registered or in case of those directly registered with Medical Council of India, action will be taken by the Ethical Committee of the Council after necessary inquiries.

Maintenance of Rural Telephone Network

*257. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL is considering a proposal to engage unemployed youths for maintenance services of its rural telephone network;

(b) if so, whether any consulting agency has done any study on the benefits of giving such work in private sector in the rural areas to save money;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the extent to which the losses of BSNL is likely to be mitigated by this proposal;

(e) whether any pilot operation has been done in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) No pilot operation has been done in this regard.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Opening of Post Offices in Ninth Plan

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

(a) whether the targets set for opening new post offices during the Ninth Five Year Plan have been achieved;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the State-wise, targets fixed and achieved for the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Against the target of 2500 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices (EDBOs) and 250 Departmental Sub Post Offices (DSOs) during the Ninth

Plan, 2154 EDBOs and 254 DSOs were opened. The targets for opening of EDBOs could not be fully achieved due to non-availability of requisite posts.

During the period of Ninth Plan, Department also set up 4677 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras (PSSKs) for provision of basic postal counter facilities in Gram Panchayat villages without a post office.

(c) The circle-wise targets and achievements during the Ninth Plan are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Circle-wise Break up of Target and Post Offices opened during 9th Five Year Plan

S.No.	Circles	Target 1997-98		Opened 1997-98		Target 1998-99*		Opened 1998-99	
		BO	SO	BO	SO	BO	SO	BO	SO
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10	2	10	3	10	2	10	2
2.	Assam	25	2	18	3	54	5	54	5
3.	Bihar	40	5	31	4	72	2	72	2
4.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Delhi	5	2	5	2	4	2	4	2
6.	Gujarat	25	2	18	3	31	2	31	2
7.	Haryana	15	2	13	2	13	3	13	3
8.	Himachal Pradesh	10	2	4	Nil	7	1	7	1
9.	J & K	15	1	11	1	23	1	23	1
10.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11.	Karnataka	30	5	24	5	12	4	12	4
12.	Kerala	10	2	7	1	12	3	12	3
13.	M.P.	37	2	41	2	50	5	50	5
14.	Maharashtra	35	3	34	4	69	3	69	3
15.	North East	25	3	18	3	54	3	54	3
16.	Orissa	27	2	21	3	10	2	10	2
17.	Punjab	17	2	12	2	12	2	12	2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
18.	Rajasthan	33	2	33	1	30	1	30	1
19.	Tamil Nadu	21	2	21	3	10	2	10	2
20.	U.P.	70	6	57	6	82	3	82	3
21.	Uttaranchal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22.	Bengal	50	3	24	4	43	4	43	4
Total		500	50	402	52	598	50	598	50

S.No.	Circles	Target 1999-2000		Opened 1999-2000		Target 2000-01				Target 2001-02			
		BO	SO	BO	SO	BO	SO	BO	SO	BO	SO	BO	SO
1	2	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15	2	4	3	15	1	6	2	15	NII	3	NII
2.	Assam	50	4	24	7	30	3	30	3	35	2	35	2
3.	Bihar	50	3	51	NII	53	1	70	1	60	NII	38	NII
4.	Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	-	25	1	25	1	25	1	25	1
5.	Delhi	4	2	4	2	4	2	4	2	2	2	2	2
6.	Gujarat	30	3	28	2	20	3	8	4	20	2	18	2
7.	Haryana	15	2	12	1	15	1	2	1	2	1	NII	1
8.	Himachal Pradesh	7	1	2	1	7	1	2	1	5	NII	5	NII
9.	J & K	15	1	14	1	5	1	5	1	13	NII	13	NII
10.	Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	22	1	NII	1	15	1	NII	1
11.	Karnataka	21	3	21	3	21	2	21	2	20	2	13	2
12.	Kerala	4	2	4	2	4	1	4	1	2	1	2	1
13.	M.P.	40	4	40	4	15	3	15	3	21	3	21	3
14.	Maharashtra	50	2	50	3	60	7	60	7	65	9	65	10
15.	North East	40	2	19	3	40	2	3	3	35	2	13	2

1	2	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
16.	Orissa	14	2	14	2	10	2	10	2	14	2	14	2
17.	Punjab	10	1	9	1	14	3	12	2	6	8	6	8
18.	Rajasthan	27	2	24	1	20	2	20	2	20	4	20	4
19.	Tamil Nadu	15	2	15	2	15	2	15	2	5	2	5	2
20.	U.P.	50	3	10	2	44	1	45	Nil	40	2	38	2
21.	Uttaranchal	-	-	-	-	6	Nil	6	1	25	1	15	1
22.	Bengal	43	9	41	9	55	10	Nil	10	55	5	54	5
Total		500	50	386	49	500	50	363	52	500	50	405	51

*The target of 500 EDBOs (Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices) for the year 1998-99 was increased by 98, the shortfall of 97-98. The target for 9th Plan was 2500 EDBOs and 2500 Departmental Sub Offices (DSOs)

[English]

Population Control

*259. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the States which are achieving targets set under Population Control Programme sponsored by Union Government;

(b) whether any assistance or incentive is extended to the States for achieving the targets; and

(c) if so, the details of the assistance extended to these States during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (c) The practice of fixing method specific targets for family planning from above has been done away with and focus shifted to decentralized participatory planning based on the Community Needs Assessment Approach. Certain essential socio-demographic goals to be achieved by 2010 have been enumerated in the National Population Policy with a view to achieving population stabilization in the country. One of the key demographic goals to be achieved by the States for population stabilization is replacement

level of fertility i.e. Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of 2.1. A Statement-I is enclosed which gives state-wise current position of TFR, Birth Rate and Contraceptive Prevalence Rate. While State like Kerala and Tamil Nadu have already achieved replacement level of fertility (Total Fertility Rate of 2.1) and States like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Punjab are close to achieving the goal, the most populous States of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar are, however, lagging behind primarily on account of the huge population in the reproductive age group, unmet needs of contraception and inadequacy in health infrastructure for delivery of services.

By way of incentives, States are being extended assistance for certain schemes under promotional and motivational measures. These schemes are : (i) National Maternity Benefit Scheme for cash incentives to mothers who have their first child after 19 years of age, for birth of the first or the second child linked to compliance with ante-natal check-up, institutional delivery, registration of birth and immunization; (ii) Compensation for Sterilizations for compensating for loss of wages of the man/women undergoing sterilization; (iii) Community Incentives Scheme for rewarding panchayats for exemplary performance in universalizing the small family norm etc.

A Statement-II indicating provision for these schemes in the last three years is enclosed.

Statement-I

S. No.	State/UT	Total Fertility Rate (TFR)	Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR)	Crude Birth Rate (CBR)
1	2	3	4	5
States with TFR less than or equal to 2.1				
1.	Goa	1.0	47.5	14.3
2.	Nagaland	1.5	30.3	NA
3.	Delhi	1.6	63.8	20.3
4.	Kerala	1.8	63.7	17.9
5.	Pondicherry	1.8	NA	17.8
6.	A & N Island	1.5	NA	19.1
7.	Tamil Nadu	2.0	52.1	19.2
8.	Chandigarh	2.1	NA	17.5
States with TFR more than 2.1 but less than 3				
1.	Manipur	2.4	38.7	18.3
2.	D & Diu	2.5	NA	23.7
3.	Karnataka	2.4	58.3	22.0
4.	Andhra Pradesh	2.4	59.6	21.3
5.	Himachal Pradesh	2.4	67.7	22.1
6.	Sikkim	2.5	53.8	21.8
7.	West Bengal	2.4	66.6	20.6
8.	Maharashtra	2.7	60.9	20.9
9.	Punjab	2.6	66.7	21.5
10.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.8	35.4	22.3
11.	Lakshadweep	2.8	NA	26.1
12.	Orissa	2.9	46.8	24.3
State with TFR more than 3				
1.	Gujarat	3.0	59.0	25.2
2.	Assam	3.2	43.3	26.9

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Haryana	3.3	62.4	26.9
4.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	3.5	NA	34.9
5.	Tripura	3.9	NA	16.5
6.	Meghalaya	4.8	20.2	28.5
7.	Madhya Pradesh	3.9	44.3	31.2
8.	Rajasthan	4.1	40.3	31.2
9.	Bihar	4.3	24.5	31.9
10.	Uttar Pradesh	4.6	28.1	32.8

TFR = Source SRS 1998, RGI

CPR = Source NFHS-II (National Family Health Survey 1998-99)

CBR = Source SRS 2000, RGI

Statement-II*Budget Provisions for Scheme under Sterilization and IUD Insertion*

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the States/UTs	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1756.37	1595.96	1776.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4.79	2.03	29.90
3.	Assam	49.68	225.48	934.00
4.	Bihar	198.22	91.53	505.00
5.	Goa	21.02	22.18	13.00
6.	Gujarat	590.52	742.73	615.00
7.	Haryana	275.77	320.55	223.30
8.	Himachal Pradesh	75.70	31.08	71.40
9.	Karnataka	884.28	1576.43	987.00
10.	Kerala	372.19	546.37	355.00
11.	Madhya Pradesh	836.95	484.41	759.00
12.	Maharashtra	1111.49	1569.76	1246.00

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Manipur	9.53	22.76	18.68
14.	Meghalaya	6.32	6.88	46.72
15.	Mizoram	8.19	7.94	93.40
16.	Nagaland	3.37	8.87	24.28
17.	Orissa	261.62	196.39	223.30
18.	Punjab	323.62	425.55	316.30
19.	Rajasthan	563.32	512.64	493.50
20.	Tamil Nadu	923.35	1510.90	916.70
21.	Tripura	17.93	27.23	70.32
22.	Uttar Pradesh	1039.10	1053.92	992.40
23.	West Bengal	529.95	687.82	641.30
24.	J & K	36.49	20.66	24.50
25.	Sikkim	4.08	9.90	32.70
26.	Delhi	99.06	75.40	174.80
27.	Pondicherry	23.64	44.60	25.20
28.	Chhattisgarh	-	-	269.00
29.	Jharkhand	-	-	238.00
30.	Uttaranchal	-	-	184.30
Total		10026.55	11819.97	12300.00

*Budget Provisions for Schemes—Community Incentive & National maternity
Benefit during the year 2001-02**

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the States	Name of Schemes	
		Community Incentive Scheme	National Maternity Benefit Scheme
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	1882.12
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	21.39
3.	Assam	10.00	241.33

1	2	3	4
4.	Bihar	70.00	302.73
5.	Goa	-	6.00
6.	Gujarat	-	69.42
7.	Haryana	-	32.61
8.	Himachal Pradesh	-	8.40
9.	Karnataka	-	425.11
10.	Kerala	-	96.90
11.	Madhya Pradesh	70.00	543.84
12.	Maharashtra	-	327.56
13.	Manipur	10.00	38.61
14.	Meghalaya	10.00	31.92
15.	Mizoram	-	6.47
16.	Nagaland	10.00	31.51
17.	Orissa	50.00	601.92
18.	Punjab	-	52.52
19.	Rajasthan	70.00	95.86
20.	Tamil Nadu	-	843.90
21.	Tripura	-	57.35
22.	Uttar Pradesh	70.00	1075.35
23.	West Bengal	-	364.75
24.	J & K	-	34.59
25.	Sikkim	10.00	8.84
26.	Delhi	-	3.00
27.	Pondicherry	-	2.69
28.	Chhattisgarh	40.00	83.15
29.	Jharkhand	40.00	152.62
30.	Uttaranchal	40.00	63.29
Total		500.00	7523.70

*These are new schemes launched only in the year 2001-02.

*[Translation]***Indians Languishing in Pak Jails**

*260. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:
YOGI ADITYA NATH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian non-defence persons languishing in Pakistan jails;

(b) whether this issue has been taken up with Pakistan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) As per available information, 1100 Indian non-defence personnel (281 fishermen and 819 civilian prisoners) are detained in Pakistan.

(b) to (d) Government have consistently taken up the issue of their release and repatriation with the Government of Pakistan. As a result, 311 detainees, including 265 fishermen, were provided consular access by Pakistan in May, 2002. Their release and repatriation are being pursued, including verification of their national status.

*[English]***Finalisations of Plan Size**

2451. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has finalised the plan size of the States;

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

(c) whether the Planning Commission has fixed a core Plan size for all States on the basis of visible resources;

(d) if so, the reaction of the States thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the decision is likely to correct the loopholes in the planning exercise?

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) Planning Commission has finalized the size of Tenth Plan (2002-2007) of all the States. The sizes of the Annual Plan 2002-03 of all States except Uttaranchal and Manipur and the Union Territory of Chandigarh have also been finalized. Statement indicating sizes of the Tenth Plan and Annual Plan 2002-03 of States is enclosed.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Planning Commission has been fixing the core annual plan sizes of States on the basis of identifiable resources. States are fully involved in the process of fixation of the plans and are generally appreciative of the initiative taken by Planning Commission.

(e) The exercise of fixing plan sizes based on identifiable resources is expected to result in realistic planning being made by the States. This would allow giving of focused attention to the critical needs for development of the States, which is not possible unless the sizes of the plans are realistic.

Statement

(Rs. crore)

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Tenth Plan Projected Outlay	Annual Plan 2002-03 Agreed Outlay
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	46614.00	10100.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3888.32	676.00
3.	Assam	8315.22	1750.00
4.	Bihar	21000.00	2900.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	11000.00	1757.00
6.	Goa	3200.00	586.00
7.	Gujarat	40007.00	7600.00
8.	Haryana	10285.00	2034.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	10300.00	1840.00

1	2	3	4
10. Jammu & Kashmir	14500.00	2200.00	
11. Jharkhand	14632.74	2652.00	
12. Karnataka	43558.22	8610.61	
13. Kerala	24000.00	4025.00	
14. Madhya Pradesh	24642.47	4821.00	
15. Maharashtra	66632.00	11562.00	
16. Manipur	2804.00	*	
17. Meghalaya	2299.44	545.00	
18. Mizoram	2052.51	430.00	
19. Nagaland	2227.65	424.00	
20. Orissa	19000.00	2250.00	
21. Punjab	18657.00	2793.00	
22. Rajasthan	27318.00	5160.00	
23. Sikkim	1655.74	350.00	
24. Tamil Nadu	40000.00	5750.00	
25. Tripura	4500.00	625.00	
26. Uttar Pradesh	59708.00	7250.00	
27. Uttaranchal	7630.00	*	
28. West Bengal	28641.00	6307.00	
Union Territories			
29. A & N Islands	2483.00	410.00	
30. Chandigarh	*	*	
31. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	304.00	55.28	
32. Daman & Diu	245.00	44.11	
33. Delhi	23000.00	4700.00	
34. Lakshadweep	437.00	92.72	
35. Pondicherry	1906.49	400.00	

Note

*Not yet finalised.

Fall in IT Growth

2452. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that growth in IT spends has fallen from 33 per cent in 1999-2000 and 2000-01 to 3 per cent (in dollar terms) in 2002;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to boost IT Industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), the growth in IT spends has fallen from 33% in 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 to 3% (in dollar terms) in fiscal 2002. The slowdown in IT industry is mainly on account of Global economic slowdown and reduction in IT spending by the major global players.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to boost the IT Industry in the country are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement**Steps taken by the Government to promote the Information Technology Sector**

1. Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme (EPCG) has been rationalized and extended uniformly to all sectors without any threshold limit on payment of 5% duty.
2. Approvals for all foreign direct investment proposals relating to the Information Technology sector, with the exception of Business-to-consumer (B2C) e-commerce are under the automatic route.
3. Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP) and Software Technology Park (STP) Scheme are implemented under the aegis of the Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, through a single window mechanism of the Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee (IMSC).
4. Supplies of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items in the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) by EHTP/EQU/EPZ units shall be counted

- towards fulfillment of minimum Net Foreign Exchange earning as a Percentage of exports (NFEP) and the minimum Export Performance (EP), provided that the items are manufactured in the unit and attract zero rate of basic customs duty. Positive NFEP is required to be achieved in 5 years instead of every year.
5. DTA access upto 50% of the FOB value of export is permitted for software units under EOU/EPZ/STP schemes and the software units under EOU/EPZ/STP schemes.
 6. Accelerated depreciation norms extended to computers and computer peripherals for units and capital goods of IT hardware units under Export Oriented schemes (EOU/EPZ/STP/EHTP). These shall stand depreciated to overall limit of 90% over a period of 3 years.
 7. Special Economic Zones are being set up to enable hassle free manufacturing and trading for export purposes.
 8. The Depreciation of Computers is allowed @ 60%.
 9. In the Budget 2002-03, the peak rate of customs duty has been reduced from 35% to 30%. Customs duty has been reduced on stepper motors for computers/printers from 5% to 0%, floppy diskette and unrecorded magnetic tape from 15% to 10%, ink cartridges/ribbon assembly/ribbon gear assembly/ribbon gear carriage for use in printers for computers from 25% to 5%, 56 items of capital goods for manufacture of semi-conductors from 5% to 0%, 24 items of capital goods (around 200 sub-items) for manufacture of electronic components from 25-35% to 15%, tools/moulds/dies for electronics industry from 25% to 15% and on 46 items of raw materials for manufacture of electronic components from 25-35% to 5%.
 - Custom duty on Computers and Peripherals continues to be @ 15% and all storage devices, integrated circuits, microprocessors, data display tubes and deflection components colour monitors continue at 0%. The concessional rate of customs duty @ 5% for specified raw materials for the electronics industry (121 items) continues. Customs duty on Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items of WTO (IT and Telecom products) continues @ 15%, parts of Telecom continue @ 5%, parts, components and accessories of mobile handsets including cellular telephones continue at 0%.
 10. The Central Excise duty structure was rationalized from multiple rates to single rate of 16% and single rate of Special Excise Duty (SED) @ 16%, in the Budget 2001-02, and continues.
 11. Information Technology Software is exempted from Customs and Excise Duty.
 12. Second hand capital goods upto 10 years are freely importable.
 13. EOU/EPZ/STP/EHTP units are eligible for Income Tax benefit on export profits, upto 2010, in terms of Sections 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act.
 14. Exemption of withholding tax on interest on External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) is available to the IT sector.
 15. Definition of Computer Software, as in Section 80 HHE of the Income Tax Act covers transmission of data.
 16. Benefit of Section 80 HHE is available to supporting software developers.
 17. IT Enabled Services are eligible for Income Tax benefit under Sections 10A, 10B and 80 HHE of the Income Tax Act.
 18. DEPB rate will be same for a product whether exported as CBU or in CKD/SKD condition.
 19. Threshold limit for obtaining 'Export House' status reduced to Rs. 15 crores for Small Scale Industry, tiny sector, cottage sector, units located in North East States/Sikkim/J&K; exporters exporting to countries in Latin America/CIS/Sub Sahara Africa and units having ISO 9000 (Series) status. The status holders are eligible for the following new/special facilities:
 - 100% retention of foreign exchange in Exchange Earners' Foreign Currency (EEFC) account;
 - Enhancement in normal repatriation period from 180 days to 360 days.
 20. The donation of computers, imported duty free by EOU/EPZ/STP/EHTP units to recognised non-commercial educational institutions, registered charitable hospitals, public libraries, public funded research and development establishments, etc., two years after their use by the said units is permitted.

21. The second-hand computers and computer peripherals donated by an outside donor to Government schools and recognised schools run on non-commercial basis by an organisation are exempted from customs duties.
22. Income by way of dividends or long-term capital gains of a Venture Capital Fund or Venture Capital company from investment made by way of equity shares in a Venture Capital Undertaking, which has been expanded to include the Software and IT sectors, will henceforth not be included in computing the total income.
23. To give thrust to Venture Capital finance, SEBI has been made the single point nodal agency for registration and regulation of both domestic and overseas venture capital funds.
24. There will be no tax on distributed or undistributed income of Venture Capital Funds. The income distributed by VCFs will only be taxed in the hands of investor at the rates applicable to the nature of the income. VCFs will continue to be eligible for exemption even if the shares of the VC undertaking in which the VCFs have made the initial investment are subsequently listed in a recognised stock exchange in India.
25. Under policy on portfolio investment, Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) are permitted to invest in a company upto an aggregate of 24% of equity shares, extendible upto 40% subject to approvals. This limit was raised from 40% to 49% in the Budget 2001-02.
26. Tax holiday under provisions of Section 80-IA (Infrastructure Status) has been extended to internet Service Providers (ISPs) and Broadband Network providers.
27. Two-way fungibility has been permitted for ADRs/GDRs. Local shares can be reconverted into ADRs/GDRs, subject to sectoral caps.
28. With a view to give a boost to the manufacturing sector, it is proposed in the Budget announcements 2002-03, to allow a deduction of a further sum of 15% of the actual cost of such machinery or plant acquired and installed after 31.3.2002 in case of new industrial undertaking or substantial expansion by an existing industrial undertaking. The proposed amendment will take effect from 1.4.2003 and will, accordingly, apply in relation to the assessment year 2003-04 and subsequent years.
29. To encourage re-location of industries to India, plant and machineries would be permitted to be imported without a license, where the depreciated value of such relocating plants exceeds Rs. 50 crores.
30. Indian Companies wishing to invest abroad may now invest upto US\$ 100 Million on an annual basis through automatic route without being subject to the three years profitability condition, up from existing limit of US\$ 50 million (Budget announcement 2002-03).
31. Indian Companies making overseas investment in joint ventures abroad by market purchases may now do so without prior approval upto 50% of their net worth, up from existing limit of 25% (Budget announcement 2002-03).
32. To induce more investment for-R&D activities, a weighted deduction of 125% on the sums paid to any university, college or an institution or a Scientific research association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research is available.
33. For reduction of transaction time for export/import clearances, Ministry of Civil Aviation has finalized the scheme of 'Known-Shippers' for doing away with the 24 hours cooling off period.
34. Two shifts have been introduced on week days and single shift on holidays at the Air Cargo Complexes at Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Delhi and Goa.
35. Information Technology Act 2000 dealing with Cyber Security, Cyber Crime and other information security related legal aspects is in place to encourage expansion of a commerce through internet.

Survey conducted by Public Affair Centre

2453. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the recent survey conducted by Bangalore Based Organisation "Public Affair Centre" titled "State of India's Public Services";

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Study titled "State of India's Public Services: Benchmarks for the New Millennium" conducted by Public Affairs Centre, Bangalore, covers the following five basic public services:—

- (i) Drinking Water
- (ii) Health and Sanitation
- (iii) Education and Child Care
- (iv) Public Distribution System (Fair Price Shops)
- (v) Road Transport

The Study and the conclusions drawn therein are based on a survey which covered over 33,000 households in 115 districts spread over 24 States (including rural and urban Areas). The study in its Executive Summary, inter alia, mentions that high income levels and infrastructure spending by themselves do not ensure a high quality of governance and that the Government of India and the State Governments seem to have done more in extending people's access to basic services than to improving the effectiveness and quality of service.

The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, in consultation with Central Government Ministries/Departments, State Governments/UT Administrations, Organisations and Individuals, acts as a facilitator to improve Government functioning through various administrative reform measures in regard to process improvement, organisation and methods, grievance handling and by promoting modernisation, Citizen's Charters, e-governance and documentation and dissemination of best practices. These initiatives are aimed at improving the accessibility as well as the effectiveness and the quality of the services provided by the Government.

Purchasing of IT Products

2454. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any financial discrepancies have been revealed in the purchase of information technology products by Ministry of Shipping;

(b) if so, whether Ministry has not followed the GDR rules in purchasing through the DGS&D; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) No, Sir. The local Audit Party of C&AG during annual inspection of the accounts/records of the Ministry for the year 2001-2002 had sought certain clarifications relating to the procedure adopted in procurement, which have already been provided to them.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Separate Cadre for CBI

2455. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to have a separate cadre for official of CBI for ensuring its independence; 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) and (b) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been structured as a multi-dimensional organisation having a combined strength of officers on its permanent disposition and drawn on deputation from police & other organisations. This is considered essential for creation of core institutional capacity; better experience sharing; reception of fresh professional inputs and greater coordination amongst the states, law enforcing agencies and the CBI.

Permission to U.S. Navy Ship

2456. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. Navy ship USS Vandergriff which made a stop at Cochin in May, 2002 had sought prior permission from the Development; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The U.S. Navy ship USS Vabdegrift made a stop at the Cochin from 4-6 May, 2002 after seeking necessary approvals from Government of India in accordance with prescribed guidelines providing assistance to naval vessels to friendly countries. The ship docked at Cochin for routine rest and replenishment.

Construction of a Shopping Complex by Myanmar

2457. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Manipur has sent a report to the Union Government regarding construction of a shopping complex by Myanmar authorities at Tamu on a stretch of land which is "No-Man Land";

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

(c) the action taken by the Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to

(c) The issue of shopping complex reported to be constructed at Tamu possibly too close to the international boundary was taken up with Myanmar at the recently held 8th National Level Meeting between India and Myanmar on July 10, 2002.

The Myanmar side noted the query and the GOI suggestion that the site in question would be inspected jointly for an early and amicable solution.

[Translation]

Incomplete Projects in Madhya Pradesh

2458. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Irrigation, Transportation, Road, Rail Projects which were approved/sanctioned but not completed so far in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) the time by which these are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) The requisite information in respect of Centrally monitored projects under implementation in the State of Madhya Pradesh furnished in the enclosed statement.

Statement

(a) Central Sector Projects in Madhya Pradesh Costing Rs. 20 crore & above

Unit : (Cost/Expenditure : Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Project (District) (State)	Capacity	Date of Govt. Appro-Orgrnl. (Rev'd)	Date of Commissioning		Cost		Cumulative Expenditure	Physical Progress/Comments (%)
						Approved	Anticipated		
				Original (Revised)	Anticipated (L. Rep.)	Original (Revised)			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
SECTOR : RAILWAYS									
GAUGE CONVERSION									
1.	Nimach-Ratlam, WR Madhya Pradesh	KMS 135	1993/05	1998/03	Not Fixed	65.00	178.18	14.54	21.00 Date not fixed due to inadequate funding Ballast collection has started. Allocation for 2002-2003 is Rs. 25 Crore.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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NEW LINE

2.	Dairajhara-Jagdelpur SER Madhya Pradesh	KMS 235	1995/04	Not Fixed	Not Fixed	368.00	376.00	0.46	Project to be jointly funded by Ministry of Railways & Ministry of Steel and Mines. Environment Clearance for the mine project has not been received.
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NEW RAILWAY ZONE

3.	West Cent. Rly. Zone (CR) Jabalpur Madhya Pradesh		1997/05	2003/04	2003/04	41.67	41.67	5.46	Initial Stages of implementation.
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SECTOR : ROADS & HIGHWAYS

4.	Agra-Gwalior KM. 60 - KM. 70 (North-South Corridor NHDP)		2000/04	2001/12	2002/09	28.27	28.27	17.43	61.1
5.	Agra-Gwalior KM. 70 - KM. 95 (North-South Corridor NHDP)		2000/04	2003/04	2003/04	49.00	49.00	15.56	23
6.	Agra-Gwalior KM. 85 - KM. 103 (North-South Corridor NHDP)		2000/04	2003/05	2003/05	69.50	69.50	19.76	17

(b) Irrigation Projects in Madhya Pradesh under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme

Sr. No.	Project	Ultimate Potential (Hectares)	Total Potential as on 30th Sept. 2001 (Hectares)	Cumulative expenditure till 31.03.2002 (Rs. Crore)	Time frame for completion
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Indira Sagar	1,69,000	0	491.000	06/2004
2.	Bansagar Dam	2,49,000	0	712.440	2005
3.	Upper Wainganga	1,05,300	84,673	236.250	06/2003
4.	Rajghat Dam	1,16,760	10,180	445.660	2003-04
5.	Sindh Phase II	1,62,000	5,055	199.000	06/2006
6.	Sindh Phase I	53,000	31,984	52.230	2004

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Mahi Bajaj Sagar	26,400	0	59.670	2003
8.	Bariarpur LBC	43,800	0	59.990	2004-05
9.	Urmil	7,700	6,500	23.460	06/2002
10.	Banjar	2,400	1,500	7.160	03/2002

[English]

Change in Office Timings

2459. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to change office timings/working hours in the Government offices;

(b) whether there is also any proposal to increase the number of working days in the Government offices; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

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) No sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

OFC in Madhya Pradesh

2460. Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 7285 on 15.5.2002 and state:

(a) the details of the Telecom Circles in regard to which contracts were awarded to the inexperienced contractors for the route length of 102.35 kilometre;

(b) whether these contractors have since completed the work;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaint against the work done by any of these contractors; and

(d) if so, action being taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Only in Madhya Pradesh Telecom Circle, 38 optical fibre routes for a total route length of 102.35 Kms were awarded to inexperienced contractors. Out of the 38 routes, work has been cancelled due to high rates and fresh tenders have been invited.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

[English]

Telephone Connections

2461. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone connections provided to the applicants on the recommendations of the MPs from Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal during the last two years;

(b) the number of recommendations that were for out of turn quota;

(c) the number of connections provided as on date;

(d) the number of applications lying pending, district-wise;

(e) the time by which the remaining applications are likely to be cleared;

(f) whether telephones have not been installed in several cases despite the sanction;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the steps taken to expedite the installation of telephones?

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

[Translation]

Damage to Cables

2462. DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private telephone operators companies which have laid optical fibre cable throughout the country;

(b) the number of companies out of them which damaged the telephone lines which carrying out their excavation work;

(c) the total amount these private companies have to deposit with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited as compensation for it; and

(d) the action 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 (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Establishment of Hospitals with World Bank Assistance

2463. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

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

(a) whether World Bank is granting funds for setting up of hospitals and dispensaries in Gujarat;

(b) if so, Gujarat Government has received any grant for assistance from World Bank for setting up 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.

Out of Order Phones in Bihar

2464. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether proper facilities are not being provided to subscribers in Bihar particularly Bitholi telephone exchange of Darbhanga;

(b) whether the Government have received any complaints from the subscribers against the officials/ lineman of the Bitholi telephone exchange;

(c) if so, whether any action has been taken against the employees found guilty; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Proper telephone facilities are being provided to the subscribers of Bihar and to the subscribers of Bitholi telephone exchange also.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. Complaints were received from subscribers against one Junior Telecom. Officer and one Temporary Status Mazdoor of the Bitholi telephone exchange. Administrative action has already been initiated against them.

Modernisation of Telephone Exchanges

2465. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of telephone exchanges modernised in J & K particularly in Baramula and Kupwara districts

during the last three years and the number of new exchanges set-up;

(b) whether the Government are aware that most of the telephones in those districts remain out of order;

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) 100 exchanges were modernised and 60 new exchanges were set up during the last three years in Jammu & Kashmir including Baramula and Kupwara Districts. Details are given the statement enclosed.

(b) No such complaint has been received.

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

Statement

Details of telephone exchanges modernised and new exchanges set up in Jammu & Kashmir during last three years

(i) Total No. of telephone exchanges modernized		
1999-2000		29
2000-2001		64
2001-2002		7
(ii) Total No. of telephone exchanges set up		
1999-2000		27
2000-2001		15
2001-2002		18

(iii) Telephone exchanges modernized and set up in Baramula and Kupwara district

Year	Baramula District		Kupwara District	
	Name of exch. Modernized	Name of exch. set up	Name of exch. Modernized	Name of exch. set up
1999-2000	Nil	Fatehgarh	Tandgar	Nil
2000-2001	Ghadkud Gurej Wagoora	Kunjer Singhpora Solbug	Nil	Nil
2001-2002	Nil	Bomai Bonyar Hajin Rohama	Trehgam	Nil

Telephone Faults

2466. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone faults in the rural areas are not rectified for many days resulting in number of difficulties for the rural consumers; and

(b) the concrete steps taken/proposed to be taken to rectify the faulty telephones in such areas at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Sir, every effort is made to repair expeditiously faulty telephones in rural areas but there are areas where due to reasons such as inadequate road infrastructure, law and order problems erratic power supply, it has not been possible to ensure prompt restoration.

(b) Following measures are being taken to ensure prompt repair of such telephones:

(i) Monitoring of fault repairs by Senior Officers.

(ii) Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) based centralised fault booking at Short Distance Charging Centre (SDCC)

- (iii) Rehabilitation/upgradation of external plant.
- (iv) Replacement of long spans of overhead alignment by under ground cables in phased manner.
- (v) Daily testing of VPTs from telephone exchanges.
- (vi) Formation of core groups in each SSA (Secondary Switching Area) for prompt restoration of VPTs.
- (vii) Replacement of Telephone instruments having completed expiry period in phased manner.
- (viii) Induction of Modern technologies like Wireless in Local Loop, Time Division Multiple Access/ Point to Multi Point (TDMA/PMP), Satellite in rural areas.
- (ix) Provision of generator sets to take care of long duration power break down.

P & T Facilities in Village Panchayats

2467. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

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

- (a) the number of village Panchayats in Jharkhand and Bihar without Post & Telegraph facilities, district-wise;
- (b) the number of Panchayat communication Service and telegraph office set up or proposed to be set up in Jharkhand and Bihar during the last two years, district-wise; and
- (c) the details of the time bound programme formulated by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) The postal facilities of daily delivery & collection of mails and sale of postal stamps and stationery are available in all the village Panchayats in the country including those in Jharkhand and Bihar.

The information relating to telegraph facilities is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The details of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras set up in Jharkhand and Bihar during the last two years are as under:

Year	Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendra
JHARKHAND	
2000-2001	77
2001-2002	72
BIHAR	
2000-2001	464
2001-2002	2570

No telegraph office has been set up in Jharkhand and Bihar during the last two years.

(c) The opening of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendra is subject to the fulfillment of the prescribed norms and availability of the requisite resources. However, the target of opening of 55 new Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendra in Jharkhand and 200 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendra in Bihar has been fixed for the year 2002-2003. Telegraph facility is provided on demand and justification only.

Telephone Connections

2468. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the position of waiting list for telephone connections in the major towns, district headquarters and rural areas of Jharkhand as on April 30, 2002;
- (b) the details of telephone connections provided during each of the last three years alongwith the amount spent thereon; and
- (c) the details of the new schemes approved/under consideration of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) the position of waiting list for telephone connections in the major towns, district headquarters and rural areas of Jharkhand as on 30 April 2002 is given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(b) and (c) The details of telephone connections provided during each of the last three years alongwith the amount spent thereon and plan of new schemes for the year 2002-03 is given in the Statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I

Position of waiting list for telephone connections in the major towns, district head quarters and rural areas of Jharkhand as on 30.4.2002

S.No.	District Head Quarter	Waiting list
1	2	3

(a) Waiting list of District Head Quarter

1.	Daltonganj	120
2.	Garhwa	14
3.	Latehar	14
4.	Bokaro	1100
5.	Dhanbad	2248
6.	Dumka	0
7.	Sahibganj	0
8.	Deoghar	103
9.	Godda	0
10.	Hazaribagh	156
11.	Chatra	12
12.	Koderma	2
13.	Giridih	4
14.	West Singhbhum	557
15.	East Singhbhum	12
16.	Saraikela Kharswa	0
17.	Ranchi	352
18.	Lohardaga	18
19.	Simdega	14
20.	Gumla	30

1	2	3
21.	Pakur	0
22.	Jamtara	0
Total		4756

(b) Waiting list of Major Towns

1.	Daltonganj	120
2.	Bokaro	1100
3.	Dhanbad	2248
4.	Dumka	0
5.	Hazaribagh	156
6.	Jamshedpur	557
7.	Ranchi	352
Total		4533

(c) Waiting List of Rural Area = 4309**Statement-II**

(A) Details of telephone connections provided during each of the last three years alongwith the amount spent

Year	Telephone connections Provided	Amount spent in Rs. (Crore)
1999-2000*	125179	312.95
2000-01	81712	204.28
2001-02	79608	199.02

*Jharkhand was carved out of Bihar Circle in January, 2001. Figures of the year 1999-2000 includes for Bihar Telecom Circle also.

(B) Plan of New Schemes Approved for the year 2002-2003

Sl.No.	Items	Units	Target
1	2	3	4
1.	Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) consisting of Wired lines WLL (Wire-less in Local Loop) and Cellular Mobile Telephones.	Nos.	100200

1	2	3	4
2.	Switching Capacity consisting of Wired lines WLL (Wire-less in Local Loop) and Cellular Mobile Telephones.	Lines	148700
3.	TAX (Trunk Automatic Exch.)	Kilo Circuits	35.5
4.	OFC	RKMs	2000
5.	Village Public Telephone (VPTs) on Satellite	Nos.	2321

[English]

Expansion of Container Handling Capacity

2469. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to expand the container handling capacity of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port at Mumbai;

(b) if so, the existing capacity of the port and to what extent it is proposed to be increased; and

(c) the expenditure involved and the time by which the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (c) The existing capacity of Jawaharlal Nehru Port is about 28 million tonnes per annum. Out of this, the container handling capacity is 18 million tonnes per annum. The container handling capacity is anticipated to increase by over 14 million tonnes during the Tenth Five Year Plan period on completion of the scheme for construction of the shallow water berth at an estimated cost of Rs. 50 crores and re-development of the Bulk Terminal into Container Terminal which involves an estimated expenditure of Rs. 900 crores.

[Translation]

Development of IT

2470. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the action plan of the Government to encourage information technology in Rajasthan and the funds

proposed to be sanctioned for the purpose during 2002-2003;

(b) whether the State Government has sent any proposal to the Union Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Department of Information Technology (DIT) does not have any state-wise action plan or allocation of funds. However, funds are made available to the States against specific pilot projects to establish technology/proof of concept.

(b) to (d) No State action plan for financial assistance has been received by Department of Information Technology from Government of Rajasthan. Specific project proposals are being considered based on merit as per policy in vogue and subject to availability of funds.

[English]

Bhabha Atomic Research Centre

2471. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the role played by BARC in various key areas like food preservation and development, environment, health and safety, waste management, materials, research metallurgy and technology transfer etc.; and

(b) the total funds allocated, disbursed and utilized during the last three years for the said activities?

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) Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has been

playing a key role in research and development in the areas of food preservation and related development, environment, health and safety, radiation waste management, materials and metallurgical research and technology transfer thereof. The funds allotted and expended under the IX Plan for research on these activities is as follows:

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	Name of the activity	Allocated during IX plan period	Expenditure incurred in the IX Plan period
1.	Food Preservation and Development	540.00	628.00*
2.	Environment, Health and Safety	3684.00	3917.00*
3.	Radiation Waste Management	6151.00	7742.63*
4.	Research in Materials and Metallurgy	4739.00	4410.32

*Excess expenditure adjusted by reappropriation of funds.

Census for SSIs

2472. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4713 regarding Census for SSIs on April 18, 2001 and state:

- (a) whether Census of SSI units has been conducted;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof; and
- (c) the time by which data enumeration is likely to be completed and released?

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) and (c) the preparatory work for conduct of Census of SSIs has already begun. The data enumeration is likely to start in the month of October, 2002 and the results are expected to be released by the middle of 2003.

Telephone Exchanges

2473. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

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

- (a) the number of new Telephone Exchanges installed in the Tamil Nadu and Karnataka during the last three years, district-wise; and
- (b) the details of new Telephone Exchanges the Central Government proposed to set up in these States during 2002-2003, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) 359 new telephone exchanges were installed in Tamil Nadu and 371 new telephone exchanges were installed in Karnataka during last three years. The district-wise details are given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(b) It has been proposed to set up 96 new telephone exchanges in state of Tamil Nadu and 35 in Karnataka during 2002-2003, subject to the availability of funds and

equipment. The district-wise details are given in the Statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I

District-wise New exchanges Installed in Tamil Nadu during last three years

S.No.	Name of District	New Exchanges installed during last three years
1	2	3
1.	Ariyalur	6
2.	Coimbatore	1
3.	Cuddalore	6
4.	Dharampuri	29
5.	Dindugal	12
6.	Erode	14
7.	Kancheepuram	7
8.	Kanyakumari	1
9.	Karur	9
10.	Madurai	4
11.	Nagapattinam	10
12.	Namakkal	8
13.	Nilagiri	2
14.	Parambalur	13
15.	Pudukottai	13
16.	Ramanathapuram	12
17.	Salem	45
18.	Sivaganga	16
19.	Thanjavur	15
20.	Tiruvallur	4
21.	Tiruvannamalai	11
22.	Tiruvannur	3
23.	Trichy	10

1	2	3
24.	Tuticorin	6
25.	Vellore	7
26.	Villupuram	13
27.	Virudhunagar	13
28.	Chennai	69
Total		359

District-wise New exchanges Installed in Karnataka during last three years

S.No.	Name of District	New Exchanges installed during last three years
1.	Bangalore	57
2.	Belgaum	21
3.	Bellary	13
4.	Bidar	9
5.	Bijapur	22
6.	Chikmagalur	26
7.	D. Kannada	25
8.	Chitradurga	26
9.	Gulbarga	12
10.	Hassan	12
11.	Hubli	10
12.	Kodagu	8
13.	Kolar	29
14.	Mandya	5
15.	Mysore	17
16.	Raichur	11
17.	Shimoga	17
18.	Tumkur	14
19.	U. Kannada	37
Total		371

Statement-II*Number of new exchanges proposed during 2002-2003*

(A) Tamil Nadu

S.No.	Name of District	Number of new exchanges proposed
1.	Dharamapuri	7
2.	Erode	3
3.	Nagapattanam	5
4.	Thanjavur	1
5.	Madurai	1
6.	Pudukkottai	3
7.	Chengalpattu	2
8.	Cuddalore	2
9.	Dindigal	1
10.	Karur	2
11.	Sivaganga	5
12.	Trichy	2
13.	Vizhupuram	11
14.	Virdhunagar	5
15.	Chennai	46
Total		96

(B) Karnataka

S.No.	Name of District	Number of new exchanges Planned
1.	Bangalore	3
2.	Belgaum	4
3.	Gulbarga	6
4.	Karwar	1
5.	Mangalore	10
6.	Mysore	7
7.	Raichur	3
Total		34

Visit of CGHS Doctors in Emergency Cases

2474. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines issued by the Government to the CGHS dispensaries in regard to visits of doctors at CGHS beneficiary residence in the hour of emergency;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the doctors at the night duty in the CGHS dispensaries decline to visit the residence of CGHS beneficiary in the emergency circumstances;

(c) if so, whether complaints have been received by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure compliance of Government directives in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) A copy of the guidelines is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) No such complaints have been received by the Government in this regard.

(c) and (d) In view of (b) above, the questions does not arise.

Statement*Guideline for Domiciliary Visits*

(a) All Medical Officers including specialists are expected to attend to domiciliary calls from patient when necessary. Such attendance is to be restricted to cases where the Specialists/ Medical Officer is satisfied of it necessity due to the inability of the patient to attend the hospital/ dispensary on account of severity of illness, or when long hospitalization is not feasible due to the protracted nature of illness.

(b) Domiciliary visits except in cases of emergent nature, should be made before or after the dispensary working hours.

(c) Such visits, requested during the working hours should be made by the Medical Officers receiving the call and not left to the doctor on emergency duty.

(d) In case of visit becomes necessary during the working hour the Chief Medical Officer Incharge/

Medical Officer Incharge should be informed to ensure that as far as possible not more than one Medical Officer is absent from the dispensary at any one time, during the working hours. He should keep Chief Medical Officer Incharge informed of his departure and arrival from the visit. Relevant entries of Domiciliary visits by the Medical Officers must be made any signed by him before he leaves the dispensary for visit.

- (e) Lady doctors are expected from paying domiciliary visits during 8.00 P.M. to 6.00 A.M.
- (f) Since the Medical Officers are in receipt of conveyance allowance for purposes of domiciliary visits there should be no question even by suggestion, of conveyance facilities being provided by the patients.
- (g) All medical officers are to maintain a record of domiciliary visits in a common register as per proforma vide Appendix. A quarterly return will be sent to the competent authority duly certified by the Medical Officer Incharge that the visits have been entered in the register maintained for this purpose. The visits of Medical Officer incharge will be countersigned by the Dy. Director, CGHS (Zonal).
- (h) The domiciliary visit should also be undertaken on phone call after ascertaining the basic information regarding nature of illness, address, token No., name of calling person with phone number etc. The Medical Officer before proceeding on visit should recheck by phone if he doubt the genuineness of the call.
- (i) All Medical Officers should carry emergency bag containing BP instruments, Sterile syringe, thermometer and emergency medicines. The medicines of emergency expended during domiciliary visit should be immediately replaced.

CBI Cases

2475. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cases referred to CBI by the Andhra Pradesh Government;
- (b) the number of cases accepted by CBI; and
- (c) the number of cases still under investigation?

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 Andhra Pradesh Government has referred two cases to the CBI for investigation during the year 2001 and 2002 (upto 30.6.2002). One more case was referred to the CBI by the Director General of Police, Andhra Pradesh for which the Government of Andhra Pradesh had also accorded the consent. The CBI has accepted all the three cases out of which the investigation has been completed in one case.

[Translation]

PCOs at Railway Stations

2476. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to set up S.T.D./ P.C.O. Booths on the railway platforms in Maharashtra, particularly at Jalna railway station;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Departmental PCOs on railway platforms are installed on request from Railway Authorities. STD PCOs on railway platforms are allocated to eligible applicants who possess permission from Railway Authorities in this regard. No request for allotment of PCO at Jalna Railway Station is pending.

Telephone Adalats

2477. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the dates on which telephone adalats were held in each district of Maharashtra during the last two years;
- (b) the number of cases referred to these adalats during these two years, district-wise;
- (c) the number of cases disposed of out of them; and

(d) the details of the relief provided to the telephone users alongwith the rules for holding telephone adalats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The telephone adalats (date-wise) held in each Telecom District of Maharashtra during last two years is given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(b) and (c) The information is given in the Statement-II enclosed.

(d) The relief on rental and excess metering cases provided during the last two years is Rs. 6,63,288. The telephone adalats are generally organized on bimonthly basis by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and on quarterly basis by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited.

Statement-I

Sl.No.	Districts	2000-2001	Total	2001-2002	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Ahmednagar	31/12/00, 18/4/00	2	13/8/01, 26/11/01	2
2.	Akola	27/4/00, 31/10/00, 23/1/01, 20/3/01	4	24/5/01, 27/8/01, 10/9/01, 10/10/01, 11/12/01, 10/2/02	6
3.	Amravati	28/6/00, 3/11/00	2	20/7/01, 11/9/01, 18/11/01, 22.1.02, 23/3/02	5
4.	Aurangabad	16.6.00, 23/10/00, 21/12/00, 23/10/01	4	29/6/01, 31/8/01, 21/9/01, 20/11/01, 20/2/02	5
5.	Beed	2/6/00, 14/9/00, 27/12/00, 27/3/01	4	22/7/01, 6/8/01, 12/9/01, 26/11/01, 31/1/02, 18/3/02	6
6.	Bhandara	30/5/00, 12/7/00, 18/12/00, 30/3/01	4	25/5/01, 31/7/01, 28/9/01, 4/12/01, 15/1/02, 15/3/02	6
7.	Buldhana	30/5/00, 2/8/00, 22/12/00, 20/3/01	4	26/7/01, 20/9/01, 22/10/01, 10/12/01, 6/2/02	5
8.	Chandrapur	25/5/00, 29/9/00, 18/12/00 6/2/01	4	10/8/01, 22/10/01, 8/1/02, 8/2/02	
9.	Dhule	12/10/00, 10/12/00, 28/3/01	3	4/10/01, 5/10/01, 4/1/02, 5/1/02, 20/3/02, 21/3/02	6
10.	Jalgaon	30/6/00, 19/9/00, 24/1/00, 16/3/01	4	1/6/01, 27/7/01, 18/9/01, 29/11/01, 31/1/02, 27/3/02	6
11	Jalana	25/3/00, 16/6/00	2	29/9/01, 23/2/02	2

1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Kalyan	27/12/00, 29/12/00	2	29/5/01, 31/5/01, 27/11/01, 29/11/01	4
13.	Kolhapur	9/8/00, 10/1/01,	2	6/9/01, 7/11/01, 19/12/01, 31/1/02, 26/2/02, 25/3/02	6
14.	Latur	24/7/00, 19/12/00, 28/3/01	3	15/6/01, 7/6/01, 19/10/01, 10/12/01, 10/1/02, 16/2/02	6
15.	Nagpur	22/5/00, 25/5/00, 5/7/00, 28/10/00, 23/11/00	5	3/5/01, 1/6/01, 30/8/01, 25/10/01, 27/3/02	5
16.	Nanded	29/6/00, 20/9/00, 16/2/01, 20/3/01	4	19/5/01, 21/7/01, 21/9/01, 23/11/01, 25/1/02, 28/3/02	6
17.	Nasik	29/3/01, 30/3/01, 26/6/01, 30/8/01	4	16/1/02, 12/4/02, 10/7/02	3
18.	Osmanabad	8/5/00, 10/8/00, 9/1/01	3	8/5/01, 4/7/01, 24/9/01, 1/1/02	4
19.	Parvhani	29/6/01, 28/3/01	2	9/5/01, 18/9/01, 22/2/02, 22/3/02	4
20.	Pune	6/4/00, 17/4/00(2), 21/7/00, 18/10/00, 20/10/00(2), 3/11/00, 25/12/00, 29/1/01, 9/3/01, 22/3/01	12	14/5/01, 29/6/01, 23/7/01, 17/8/01, 28/8/01, 11/10/01, 25/10/01, 26/11/01, 19/12/01, 27/12/01 28/1/02, 11/2/02, 28/3/02, 16/3/02, 23/3/02	15
21.	Raigad	26/5/00, 27/8/00, 20/12/00, 5/3/01	4	29/5/01, 30/7/01, 28/9/01, 23/11/01, 25/1/02, 22/3/02	6
22.	Ratnagiri	20/9/00, 5/1/00, 6/2/01, 15/3/01	4	26/6/01, 20/9/01, 19/12/01, 4/3/02	4
23.	Sangli	14/9/00, 15/12/00, 23/3/01	3	8/5/01, 10/7/01, 14/9/01, 7/12/01, 28/1/02, 8/3/02	6
24.	Satara	29/6/00, 5/10/00, 29/11/00, 7/2/01	4	30/5/01, 31/8/01, 26/9/01, 5/12/01, 23/1/02, 22/3/02	6
25.	Sindhudurg	20/7/00, 16/2/01, 30/3/01	3	31/5/01, 26/7/01, 26/9/01 26/12/01	4

1	2	3	4	5	6
26.	Solapur	13/9/00, 7/2/01	2	10/4/01, 11/7/01, 6/12/01, 7/12/01, 10/12/01, 4/4/02	6
27.	Wardha	10/5/00, 27/9/00, 6/2/01	3	26/6/01, 29/9/01, 8/11/01, 24/1/02, 15/3/02, 26/3/02	6
28.	Yavatmal	24/4/00, 9/6/00, 23/9/00, 9/2/01	4	25/6/01, 2/8/01, 11/9/01, 30/10/01, 16/1/02, 6/3/02	6
29.	Circle Office (Mumbai)	-	0	20/11/01	1
30.	MTNL Mumbai	30/6/00(3), 28/7/00, 29/6/00, 6/7/00, 27/6/00, 26/6/00, 22/6/00, 5/10/00, 20/9/00(3), 2 8/9/00(3) 26/9/00, 15/9/00, 10/10/01, 30/12/00(3), 21/12/00, 16/12/00, 2/1/01, 22/12/00, 29/12/00(2), 19/12/00, 31/3/01(3), 29/3/01(4), 22/3/01, 30/3/01 (Adalats held between June, 2000 to May, 2001)	38	30/6/01, 27/6/01, 27/7/01, 29/6/01(2), 28/6/01(2), 22/6/01, 3/8/01, 28/9/01(5), 29/9/01(2), 24/9/01, 11/10/01, 28/12/01(3), 27/12/01(2) 22/12/01, 18/12/01, 31/12/01, 29/12/01, 30/3/02(3), 28/3/02(3), 5/4/02, 23/3/02, 23/4/02, 29/6/02(4), 27/6/02(4), 28/6/02 (Adalats held between June, 2001 to June, 2002)	45
Total			139		196

Statement-II

Sl.No.	Districts	No. of cases referred during the last two years in Adalats held on dates as given in Statement-I	No. of cases disposed off
1	2	3	4
1.	Ahmednagar	41	38
2.	Akola	100	100
3.	Amravati	23	23
4.	Aurangabad	91	91

1	2	3	4
5.	Beed	12	12
6.	Bhandara	114	114
7.	Buldhana	77	77
8.	Chandrapur	98	98
9.	Dhule	160	160
10.	Jalgaon	188	188
11.	Jalana	41	32

1	2	3	4
12.	Kalyan	162	158
13.	Kolhapur	240	240
14.	Latur	128	112
15.	Nagpur	324	324
16.	Nanded	116	116
17.	Nasik	466	465
18.	Osmanabad	24	24
19.	Parvhani	89	89
20.	Pune	103	103
21.	Raigad	24	24
22.	Ratnagiri	166	166
23.	Sangli	94	92
24.	Satara	102	102
25.	Sindhudurg	69	69
26.	Solapur	326	326
27.	Wardha	76	50
28.	Yavatmal	72	72
29.	Circle Office	78	78
	BSNL* (Mumba)		
30.	MTNL,** Mumbai	2128	2128
Total		5830	5771

* Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.

** Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.

UPSC

2478. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take any measures to maintain the autonomy of Union Public Service Commission in view of the recruitment scandals being exposed in Punjab and Maharashtra Public Service Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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 Union Public Service Commission has been set up under Article 315 of the Constitution and the various provisions from Article 315 to Article 323 provide sufficient and adequate Constitutional safeguards so as to ensure the autonomy of UPSC. Since its inception, UPSC has been discharging its constitutional obligations solely based on the principles of justice, merit and equity. Over time, it has developed elaborate and well-tested procedures and systems so as to ensure its functioning in a transparent manner based on these principles.

[English]

World Bank Assistance for Hospitals

2479. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received the reworked project proposal from Government of Kerala for improvement of physical infrastructure in Government Medical College and attached Hospitals in Kerala State for World Bank Assistance recently; and

(b) if so, the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The project proposal of Government of Kerala for improvement of physical infrastructure in Government Medical Colleges and attached hospitals with World Bank assistance was examined in consultation with Planning Commission. The Planning Commission has made a number of observations which have been communicated to Government of Kerala to revise the proposal incorporating these views.

Meeting of Indo-Russia, JWG

2480. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting of Indo-Russia Joint Working Group (JWG) on Afghanistan was held on July 17, 2002 as reported in *the Hindu* dated July 17, 2002;

(b) if so, the issues discussed; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes Sir. The fifth meeting of India-Russia Joint Working Group on Afghanistan was held in New Delhi on 17-18 July, 2002.

(b) and (c) During the meeting, the situation in Afghanistan, as well as in the region was discussed. Both countries also talked about new and emerging threats, including the issue of international terrorism. In this regard they also stressed the need for Pakistan to fulfill its stated commitment to end cross-border terrorism and extremism, not allow infiltration through the line of control and to fulfill its obligation assumed for suppressing the activities of terrorist groups based in Pakistan controlled territories. The situation in Central Asia, Transcaucasia also came up for discussions during the meeting. A Joint Statement was released at the end of the meeting.

Afro-Asian Games

2481. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the dates for Afro-Asian Games have been finalized by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the cities which have been selected for these games, State-wise;

(d) whether all arrangements for these games have been made;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the total expenditure likely to be incurred by the Union Government on these games?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The 1st Afro Asian Games are proposed to be held from 24th October, 2003 to 1st November, 2003.

(c) These Games are proposed to be held at New Delhi.

(d) and (e) Since the Games are to be held in October, 2003, making of arrangements will be a continuous exercise from now onwards till September-October, 2003.

(f) The total expenditure likely to be incurred by the Union Government on these Games will depend on the revenues to be generated by the Organising Committee. However, as per present estimates, the total expenditure on the Games will be approximately Rs. 109.40 crores.

Drugs/Medicines for Treatment of Cancer

2482. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of drugs and medicines available in India for treatment of Cancer;

(b) the details of drugs and medicines which are being manufactured in the country for the treatment of Cancer;

(c) whether it is a fact that some of the drugs and medicines which have been banned in other countries are still being used in the country;

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

(e) whether the proposal to lift the ban on the use of Thalidomide, a drug used for the treatment of cancer patients, is under the consideration of the Government; 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) and (b) A list of drugs/medicines approved for manufacture/import for the treatment of cancer is enclosed as statement.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. It is not correct to say that some of the drugs and medicines which have been banned in other countries are still being used in the country. The drugs and medicines marketed in this country are examined through an Expert Committee on a continuous basis to weed out harmful/irrational drugs.

Certain drugs and formulations withdrawn in some countries at times, continue to be marketed in other countries because the decision to do so is based on risk assessment process which is influenced by a number of factors such as the disease pattern in a country, the varying reactions of certain ethnic groups in a given population to the drug, availability of safer substitutes as well as the cost factor involved in the treatment of a particular disease etc.

(e) and (f) Thalidomide is well known to cause severe birth defects because of this the drug was banned all over the world. However, based on the evidence and study reports USFDA allowed the drug Thalidomide for a treatment of leprosy complications for which no good alternative therapies are available for such patients. It is also reported that Thalidomide is also found useful in the treatment of refractory cases of multiple of Thalidomide in relapsed or refractory patients of multiple myeloma.

Statement

List of Drugs/Medicines manufactured/imported in India for Treatment of Cancer

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Cyclophosphamide | 26. Topotecan |
| 2. Ifosfamide | 27. Carboplatin |
| 3. Chlorambucil | 28. Cisplatin |
| 4. Melphalan | 29. Dacarbazine |
| 5. Busulphan | 30. Dactinomycin |
| 6. Lomustine | 31. Hydroxyurea |
| 7. Mustine | 32. L-asparaginase |
| 8. Thiotepa | 33. Azathioprine |
| 9. Mesna (urothelial toxicity) | 34. Cyclosporin |
| 10. Doxorubicin | 35. Interferon a |
| 11. Daunorubicin | 36. Amifostine |
| 12. Mitozantrone | 37. Stilboestrol |
| 13. Mitomycin | 38. Ethinyl oestradiol |
| 14. Methotrexate | 39. Megestrol acetate |
| 15. Cytarabine (Cytosinearabinoide) | 40. Tamoxifen |
| 16. Fludarabine | 41. Flutamide |
| 17. 5-Fluorouracil | 42. Leuporelin acetate |
| 18. Mercaptopurine | 43. Imatinib Mesylate (Gleevec) |
| 19. Thioguanine | 44. Titymogen (IM 862) |
| 20. Vinblastine | 45. Bicalutamide |
| 21. Vincristine | |
| 22. Etoposide | |
| 23. Paclitaxel | |
| 24. Docetaxel | |
| 25. Irenotecan | |

CICA Summit Meeting

2483. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PM while addressing the CICA Meeting had asserted that the 16 Nations Summit must put pressure on the countries who are creating/sponsoring terrorism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the PM held talks with Russian President on the sidelines of Summit meeting for putting pressure on Pakistan to stop terrorism; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) In his address at the Summit Meeting of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building

Measures in Asia (CICA) held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 4 June, 2002, Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee stated that implementation of United Nations' Security Council Resolution No. 1373, which specifically bars any nation from supporting terrorism—either directly or indirectly in the name of providing moral and political support, will prove to be an important confidence-building measure in Asia. He also conveyed India's deep concern over cross-border terrorism aimed at destabilizing the country.

(c) and (d) Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee met President of the Russian Federation Mr. Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the CICA Summit Meeting in Almaty on 4 June, 2002. During this meeting, the two leaders discussed bilateral matters between India and the Russian Federation, and regional and international issues of mutual interest. The meeting was held in a warm and friendly atmosphere traditionally associated between India and the Russian Federation. The Prime Minister conveyed to President Putin India's appreciation of Russia's strong and consistent support on India's stand on terrorism.

Nuclear Power Plants

2484. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the major nuclear power plants cleared by the Union Government;

(b) the time by which these projects are likely to produce power;

(c) whether the power produced by nuclear plants in Tamil Nadu is able to meet the demands of the southern States;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have received any complaints about the nuclear reactor;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action taken by the Government 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) The details of nuclear power projects cleared by the Government of India are as follows:

Sr. No.	Name of the Project	Location	Date of scheduled commercial operation
1.	Tarapur Atomic Power Project - 3 & 4 (2x500 MWe, being uprated to 2x540 MWe)	Tarapur, Maharashtra	TAPP-4 : April 2006 TAPP-3 : January 2007
2.	Kaiga Atomic Power Project 3&4 (2x200 MWe)	Kaiga, Karnataka	Kaiga 3 - March 2007 Kaiga 4 - September 2007
3.	Rajasthan Atomic Power Project 5&6 (2x220 MWe)	Rawatbhata, Rajasthan	RAPP 5 -August 2007 RAPP 6 - February 2008
4.	Kudankulam Atomic Power Project 1&2 (2x1000 MWe)	Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu	KK 1 - December 2007 KK 2 - December 2008

(c) and (d) Kaiga Atomic Power Project 1 & 2 (2x220 MWe) and Madras Atomic Power Station 1 & 2 (2x170 MWe) have already been set up in the Southern Electricity Region. The present allocation of power from these units for Tamil Nadu is 360 MWe. In addition, Kaiga 3 & 4 and KK 1 & 2 projects, on their completion, will supply power to the Southern Grid. Tamil Nadu will also have a share of power from these units. The share will be based on allocation by Ministry of Power and also the requirement of power firmed up with the beneficiary states in the region.

(e) No complaints have been received about reactors being used in nuclear power plants.

(f) and (g) Not applicable.

[Translation]

Uprooting of Railway Track

2485. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Pakistan recently uprooted 15 KMs of rail line near Atari railway station with the result great economic loss has been caused to both the traders as well as the railways;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken up the matter with Pakistan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) As per information available with Government, Pakistan has not uprooted any length of rail line near Attari Railway Station with intention of disrupting the communication infrastructure between the two countries.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

World Bank Aided Health Projects

2486. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of health projects launched in the country with World Bank assistance, State-wise; and

(b) the funds allocated for these projects during each of the last three years and till date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Global Terrorism

2487. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any joint action plan has been chalked out by India, Russia and USA to check the global terrorism; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is "no joint action plan". However, there is cooperation between India and other countries, both bilaterally and under the U.N. framework in combating terrorism.

Internet Users

2488. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of Internet users in India and how does it compare with USA, UK, Canada, Japan and China; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to promote internet and other computer related facilities in the country especially in rural and remote areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) The report on penetration/ subscription of internet in the country is being compiled quarterly by Department of Telecommunications (DOT) based on the inputs received from various Internet Service Providers. As per the information available from Internet Service Providers Association of India (ISPAI), as of June 2002, 3.3 million subscribers are registered. Assuming an average of 5 users per Registered Internet Subscriber, estimated Internet users in the country is 16.5 million. The corresponding percentage will be 1.65 (for a population of 1 billion). The figures of percentage of Internet Users for USA, UK, Canada, Japan and China are 58.5%, 55.32%, 52.26%, 39.16% and 2.65% respectively. Details are placed at Statement-I enclosed.

(b) The Government has taken a number of initiatives for promotion of internet especially in rural and remote areas in the country. The details are given at Statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I

The details about Internet users in respect of various Countries and World-wide is as follows:

Country	Internet Users	Total Population	% of Internet users
1	2	3	4
India	16.5 million	1000 million	1.65% (As on June' 02)

(Registered Internet Subscribers- 3.3 million. Assuming an average of 5 Users per Registered Internet Subscriber, estimated Internet users in the country- 1.65 million).

1	2	3	4
USA	164.14 million	280.58 million	58.5% (As on Jan' 02)
UK	33 million	59.65 million	55.32% (As on Jan' 02)
Canada	16.99 million	31.9 million	53.26% (As on Feb' 02)
China	33.7 million	1271.70 million	2.65% (As on Jan' 02)
Japan	49.72 million	126.97 million	39.16% (As on Feb' 02)
Australia	10.63 million	19.55 million	54.38% (As on Feb' 02)
France	15.65 million	59.55 million	26.28% (As on Dec' 01)
Germany	30.2 million	83.03 million	36.37% (As on Feb' 02)
Russia	9.2 million	146.03 million	6.3% (As on Aug' 00)
Indonesia	4.4 million	227.98 million	1.93% (As on Jan' 02)
World-wide	544.2 million	6073.66 million	8.96% (As on Feb' 02)

(source : www.nau.ia/surveys/how_many_online/n_america.html)

Statement-II

The following steps have been taken by Government for promotion of Internet Services in the Country for rural, hilly and remote areas:

- Any company registered in India under Companies Act 1956 is eligible to apply for Internet Service Provider (ISP) licence.
- There is no limit on the number of licenses granted in particular area and the same company can take licenses for multiple areas.
- License fees is waived upto 31.10.2003 and will be Rs. 1/- per annum thereafter.
- ISPS have been permitted to offer Internet telephony w.e.f. 1st April, 2002 after taking approval from the Government.
- Number of Internet nodes installed in the country-428.
- BSNL has set up National Internet Backbone (NIB) Network with 45 Major Internet Nodes parenting other Internet Nodes and connected to the VSNL. Gateways at Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore & Pune.
- Internet facility has been made available in all District Headquarters of the country.
- Internet facility has been extended to the customers on local call charge basis to the nearest node.
- Internet facility has been extended to 5926 Block Headquarters of the country.
- Internet nodes have been set up in Remote & Hilly areas like Shillong, Agartala, R.K. Pur, Aizwal, Dimapur, Itanagar, Passighat, Imphal, Kohima, Almora, Pithaoragarh, Gopeshwar, Solan Ooty, Namchi, Geyzing, Rangpo etc.
- BSNL, through the scheme of Internet Dhabas set up through franchises, has provided Internet Dial-up connections to 3171 Internet Dhabas.
- To promote proliferation of Internet in Rural Areas, BSNL is offering one free Internet access connection alongwith 25 percent discount on the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) access charges in each of the Rural Block Headquarters.
- In Urban Block Headquarters, BSNL is also offering one free Internet Access connection but limited to 1500 hours alongwith 25 percent discount in PSTN access charges.
- Establishing Community Information Centres in the 487 Blocks of North East with V-SAT connectivity.

Opening of Hospitals/CGHS Dispensaries in Evening

2489. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE:

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

(a) whether the Government have any proposal under their consideration to open CGHS Dispensaries/OPD in Government Hospitals in Delhi in the evening also;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have received any representations from the employees or their associations in this regard; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) In so far as Central Government Hospitals in Delhi i.e. Dr. R.M.L. Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College & Associated Hospitals are concerned, a proposal to start evening OPD for CGHS (Senior Citizens) at Dr. R.M.L. Hospital is being considered. The details are being worked out.

In so far as CGHS, Delhi is concerned, there is no such proposal for opening of CGHS dispensaries in the evening. However, emergency services are available in the afternoon (between 1.30 P.M. to 7.30 P.M. and at night between 7.30 P.M. to 7.30 A.M. (next morning) in the Multishift CGHS dispensaries. Moreover, there are 11 double shift dispensaries in CGHS Delhi which provides regular OPD services from 7.30 A.M. to 7.30 P.M. in two six hours shifts.

(d) In so far as Central Government Hospitals in Delhi are concerned, no such representation has been received from any Union of Central Government Hospitals.

In CGHS Delhi, the staff side of the Standing Committee of the National Council (JCM) have demanded that the dispensary should function in two shifts.

(e) In CGHS Delhi, the practice of having a single shift had been adopted in the year 1985 on the representation of the staff side of the JCM as employees of CGHS found it difficult to travel back and forth to their distant residences twice a day and having double shift the dispensaries required additional staff. Suggestions from the staff side have been invited for opening of double shift in certain localities and further action will be taken on receipt of the suggestion of staff side.

[*Translation*]

Category-wise Employees in MTNL

2490. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees/officers in the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) as on 01.11.1998 and 30.06.2002 in various categories, separately;

(b) whether there has been increase in the number of officials in Group-'A' & 'B' in MTNL after 01.11.1998 whereas there has been decrease in the number of Group-'C' & 'D' employees;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to maintain balance in the work force of different Groups in MTNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Sir, the details are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The reasons for increase in the number of Group 'B' officers is that JTO cadre has been declared as Group 'B' with effect from 31.9.98 and also the promotion of Group 'C' cadre to Group 'B' cadre. The decrease in Group 'D' is mainly due to promotion of Group 'D' officials to the cadre of Phone Mechanic (Group 'C'). Also with the introduction of latest technologies, the requirement of unskilled workers is getting reduced.

Statement*The category-wise number of employees in MTNL*

Category	As on 1.11.1998	As on 30.6.2002
Group 'A'	900	1140
Group 'B'	3194	6153
Group 'C'	39027	35616
Group 'D'	19248	16864

Garuda Cellular Service

2491. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of subscribers of Garuda Cellular Service and the number thereof on the waiting list in Delhi as on June 30, 2002;

(b) the time by which handsets are likely to be provided to the persons on the waiting list;

(c) whether the rent of Garuda Cellular Service has been slashed down in comparison to the earlier rent charged;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government are contemplating to introduce the ID caller facility also in Garuda Cellular Service; and

(f) if so, since when and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The number of subscribers of Garuda Mobile Service in MTNL, Delhi as on 30.6.2002 is 21890. Waiting list is nil as the booking is closed because the exchange capacity has been utilized fully.

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

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Rental has decreased from existing Rs. 450/- per month to Rs. 250/- per month, which includes Rs. 50/- per month rental for handsets. Optionally handset can be given by service providers by taking a refundable security deposit of Rs. 6000/- and rental for services in such

case would be Rs. 200/- per month. The above charges are to be implemented from the date of gazette notification of TRAI orders in this regard.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) A Letter on Intent (Advance purchase order) has been issued for expansion of existing network in which ID-Caller facility is a feature and is likely to be provided by the end of current year.

[English]

Diagnostic Laboratories

2492. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of diagnostic laboratories functioning in Karnataka; and

(b) the number out of them obtained the accreditation from the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration of Laboratories (NABL)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The Government of Karnataka has intimated that there are 1952 diagnostic laboratories.

(b) Nil.

Borrowing for Modernisation of Steel Plants

2493. SHRIMATI SHAYAM SINGH:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount borrowed by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) during each of the last three years for modernisation of its plants; and

(b) to what extent debts burden has been reduced during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has not specifically borrowed for modernisation projects during the last three years, as the same have been completed. However, borrowings allocated for modernisation projects during the last four years is as under:

(Rs. In Crores)

As on	Borrowing allocated for Modernisation of Rourkela, Durgapur and Bokaro Steel Plants
31.3.2002	3544
31.3.2001	3661
31.3.2000	3795
31.3.1999	7825

During the period 1999-2000 to 2001-02 there has been reduction of Rs. 7005 crores in the total borrowing position of SAIL, which includes borrowing on account of modernisation of Rourkela, Durgapur and Bokaro Steel Plants.

Special Grants to States

2494. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are consider to give special funds to Punjab to formulate a plan to check the imbalance in sex ratio due to rising female foeticide in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the States to whom such grants are proposed to be given for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) In order to check female foeticide, the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation Prevention and Misuse) Act, 1994, was enacted and brought into operation from 1st January, 1996. Child sex ratio (i.e. number of girls per thousand boys) in the age group of 0 to 6 years is 793 in Punjab, which is the lowest in the country. An amount of Rs. 8,00,000/- was released to Government of Punjab during 2001-2002 and Rs. 15 lakhs during 2002-2003 for publicity under the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994. Further, for effective monitoring of the implementation of the provisions of the Act and maintenance of records etc., a proposal was received from the State Government of Punjab for developing Application Software. Rs. 7,00,000/- has been sanctioned to them for this purpose.

(c) For publicity under the said Act during 2002-2003, funds have been sanctioned to Gujarat (Rs. 15 lakh), Haryana (Rs. 15 lakh), Himachal Pradesh (Rs. 11 lakh), Maharashtra (Rs. 15 lakh), Rajasthan (Rs. 15 lakh), Uttaranchal (Rs. 10 lakh), Uttar Pradesh (Rs. 20 lakh), Chandigarh (Rs. 5 lakh), Daman & Diu (Rs. 5 lakh) and Delhi (Rs. 15 lakh).

[Translation]

Attachment of Assets of Corrupt Officials

2495. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chief Vigilance Commissioner has suggested the Government for enacting a law for attachment of the assets of the corrupt Government officials;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government 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) to (c) The Law Commission of India vide its 166th report had forwarded a draft Bill viz. Corrupt Public Servants (Forfeiture of Property) Bill proposing to forfeit the property of corrupt public servants. The draft Bill was examined and it was decided that no new law for illegally acquired assets of public servants need be enacted since provisions already exist in the Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1944 to enable attachment of ill-gotten wealth obtained through corrupt means. Instead it was decided to carry out suitable amendments in the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. Accordingly, the matter has been referred to the Department of Legal Affairs.

[English]

Institutes of Information Technology and Computer Education

2496. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have contemplated to set up some Institutes of Information Technology and

Computer Education in Bodo Tribal dominated areas in Assam aiming at imparting Information Technology related education to the Tribal youths;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present there is no central sector scheme to set up Institutes of Information Technology.

Youth Training Centres

2497. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to review the policy regarding setting up of Youth Training Centres/ Academies in various disciplines of sports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of such centres proposed to be set up in Maharashtra, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

New Medical Colleges

2498. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Institutions in Karnataka which have sought permission to start the medical colleges in Karnataka;

(b) the details of the Institutions permitted to start new medical colleges in Karnataka from 2002-03 with intake capacity;

(c) the details of medical colleges in Karnataka which have sought permission for increasing the seat capacity of under-graduate and post-graduate courses; and

(d) the details of medical colleges in Karnataka which have been permitted to increase its seat capacity in both under-graduate and post-graduate courses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The following institutions from Karnataka have sought the permission of the Central Government to open new medical colleges in Karnataka:-

1. B.V.V. Sangha Medical Colleges, Bagalkot
2. Navodaya Education Trust, Raichur
3. Sreenivasa Trust, Bangalore
4. Laxmi Memorial Education Trust, Mangalore
5. K.V.G. Medical Colleges, Sullia.

(b) During the year 2002-2003, so far, permission of the Central Government has been granted for starting of K.V.G. Medical College at Sullia, Karnataka with intake of 100 seats.

(c) and (d) The proposal from the following institutions in Karnataka for increase in seat in post-graduate courses are at various stages of consideration with the Government of India/Medical Council of India:—

1. Al-Ameen Medical College, Bijapur
2. M.R. Medical College, Gulbarga
3. M.S. Ramaiah Medical College, Bangalore
4. St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences, Bangalore
5. Fr. Muller Medical College, Mangalore
6. Shri Devraj Urs Medical College, Kolar
7. Kempegowda Institute of Medical Sciences, Bangalore.

Clearance of these proposals depends on availability of infrastructural facilities, verification and recommendations thereon by the Medical Council of India. However, no proposal from Karnataka for increase of seats in under-graduate course is pending with the Government.

*[Translation]***Centrally Sponsored Programmes/Schemes**

2499. SHRI SUBODH ROY:

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:

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

(a) the number of centrally sponsored disease control programmes/schemes organised at present in the country;

(b) the amount allocated to State Governments to

organize these programmes/schemes during the last three years and current year, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the achievements made under these programmes during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Government is implementing five major National Health Programmes for control of Malaria, TB, Blindness, Leprosy and AIDS. State-wise, allocations/release made under these programmes during the last three years and the current year are given in the statement-I. Details of achievements made under these programmes during the last three years are given in the statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I**National Anti Malaria Programme**

State/UT-wise distribution of allocation during 1999-2000 to 2002-2003 under NAMP

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	1999-2000 Allocation	2000-2001 Allocation	2001-02 Allocation	2002-03 Allocation
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	322.86	539.67	249.00	157.53
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	303.27	343.91	486.93	280.72
3.	Assam	2267.01	5514.11	1983.27	1625.12
4.	Bihar	481.35	383.07	357.37	77.71
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	570.71	—
6.	Goa	10.93	8.71	6.08	8.85
7.	Gujarat	489.04	399.04	92.70	112.37
8.	Haryana	259.03	197.22	18.43	60.88
9.	Himachal Pradesh	46.11	90.30	2.20	3.06
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	52.73	86.96	22.96	11.94
11.	Jharkhand	—	—	561.28	147.45
12.	Karnataka	602.66	352.68	291.34	176.28
13.	Kerala	117.72	84.35	39.24	5.48
14.	Madhya Pradesh	893.40	533.83	788.25	160.49
15.	Maharashtra	282.97	289.41	468.50	221.58

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	Manipur	403.05	520.37	358.91	121.36
17.	Meghalaya	306.70	337.64	381.41	167.63
18.	Mizoram	309.56	385.11	433.94	118.51
19.	Nagaland	240.83	290.38	346.91	212.48
20.	Orissa	329.67	280.43	557.34	122.43
21.	Punjab	288.96	230.77	49.38	70.79
22.	Rajasthan	1146.16	784.12	397.56	147.35
23.	Sikkim	11.65	10.65	0.11	4.37
24.	Tamil Nadu	392.31	174.92	99.77	180.11
25.	Tripura	375.89	599.05	542.45	302.78
26.	Uttar Pradesh	622.18	591.14	540.44	198.51
27.	Uttaranchal	—	—	23.64	7.84
28.	West Bengal	296.26	354.86	464.88	153.46
29.	Delhi	75.40	90.97	97.57	97.39
30.	Pondicherry	10.32	22.03	13.43	22.61
31.	A & N Islands	116.46	208.13	226.84	217.85
32.	Chandigarh	47.25	50.00	41.06	36.00
33.	D & N Haveli	25.94	40.03	40.67	34.33
34.	Daman & Diu	16.42	18.86	16.08	11.72
35.	Lakshadweep	5.81	10.98	6.35	6.10
	Total	11210.00	13826.00	10577.00	5427.00
	Kalanjar	1000.00	1000.00	1200.00	2000.00
	Estt/Research/Publicity	690.00	624.00	673.00	673.00
	EAC	12000.00	10000.00	10000.00	15000.00
	NDCP	100.00	50.00	50.00	—
	Grand Total	25000.00	25500.00	22500.00	23100.00
	Cash States other than North Eastern States				400.00
					23500.00

*Details of State-wise fund allocation under National TB Control Programme
during last three years & current year*

				(Rs. in Lacs)
Name of State & UT	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	482.76	448.58	1200.00	1050.00
Arunachal Pradesh	2.54	95.47	118.38	15.00
Assam	114.13	298.62	210.53	391.77
Bihar	1054.73	1029.88	693.96	697.27
Goa	3.17	12.91	15.41	13.78
Gujarat	1203.88	880.39	803.03	536.22
Haryana	79.13	236.72	193.53	179.75
Himachal Pradesh	133.64	116.52	181.97	64.64
Jammu & Kashmir	37.30	80.80	72.78	95.28
Karnataka	701.35	671.49	627.23	534.01
Kerala	885.69	607.93	681.25	336.99
Madhya Pradesh	418.17	765.85	652.65	592.09
Maharashtra	852.84	1275.43	1668.97	1025.81
Manipur	31.66	30.09	99.60	30.77
Meghalaya	8.60	19.74	19.42	31.74
Mizoram	3.48	7.58	14.05	11.82
Nagaland	2.77	13.84	98.50	25.64
Orissa	325.38	455.89	600.00	450.00
Punjab	95.98	229.44	279.29	227.65
Rajasthan	397.40	988.05	1063.20	598.74
Sikkim	1.90	4.43	31.54	6.41
Tamil Nadu	660.48	1133.92	991.12	658.09
Tripura	13.36	30.25	30.25	33.57
Uttar Pradesh	897.57	1695.07	1390.01	1586.38
West Bengal	2083.18	1143.30	1100.27	849.90

1	2	3	4	5
Delhi	0.00	195.04	226.76	146.24
Pondicherry	2.78	15.60	11.57	9.96
A & Nicobar	1.25	2.58	1.52	2.23
Chandigarh	3.47	7.38	12.73	9.54
D & N Haveli	0.67	0.07	0.04	1.48
Daman & Diu	0.49	1.48	0.87	1.48
Lakshadweep	0.25	5.53	3.25	1.06
Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	54.65	233.91
Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	15.42	67.21
Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	36.22	183.56
Total	10500.00	12499.87	13200.00	10700.00

*National Programme for Control of Blindness
Funds Released as Cash Grants & GIA States/UTs since 1999-2000*

(Rs. in lakhs)

States	Releases made during			Allocation
	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
1	2	3	4	5
WORLD BANK PROJECT				
Andhra Pradesh	434.40	521.00	835.80	615.00
Madhya Pradesh	740.81	699.13	463.00	405.00
Maharashtra	664.88	581.00	836.00	365.00
Orissa	420.25	1,107.00	300.00	310.00
Rajasthan	314.18	856.00	912.00	291.00
Tamil Nadu	1,009.82	857.00	1,742.25	815.00
Uttar Pradesh	789.32	588.00	2,058.23	415.00
Chhattisgarh	140.00	107.00	162.00	230.00
Uttaranchal	50.00	15.00	140.00	160.00
Sub Total	4563.65	5331.13	7449.28	3606.00

1	2	3	4	5
REST OF THE STATES				
Arunachal Pradesh	15.00	31.50	34.65	19.00
Assam	81.50	182.90	57.50	105.70
Bihar	108.58	275.92	72.00	260.00
Delhi	42.40	38.13	13.00	42.00
Goa	14.50	41.20	18.70	30.00
Gujarat	404.50	384.00	142.04	215.00
Haryana	169.27	178.00	102.00	119.05
Himachal Pradesh	86.25	131.00	37.00	83.00
Jammu & Kashmir	40.75	106.50	80.80	83.00
Jharkhand	46.00	54.00	15.30	160.00
Karnataka	352.20	290.20	259.20	273.00
Kerala	263.39	270.50	124.50	160.00
Manipur	9.00	41.60	36.15	24.00
Meghalaya	21.00	60.10	66.00	24.00
Mizoram	26.50	55.40	25.30	29.00
Nagaland	14.00	40.58	47.15	24.00
Punjab	199.61	117.60	55.20	135.00
Sikkim	15.25	26.60	5.60	13.00
Tripura	35.39	68.80	372.20	46.65
West Bengal	194.10	275.00	120.40	210.00
A & Nicobar Islands	10.67	3.75	8.10	8.00
Chandigarh	11.44	11.00	8.00	8.00
D & N Haveli	2.50	3.75	5.80	8.00
Daman & Diu	9.40	4.75	4.50	8.00
Lakshadweep	5.72	3.75	4.60	8.00
Pondicherry	20.82	14.50	5.75	13.00
Sub Total	2199.74	2711.03	1721.44	2107.40
Total	6763.39	8042.16	9170.72	5713.40

*State-wise Allocation under National Leprosy Eradication Programme
during last three years & current year*

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	States	1999-2000 Assistance Released	2000-2001 Assistance Released	2001-2002 Assistance Released	2002-03 Assistance Released
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	442.21	508.75	223.83	25.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	60.36	136.00	62.09	20.00
3.	Assam	235.93	112.00	153.85	20.00
4.	Bihar	1322.77	869.80	663.94	95.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	NA	NA	378.34	50.00
6.	Goa	1.51	1.50	11.52	5.00
7.	Gujarat	230.37	230.00	61.97	25.00
8.	Haryana	43.24	23.00	61.94	15.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	54.53	61.00	49.69	15.00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	63.61	87.00	100.55	30.00
11.	Jharkhand	NA	NA	356.23	40.00
12.	Karnataka	247.98	302.75	196.05	0.00
13.	Kerala	147.30	237.00	74.61	30.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	794.35	645.36	395.32	50.00
15.	Maharashtra	391.04	398.60	435.99	30.00
16.	Manipur	95.71	125.00	71.02	20.00
17.	Meghalaya	45.26	47.00	46.94	20.00
18.	Mizoram	51.22	61.00	60.51	15.00
19.	Nagaland	106.09	109.00	89.22	15.00
20.	Orissa	581.09	628.00	540.77	50.00
21.	Punjab	100.39	36.00	32.3	10.00
22.	Rajasthan	148.37	105.00	123.07	10.00
23.	Sikkim	71.36	41.71	34.87	10.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	385.79	422.74	413.04	30.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
25.	Tripura	47.18	34.00	46.47	20.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1428.10	1093.51	129.01	95.00
27.	Uttaranchal	NA	NA	1282.5	40.00
28.	West Bengal	841.53	784.00	574.66	50.00
29.	A & N Islands	5.63	1.00	18.3	10.00
30.	Chandigarh	13.29	3.50	5.5	5.00
31.	D & N Haveli	1.17	8.79	6	5.00
32.	Daman & Diu	9.50	14.50	18.4	5.00
33.	Delhi	14.38	41.50	48.36	5.00
34.	Lakshadweep	1.36	3.00	6	5.00
35.	Pondicherry	2.00	7.00	2	5.00
Total		7984.62	7179.01	6774.86	875.00

National AIDS Control Programme

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	State/UT	Release during 1999-2000	Release during 2000-01	Release during 2001-02	Allocation during 2002-03
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1219.67	824.50	850.00	2001.03
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	159.00	111.00	214.88	152.24
3.	Assam	322.00	375.00	653.80	670.53
4.	Bihar	55.00	196.00	809.50	741.74
5.	Goa	98.00	72.73	99.00	213.50
6.	Gujarat	721.00	347.17	450.00	561.37
7.	Haryana	270.00	246.50	266.00	477.18
8.	Himachal Pradesh	318.00	262.50	308.50	355.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	25.00	152.00	244.50	391.00
10.	Karnataka	801.67	398.65	785.15	1099.22

1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	Kerala	280.00	350.63	368.00	602.07
12.	Madhya Pradesh	352.31	542.00	780.50	1002.86
13.	Maharashtra	998.35	852.00	550.00	—
14.	Manipur	352.38	415.30	708.15	772.24
15.	Meghalaya	70.14	87.50	224.93	178.13
16.	Mizoram	100.00	179.00	240.70	328.00
17.	Nagaland	380.00	250.50	635.50	663.83
18.	Orissa	200.00	358.50	200.00	460.70
19.	Punjab	312.39	321.50	266.50	416.10
20.	Rajasthan	150.00	380.00	317.50	642.04
21.	Sikkim	25.00	66.00	120.02	124.89
22.	Tamil Nadu	883.09	1108.30	1393.50	1500.67
23.	Tripura	50.00	92.00	196.67	188.58
24.	Uttar Pradesh	851.00	1755.00	1465.65	1740.17
25.	West Bengal	425.00	643.15	1059.50	1005.09
26.	Delhi	283.00	239.00	334.00	432.51
27.	Pondicherry	25.00	21.50	54.00	137.10
28.	A & N Islands	50.00	66.44	95.50	124.74
29.	Chandigarh	115.00	93.11	152.65	172.91
30.	D & N Haveli	25.00	9.00	20.00	68.03
31.	Daman & Diu	95.00	9.00	31.00	97.33
32.	Lakshadweep	25.00	9.10	20.50	76.10
33.	MDACB, Mumbai	670.00	431.05	585.65	919.34
34.	Ahmedabad MC	75.00	84.61	58.30	177.48
35.	Chennai MC	125.00	101.50	62.45	450.09
36.	Uttaranchal	—	—	98.00	280.49
37.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	129.50	370.00
38.	Jharkhand	—	—	156.00	277.00
Total		10975.00	10872.40	15027.00	19881.30

Statement-II***Achievements of National Disease Control Programmes during 1999-2000 to 2001-2002*****(i) National Anti Malaria Programme**

Year	ABER*	Spraying (Population Covered) in crore	
		Targets	Achievements
1999	9.31	8.98	7.76
2000	8.78	9.90	8.09
2001	8.71(p)	8.35	6.85

ABER — Annual Blood Examination Rate (%)

API — Annual Parasite Incidence per thousand population

* — Target of ABER is 10%

P — Provisional.

(ii) National T.B. Control Programme

Year	Sputum Examination		Detection of New Smear Positive Cases	
	Targets	Achievements	Targets	Achievements
1999-2000	4884840	4009727	488480	371521
2000-2001	4985720	3673619	498590	347273
2001-2002	5135100	3838827	513510	400839

(iii) National Blindness Control Programme

Year	Cataract Operations Performed	
	Targets	Achievements
1999-2000	3500065	3500065
2000-01	3644640	3644640
2001-02	3931056	3716948

(iv) National Leprosy Eradication Programme

Year	Cases Detected		Cases Discharged	
	Targets	Achievements	Targets	Achievements
1999-2000	286365	600068	611666	567831
2000-01	183345	502256	455015	645763
2001-02	183345	592758	455015	537746

(v) **National AIDS Control Programme**

Upto March, 2002 following achievements have been made:-

245 major blood banks and 591 district blood banks have been established. 531 STD clinics have been set up. 145 voluntary Counselling and Testing Centres have been established. 571 Targeted Interventions Projects for vulnerable and marginalised high risk behaviour groups have been initiated.

[English]

Development of IT

2500. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that China has sought India's co-operation for developing global standards in Information Technology;

(b) if so, whether the Government have already kick-started an e-commerce initiative for the standardisation of global trade; and

(c) if so, to what extent India has provided e-commerce expertise to China?

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

(b) The Information Technology Act 2000 has been enacted to provide legal recognition for transactions carried out by means of E-Commerce.

(c) Does not arise.

Development of Telecom Services in North Eastern Region

2501. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give priority for development of Telecom services in North-Eastern Region including Sikkim;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any special Plan for the region; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Keeping in view the strategic importance of communication needs of North Eastern States the Government has drawn an ambitious plan to connect the North Eastern State Capitals under 3 tier scheme by three different independent transmission routes/ media namely Microwave, Satellite and Optical Fibre Cable.

In addition, high capacity state-of-art Optical Fibre Systems and Telephone Exchanges with modern facilities are also being deployed extensively in the North Eastern Region.

Ombudsman

2502. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Ombudsman to provide sufficient credit facility to the Small Scale Industries from various financial institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when it is likely to be set up?

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) Perhaps the question refers to the Ombudsman Scheme. The Reserve Bank of India has already introduced the Banking Ombudsman Scheme in June, 1995, which has now been revised in June, 2002 enlarging the extent and scope of the authority and functions of Banking Ombudsman for redressal of grievances against deficiency in banking services concerning loans and advances and other specified matters. The Scheme covers small enterprises also.

Treatment in Sir Ganga Ram Hospital

2503. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi does not honour the Government's directive that no advance payment should be insisted upon from CGHS beneficiaries, who go there for treatment but they insist for advance payment and also the full payment before discharge of the patients;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The fresh list of private hospitals recognised under CGHS Delhi was issued vide Department of Health's O.M. dated 7.9.2001. Subsequently, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi has been added to the list of recognised hospitals under CGHS Delhi vide Department of Health's O.M. dated 6.5.2002 for Cardiology, Cardiac Surgery and Diagnostic Procedures, renal procedure, renal transplantation, Gastro-enterology procedures, Liver transplantation and Genetic lab procedures only. Therefore, the said hospital extends credit facility only for above mentioned procedures to the categories of CGHS beneficiaries specified in para 10 of Department of Health's O.M. dated 7.9.2001 subject to fulfilment of the conditions laid down in the said para. Further, as per para 11 of O.M. dated 7.9.2001, the hospital has to extend credit facilities to all CGHS beneficiaries in emergency cases on production of a valid CGHS card.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Government Hospitals

2504. SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for expansion and modernization of the Central Government hospitals located in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount spent by the Government for the purpose during the last three years; and

(c) the estimated amount likely to be spent by the Government for modernization and expansion of the Government hospitals in Delhi during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Restrictions on Visas

2505. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that Dubai has imposed restrictions on issuance of new visas to Indians;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the matter has been taken up with Dubai authorities; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) The Emirate of Dubai did not impose separate visa restrictions on Indians. Visa Policy is made by the Federal Authority of the United Arab Emirates in Abu Dhabi. The Government is aware of the restriction imposed by the Federal Authority of UAE on issuance of visas to unskilled and semi-skilled workers from India and Pakistan since 1998. However, issuance of worker visas continues on a restricted basis. Visas to Indian nationals for visit and transit are being issued by UAE authorities as in the past on sponsorship basis. This restriction does not apply to recruitment of professionals.

(c) The issue was not discussed with the Dubai authorities, but has come up during discussions with the Federal Authorities from time to time.

(d) The UAE Government's position is that the restricted recruitment of workers from India and Pakistan is on account of (i) demographic imbalance caused by the disproportionately large share of Indians and Pakistanis in the expatriate population; (ii) to mop up any excess supply of labour in UAE; and (iii) Emiratisation i.e. replacement of expatriates by nationals for managerial positions and white-collared jobs in banks, financial institutions, Government departments etc. The UAE Government has clarified that recruitment is still being cleared from India on a case by case basis.

[English]

Cataract Treatment

2506. SHRI D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that tea extract injections help delay the onset of cataract;

(b) if so, the research undertaken in this regard especially in the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB); and

(c) the action proposed to propagate the findings for preventing blindness especially in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. Tea has been shown to have anti-oxidative property and thus may help prevent cataract formation.

(b) Experiments carried out on rats at the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), indicate the cataract progression was significantly slowed down following injection of extracts of black and green tea. Green tea appears to have better effect than the black tea. Treatment with laser is useful in some cases of glaucoma, retinal diseases and post-operative opacity following cataract surgery.

(c) Effect of tea on formation or progression of cataract in humans has not yet been established. Appropriate action will be taken only after usefulness of tea in preventing progression of cataract is established.

[Translation]

Fate of Indian Students

2507. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fate of about 80 Indian students studying in a Russian Medical Institute has been hanging in the balance as reported in the *Rashtriya Sahara* dated July 2, 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) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Participation of NGOs/Voluntary Organisations

2508. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:
SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to seek the participation of NGOs/Voluntary Organisations etc. to create public awareness at National level to achieve the targets fixed for the National Population Control Policy, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) For creating public awareness at the National, State and grass root level for achieving the goals set in the National Population Policy, 2000, Government is actively seeking the participation of NGOs and voluntary Organisations. During the current year, an amount of Rs. 22 crores has been allocated for providing financial assistance to NGOs for undertaking activities related to counselling couples and adolescents on family planning, reproductive health care; generation of awareness in under-served areas on a range of issues such as gender exclusive breast feeding, provisions of the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 and accessing contraceptives etc. Some NGOs are also providing assistance for providing training to traditional birth attendants at village level, and capacity building in communities for accessing health services.

[English]

Vaccine for AIDS

2509. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI SAIDUZZAMA:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

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

(a) whether Indian scientists at All India Institute of Medical Sciences have recently developed artificial virus of vaccine for AIDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that ICMR, Pune has developed AIDS vaccine;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government are aware that C type of HIV virus has been spreading in India; and

(f) if so, the action taken/being taken by the Government for developing C type of vaccine for controlling HIV virus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) According to faculty members at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), scientists here are trying to develop DNA vaccines against the HIV-1 virus sub-type C. Efforts are being made to develop vaccine by utilizing (i) Envelop Glycoprotein gene (gp-120) DNA vaccine (ii) Gag-gene DNA vaccine and (iii) Pol-gene DNA vaccine.

(c) to (f) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 4th December, 2000, with the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) to promote and accelerate efforts to develop an indigenous AIDS vaccine that will address the strains of the HIV subtype C predominant in India. The Government of India, IMCR and IAVI agreement is based on a commitment towards collaboration and transparency in vaccine trials for development of a vaccine.

The Modified Vaccinia Ankara (MVA) based HIV vaccine is being developed. It involves innumerable complex and complicated steps. The MVA has not reached the stage of clinical trial. This work is being carried out by two ICMR institutions namely, National AIDS Research Institute (NARI), Pune and National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases (NICED), Kolkata.

An Advisory Group has been constituted. It includes people living with HIV/AIDS, NGOs and several experts, especially those working on gender. The Advisory Group will advise Government in respect of all aspects of vaccine development and on issues of access such as; ethics of clinical trials; gender and human rights issues; information dissemination; development of guidelines and protocols to address stigma and exclusion of HIV/AIDS infected persons.

Investment by France Telecom in Cellular Sector

2510. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that France Telecom has shown its interest in investing in the cellular telephone sector in India;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been signed in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) M/s France Telecom, France was a Joint Venture partner, holding 26% equity in M/s BPL Mobile Communications Limited, a company licenced to operate Cellular Mobile Telephone Service in Mumbai. M/s BPL Mobile Communications Limited has been granted approval to transfer the equity held by France Telecom to France Mobile International, a 100% owned subsidiary of France Telecom and thereafter from France Mobile International to M/s France Telecom Participations Belgium SA (now known as Wirefree Services Belgium, SA).

Ship Services

2511. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are ship services of carrying passengers from India to other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are ship services for carrying passengers within the country from one port to another; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No Indian Company operates passenger-ship services from India to any other country.

(c) and (d) There are scheduled passenger shipping services operating within the country between East Coast of India and Andaman & Nicobar Islands as well as between the Kerala Coast and Lakshadweep Group of Islands. Besides, there are regular Inter-Island passenger services within Andaman & Nicobar Islands as well as Lakshadweep Group of Islands.

Ayurvedic Medicinal Institutes

2512. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

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

(a) the details of Ayurvedic Medical Institutes functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) the criteria being followed for giving grants-in-aid to these institutes;

(c) the grant-in-aid given to the each of these institutes during each of the last three years;

(d) the value of Ayurvedic Medicines imported/exported by the Government during each of the last three years; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Union Government to make the Ayurvedic system of medicines popular in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Statement-I is enclosed.

(b) The main conditions for the grant-in-aid are:—

(i) Recognition of Central Council of Indian Medicine/ Central Council for Homoeopathy, (ii) Existence for five years (iii) The Institutions must have at least 30 seats approved by the Council and (iv) it must have 60% bed occupancy and 50% of prescribed teaching staff.

(c) Statement-II is enclosed.

(d) Value of Ayurvedic & Unani Medicines exported/imported during the last three years is as follows:—

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	Exports	Imports
1998-99	133.61	52.58
1999-2000	145.03	81.99
2000-01	221.51	103.35

(e) State Governments have been advised to set up separate Directorates for Indian Systems of Medicine. The Department of ISM & H has implemented various schemes, e.g. upgradation of undergraduate/postgraduate

Institutions, standardization of drugs, encouraging intra and extra mural research and dissemination of information and awareness building through information, education and communication (IEC). The Department has also developed Pharmacopoeia of Ayurveda.

Statement-I**State-wise list of Ayurvedic Colleges as on 31.3.2001**

S.No.	State	College
1.	Andhra Pradesh	04
2.	Assam	01
3.	Bihar	11
4.	Chhattisgarh	01
5.	Chandigarh	01
6.	Delhi	01
7.	Goa	01
8.	Gujarat	10
9.	Haryana	05
10.	Himachal Pradesh	01
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	01
12.	Jharkhand	01
13.	Karnataka	45
14.	Kerala	05
15.	Madhya Pradesh	09
16.	Maharashtra	58
17.	Orissa	06
18.	Punjab	09
19.	Rajasthan	04
20.	Tamil Nadu	06
21.	Uttar Pradesh	11
22.	Uttaranchal	03
23.	West Bengal	02
Total		196

Statement-II**Ayurvedic Institutions**

Sl. No.	Name of the College	Purpose of Grant	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4
1999-2000			
GUJARAT			
1.	Sh. Ochavalal H. Nazar Ay. Mah., Surat (Pvt.)	Constn. of College Bldg.	100.00
HIMACHAL PRADESH			
1.	Rajiv Gandhi Govt. Ay. College, Paprola, HP (Govt.)	Equipment & Lib. Books	12.00
KARNATAKA			
1.	Gadag Shri Jagadguru Tantadarya Vidyapeeth's Sindagi Shantaveereshwara Ayurveda Medical College, Haveri (Pvt.)	Equipment	10.00
2.	Dr. Basavaraj Nagar Memorial Rural Ay. Medical College and Hospital, Bijapur, Karnataka (Pvt.)	Equipment	10.00
MADHYA PRADESH			
1.	Govt. Ay. College, Burhanpur (Govt.)	Hostel construction	10.00
MAHARASHTRA			
1.	Ashtang Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya, Pune (Pvt.)	Constn. of College Bldg.	10.00
2.	Seth Govindji Raoji, Ayurvedic Medical College, Sholapur (Govt. aided)	-do-	10.00
3.	Gangadhar Shastri Gune Ay. Mah., Ahmad Nagar (Pvt.)	Constn. of Hospital Bldg.	10.00
4.	Ayurved Prasarak Mandal's Seth Chandanmal Muth Aryangla Vaidyak Mahavidyalaya, Satara (Pvt.)	Equipment	10.00
5.	Dada Saheb Surup Singh Naik Ayu. College, Dhule (Pvt.)	Equipment	10.00
6.	College of Ay. and Research Centre, Akhurdi, Pradhanikaran, Pune (Pvt.)	Equipment	10.00
7.	Govt. Ayu. College, Nagpur (Govt.)	Constn. of College bldg.	15.00
		Equipment	10.00
		Books	2.00
			27.00

1	2	3	4
8.	R.A. Podar Ayu. Mahavidalaya, Mumbai (Govt.)	Equipment Books	10.00 2.00 12.00
9.	Govt. Ayu. College, Nanded (Govt.)	Const. of College bldg. Equipment Books	15.00 10.00 2.00 27.00
10.	Govt. Ayu. College, Osmanabad (Govt.)	Equipment	10.90
ORISSA			
1.	KATS Ay. College, Distt. Ganjam, Orissa (Govt.)	Purchase of equipment Accommodation Library books	10.00 15.00 2.00 27.00
2.	Gopabandhu Govt. Ay. Mahavidyalaya, Puri (Govt.)	Constn. of building Books Equipment	5.00 2.00 10.00 17.00
UTTAR PRADESH			
1.	Lalit Hari State Ay. College & Hosp. Pilibhit, U.P. (Govt.)	Constn. of P.G. Block	13,11,500/-
2.	Govt. Gurukul Kangri, Haridwar, (Govt.)	Equipment Construction	7.91 10.00 17.91
2000-2001			
BIHAR			
1.	Dayananda Ay. Mahavidyalaya, Siwan, Bihar (Pvt.)	Equipment	4.00
2.	Govt. Ayu. College, Kadam Kuan, Patna, Bihar (Govt.)	Const. of Hostel Bldg. Equipment Library books	15.00 10.00 2.00 27.00
JAMMU AND KASHMIR			
1.	Jammu Instt. of Ayu. & Research, Raipur, Jammu & Kashmir (Pvt.)	Library books	2.00

1	2	3	4
HIMACHAL PRADESH			
1.	Rajiv Gandhi Govt. Ayurvedic College, Paprola, H.P. (Govt.)	Const. of Library Block	14.705
KARNATAKA			
1.	Ayu. Mahavidyalaya, Haggeri Extn., Hubli (Govt.-aided)	Library books	2.00
2.	Govt. Ayurved College, Dhanwantri Road, Bangalore (Govt.)	Library books	2.00
3.	Govt. Ayurveda College, Bangalore (Govt.)	Const. of Ladies Hostel	9.20
4.	Shri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara AMC, Udupi (Govt.-aided)	Const. of College Bldg. Equipment	15.00 10.00
		Library books	2.00
			27.00
KERALA			
1.	Vaidyaratnam Ayu. College, Ollur, Thrissur, Kerala (Govt.-aided)	Library books	2.00
MADHYA PRADESH			
1.	Govt. Ayurvedic College, Rewa (Govt.)	Hostel facilities	15.00
		Equipment	10.00
		Library books	2.00
			27.00
MAHARASHTRA			
1.	Chaitanya Ayurved Mahavidyalaya, Bhusawal (Pvt.)	Equipment	10.00
		Library books	2.00
			12.00
2.	Gramin Ayurved Mahavidyalaya, Patur, Akola (Pvt.)	Equipment	10.00
		Library books	2.00
			12.00
3.	Hanuman Shikshan Prasarak Mandal's Ayurvedic Med. College, Peth Vadgaon, Kolhapur (Pvt.)	Equipment	10.00
		Library books	2.00
			12.00
4.	Govt. Ayurved College, Osmanabad (Govt.)	Extension of existing Hospital building	15.00
		Library books	1.10
			16.10

1	2	3	4
5.	Smt. Kamla Devi Gauri Dutt Mittal Punarvasu Ay. Mahavidyalaya, Mumbai (Govt.-aided)	Equipment Library books	10.00 2.00 12.00
6.	Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya, Pusad, Distt. Yavatmal (Pvt.)	Library books	2.00
7.	Shri Ayu. Mahavidyalaya, Nagpur (Govt.-aided)	Equipment Library books	10.00 2.00 12.00
8.	Sangam Seva Bhavi Trust Ayu. Mahavidyalaya, Sangamner, Ahmednagar (Pvt.)	Equipment Library books	10.00 2.00 12.00
9.	Ayu. Mahavidyalaya, Rahuri, Ahmednagar, (Pvt.)	Equipment Library books	10.00 2.00 12.00
10.	Yashwant Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya, Kodali (Pvt.)	Equipment Library books	7.59 2.00 9.59
11.	D.M.M. Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya, Yavatmal (Pvt.) (Govt.-aided)	Equipment Library books	10.00 2.00 12.00
12.	Bharti Vidyapeeth's Deemed University College of Ayurveda, Dhankawadi (Pvt.)	Equipment Library books	10.00 2.00 12.00
RAJASTHAN			
1.	Madan Mohan Malviya Govt. Ayu. College, Udaipur (Govt.)	Const. of Pharmacy & Dissection hall Equipment Library books	15.00 10.00 2.00 27.00
UTTAR PRADESH			
1.	Govt. Ayu. College & Hospital, Varanasi (Govt.)	Const. of College Bldg. Library books	10.00 2.00 12.00

1	2	3	4
2.	Govt. Ayu. College & Hosp. Attara, Banda (Govt.)	Hospital Building Equipment Library books	15.00 10.00 2.00 27.00
3.	State Ayu. Gurukul Kangri College, Haridwar (Govt.)	Library books	2.00
4.	Bundelkhand Govt. Ayu. College & Hospital, Jhansi (Govt.)	Const. of College Bldg.	20.00

Grants released during 2001-02

S.No.	Name of the Institute/College whether Govt./Pvt. and year of establishment	Purpose	Assistance sought (Rs. in lakhs)	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5

GUJARAT

1.	Shri Akhanda Nand Govt. Ayu. College, Bhadra, Ahmedabad, Gujarat (Government)	Equipment	Total: 10.00
2.	Shri Balahanuman Ayurved Mahavidyalaya, Lodra, Gujarat (Govt. aided)	Equipment Library books	10.00 2.00 Total: 12.00
3.	Aryakanya Shudha Ayurved Mahavidyalaya, Vadodra, Gujarat (Pvt.)	Library books	2.00
	Total		Rs. 24.00

HARYANA

1.	Shri Krishna Govt. Ayu. College, Kurukshetra, Haryana (Govt.)	Grisl Hostel Const. Equipment Library books	15.00 10.00 2.00 Total: 27.00
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JAMMU

1.	Jammu Institute of Ay. & Research, Nardni, Jammu Private	Equipment	4.00
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1	2	3	4	5
KARNATAKA				
1.	Rajiv Gandhi Education Society's Ayurved Medical College, Ron, Karnataka (Pvt.)	Equipment	10.00	
		Library books	2.00	
				Total: 12.00
2.	Govt. Ayurved College, Bangalore (Govt.)	Const. of College building	10.80	
		Equipment	10.00	
				Total: 20.80
	TOTAL			Rs. 32.80
KERALA				
1.	Govt. Ayurved College, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala (Govt.)	Equipment	10.00	
		Library books	2.00	
				Total: 12.00
2.	Govt. Ayurved College, Tripunithura, Ernakulam, Kerala (Govt.)	Hostel facilities	15.00	
		Equipment	10.00	
		Library books	2.00	
				Total: 27.00
3.	Vaidyaratnam Ay. College, Ollur, Kerala Govt. aided	Equipment	10.00	
	TOTAL			Rs. 49.00
MAHARASHTRA				
1.	Vidharba Ayurved Mahavidyalaya Amravati, Maharashtra (Govt. aided)	Const. of coll. bldg.	15.00	
		Equipment	10.00	
		Library books	2.00	
				Total: 27.00
2.	R.T. Ayu. Mahavidyalaya Akola, Maharashtra (Govt. aided)	Equipment	10.00	
		Library books	2.00	
				Total: 12.00
3.	Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya Deopur, Dhule, Maharashtra (Pvt.)	Equipment	10.00	
		Library books	2.00	
				Total: 12.00
4.	Seth Govindji Raoji Ayu. Mahavidyalaya, Sholapur (Maharashtra) (Govt. aided)	Equipment	10.00	
		Library books	2.00	
				Total: 12.00

1	2	3	4	5
5.	RJVS Bhaisaheb Sawant Ayu. Mahavidyalaya, Sawantwadi, Maharashtra (Govt. aided)	Equipment Library books	10.00 2.00	Total: 12.00
6.	Ashtang Ay. Mahavidyalaya, Pune, Maharashtra Govt. aided	Equipment Library books	10.00 2.00	Total: 12.00
7.	Ayurved Prasarak Mandal Ay. Mahavidyalaya, Sion, Bombay Govt. aided College	Equipment Library books	10.00 2.00	Total: 12.00
8.	Shri Gurudev Ayurvedic College, Gurukunj Ashram, Amravati, Maharashtra (Govt. aided)	Equipment Library Books	10.00 2.00	Total: 12.00
TOTAL				Rs. 111.00
MADHYA PRADESH				
1.	Govt. Dhanwantri Ay. Maha., Ujjain, M.P. (Govt.)	Hospital building	15.00	
2.	Govt. Ayurved College, Jabalpur (Govt.)	Const. of College building	15.00	
		Library books	2.00	Total: 17.00
TOTAL				Rs. 32.00
PUNJAB				
1.	Govt. Ayurved College, Patiala, Punjab (Govt.)	Hostel facilities for girls	20.00	
		Equipment	10.00	
		Library books	2.00	Total: 32.00
RAJASTHAN				
1.	Shri Bhanwar Lal Dugad Ayu. Vishwa Bharti Gandhi Vidya Mandir, Rajasthan (Govt. aided)	Equipment	5.37	
UTTAR PRADESH				
1.	Lalit Hari State Ayurvedic College & Hospital, Pilibhit, UP (Govt.)	Const. of PG Block	8.86	

Malnutrition among Children

2513. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey conducted by Family Planning Association of India recently revealed that 72 per cent of children in India suffer from malnutrition and anaemia;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government to check this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Family Planning Association of India has not undertaken any survey on malnutrition and anaemia. However, as per National Family Health Survey 2 (1998-99), 47% children below 3 years of age are underweight and 74.3% of children between 6-35 months of age have some degree of anaemia.

(c) The Government has taken the following steps to improve the health and nutritional status of people in the country:—

- Increased Agricultural Production.
- Improving the purchasing power of the people through income generating schemes.
- Availability of essential food items at subsidized cost through Public Distribution System.
- Nutrition education to increase the awareness and bringing about the desired changes in the feeding practices including promotion of breast feeding.
- Supplementary feeding programmes such as:
 - (i) Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS).
 - (ii) Special Nutrition Programme (SNP).
 - (iii) Balwadi Nutrition Programme (BNP).
 - (iv) Pradhan Mantri Grameen Yojana (PMGY).
 - (v) Mid-day Meal Programme.
- Programme for Prevention of Specific Nutrient Deficiency Disorders such as:

(a) National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme.

(b) Programme to prevent Blindness due to Vitamin 'A' deficiency and Nutritional Anaemia due to Iron deficiency as a part of Reproductive and Child Health Programme.

(c) Pilot Project for control of Micro-nutrient Malnutrition.

[Translation]

OFC In Maharashtra

2514. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of optical fibre and other necessary equipment in Maharashtra particularly in Jalgaon district; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government for the supply of necessary equipment/material?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) There is no shortage of Optical Fibre Cable and other necessary equipment in Maharashtra and particularly in Jalgaon District.

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

[English]

Cellular Services in North-East States

2515. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cellular Mobile Telephone service is not in operation in all the North Eastern States of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Governments of the NE States have requested to withdraw the ban on cellular mobile operations imposed by the Union Government; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) Sir, the Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) is operational, at present, in Guwahati and Shillong. Governments of some North Eastern States have requested that CMTS may be provided in the North-Eastern States. However, further expansion or fresh start of CMTS is at present not permitted, by Private Operators as well as Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited ((BSNL) in the North-East and Assam Telecom Circles covering the North Eastern States on security considerations.

Organisation of Sports Events

2516. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of States organize national and international sports events in the country;

(b) if so, the financial assistance and other facilities provided to each State during each of the last three years; and

(c) the amount earmarked for sports equipments and its procurement during the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) The Government has recognized National Sports Federations for various disciplines which are supposed to organize national and international level tournaments. No financial assistance is provided to the State Governments for organising national and international sports events in the country except for the National Games which are allotted by Indian Olympic Association to a State Olympic Association in consultation with the concerned State Government. During the last three years, Government has provided financial assistance of Rs. 400.00 lakhs to Government of Punjab for conduct of and purchase of equipments for holding the National Games held in 2001.

(c) No State-wise funds are earmarked for sports equipments.

Re-emergence of Malaria

2517. SHRI SURESH KURUP:
PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the re-emergence of Malaria being reported from various parts of the country including Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have sent any Expert Teams to the States to ascertain the exact causes of the disease;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the preventive measures 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) to (e) According to the reports received from the State Health Authorities, the total incidence of Malaria remained between 2-3 Million annually in the country since 1985. The State of Kerala has shown gradual declining trend of malaria incidence over the past five years.

Whenever required, expert teams from Central Government are deputed to the affected States to provide technical guidance and assist them to undertake containment measures.

Preventive measures taken/being taken for control of malaria are as under:—

- Early case detection and prompt treatment.
- Selective vector control.
- Promotion of personal protection methods.
- Early detection and containment of epidemics.
- Information, Education and Communication towards personal prevention and community participation.
- Institutional and Management Capacity Building, Trained Manpower Development and efficient Management Information System (MIS).
- Issuance of advance warning to States/UTs suggesting all the preventive and control measures.

Payment of Telephone Bills

2518. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the M.T.N.L., Delhi has tied up with some private banks with ATM facility for making payments of the telephone bills for their customers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are considering to include more private banks with ATM facilities, to render such services for their customers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which such facilities would be made available to the customers of those private banks?

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

(b) The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has been permitted to collect the telephone bills through ATM with effect from 25.6.2002.

(c) to (e) Sir, other private banks having ATM facility can be considered for the purpose if requests are received from them in the matter. At present, there is only one request received from the Bank of Punjab, which is under consideration.

Prices of Steel Products

2519. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the Indian Steel Industry has raised the prices of their products four times, since April this year;

(b) if so, the details of the raised prices of various types of steel raised since April by various steel companies and how does it compare with the variation in the international steel prices;

(c) whether this upward revision has helped to improve the financial position of Indian Steel Companies and their production; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) During April-July, 2002 there has been upward revision of rate of rebate adjustment as well as of base price. The available details for major producers are as below:

Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL)

Flat Products: For H.R. Coils, the upward revision of rebate adjustment was effected in the months of April, May and June. The extent of rise varied from Rs. 900/- to Rs. 1300/- per metric tonne. In July the base price was increased by Rs. 1600/- per metric tonne.

Non-Flat Product: The price of wire rods was raised twice during the period April-July, 2002. The price of high carbon wire rods was revised upwards by Rs. 750/- per metric tonne while for Mild Steel Quality the increment was by Rs. 1100/- per metric tonne.

Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL)

RINL's product mix comes under long products. The average price increase in Saleable Mild Steel "Long products" effected during April to July, 2002 in Domestic Market was as follows:

(Rs. per metric tonne)	
Month	Average price increase
March, 02 to April, 02	315
April, 02 to May, 02	172
May, 02 to June, 02	147
June, 02 to July, 02	157

Tata Iron and Steel Company Ltd. (TISCO)

The increase in price effected from April, 2002 were restricted to the commercial grades, which are sold mainly on spot basis. There was no significant increase since April, 2002 in respect of Products sold under long term contract.

Increase in the domestic prices was generally lower than the increase in international prices for various steel products during the period March to July, 2002.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The improved sales realization coupled with rise in demand is expected to raise the current levels of production and improve financial position of most of the major steel producers in the country.

[Translation]

Private Participation In Health Sector

2520. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government impose to increase private participation in Health Services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent of participation the Government and the private organizations shall have in health services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Health is a State subject. However, the new National Health Policy - 2002 announced by the Government welcomes the participation of the private sector in all areas of health activities with suitable regulatory mechanism.

The new Health Policy envisages the co-option of the non-governmental practitioners in the national disease control programmes so as to ensure that standard treatment protocols are followed in their day-to-day practice.

The public health sector expenditure is planned to be increased from a level of 0.9% of GDP as at present to 2% of GDP by the year 2010. Further, in order to increasingly involve non-governmental organizations and other institutions of the civil society and also to utilize their high motivational skills on an increasing scale, the policy envisages that the disease control programmes should earmark not less than 10% of the budget in respect of identified programme components, to be exclusively implemented through these institutions.

Code of Conduct

2521. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Vigilance Commissioner has suggested to frame a Code of Conduct for Members of the State Public Service Commission and the bureaucrats in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the 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) Government has so far not received any such proposal from the Central Vigilance Commissioner.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Construction of CGHS Dispensary

2522. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not starting the construction work of the Central Government Health Services Scheme dispensary on the allotted land in Vasant Vihar; and

(b) the time by which the construction work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The building plans for construction of CGHS dispensary building at Vasant Vihar, Delhi have already been prepared and consequently the CPWD is to prepare the preliminary estimates for the work.

(b) No specific time frame can be indicated for starting of construction work as it is subject to preparation/ approval of the preliminary estimates and availability of resources.

Closing down of Atomic Unit in Rajasthan

2523. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of days in a year on which the Atomic Power unit in Kota city of Rajasthan remains shut;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to streamline the said unit;

(c) whether the Government are also setting up or propose to set up an Atomic unit at any other place in Rajasthan State; 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) Out of four nuclear power reactor Units at Rajasthan, three units, the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS) Unit 2 (200 MWe), RAPS-3 (220 MWe) and RAPS-4 (220 MWe) are operated by the Nuclear Power Corporation of

India Ltd., on commercial basis. These units have performed well, recording high availability factors (percentage time that the units were connected to the grid and operating). The availability factors achieved for these units during the financial year 2001-2002 are:

Unit	Availability Factor
RAPS-2	86%
RAPS-3	79%
RAPS-4	83%

NPCL expects to further improve the performance of these Units by reducing the planned outage period and the number of forced outages, by enhanced predictive and preventive maintenance of equipment/components.

RAPS-1, which is the first Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) unit in the country, owned by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and operated by the NPCIL, has been shut down with effect from 30.4.02 on the expiry of its regulatory licence. In-service inspection and evaluation for safety upgrades including possible en-masse coolant channel replacement are in progress. Based on this approach of NPCIL, and its review and clearance by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), further course of action for continued operation of this unit will emerge.

(c) and (d) Two units each of 220 MWe (RAPP - 5&6) are presently under construction at Rawatbhata, Rajasthan (near the existing RAPS- 1 to 4 Units) and are scheduled for commercial operation in August 2007 and February 2008 respectively.

[English]

Trans-Asian Highway

2524. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAKIP: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the issue of land route connectivity between our National Highways and Myanmar's Road network was taken up during his recent visit to Yangon;

(b) if so, whether it is going to be part of the proposed Trans-Asian Highway;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether India, Myanmar, Thailand and Singapore are working together towards the construction of this Trans-Asian Highway; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) A trilateral meeting was held among the Foreign Ministers of India, Myanmar and Thailand in Yangon on April 5-6, 2002 during External Affairs Minister Shri Jaswant Singh's visit to Yangon. The meeting agreed on a number of areas of cooperation including construction of a Highway linking the three countries.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No proposal involving Singapore is under consideration at present.

(e) Does not arise.

DELS in North-Eastern States

2525. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the numbers of direct exchange lines installed by BSNL in North Eastern States including Sikkim upto June 30, 2002, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to install more direct exchange lines in the current years in the N.E. Region; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) The number of Direct Exchange Lines (DELS) installed by BSNL in North Eastern States and Sikkim up to June 30, 2002 are 734381 & 30477 respectively and the DELs planned for the current year (2002-03) are 116500 & 2100. The details are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

The details of the number of Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) installed in North Eastern States and Sikkim up to June 30, 2002 & planned for the current year (2002-03)

Sl. No.	DELs Installed/Planned	Name of States								Total for NE Region
		Sikkim	Assam	Meghalaya	Tripura	Mizoram	Arunachal Pradesh	Manipur	Nagaland	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1.	DELs Installed Upto 30.6.2002	30477	438872	53447	73650	46119	47968	34760	39565	734381
2.	DELs Target for the year 2002-03	2100	80000	6500	9200	5800	4600	5200	5200	116500

Telecom Facilities

2526. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to provide better telecommunication facilities in the National Capital Region (NCR) during the Tenth Plan; and

(b) if so, the specific steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to provide better telecommunication facilities in the National Capital Region (NCR) every efforts is being made to make telephones available on demand in the NCR during the current year as per the objective of the 10th five year plan. The target for direct exchange lines (DELs) for the NCR towns for the year 2002-2003 has been fixed as 91270 lines and town-wise details are given as per statement-I. Efforts are also being made by BSNL to provide value added services like Internet, Cellular Mobile Phone, Pager Services etc. in the NCR and the status for the same as on 30.6.2002 is given in the Statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I

Targets for Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) for NCR Towns for 2002-2003

Sl.No.	Name of the NCR Towns	Telecom Circle	Target of DELs for 2002-2003
1	2	3	4
DELHI METROPOLITAN AREA TOWNS			
1.	Faridabad	Haryana	6300
2.	Ballabgarh	Haryana	1950
3.	Bahadurgarh	Haryana	2150
4.	Gurgaon	Haryana	9600

1	2	3	4
5.	Kundli	Haryana	350
6.	Ghaziabad	UP (W)	11500
7.	Noida	UP (W)	4500
8.	Loni	UP (W)	1500
PRIORITY TOWNS			
1.	Rohtak	Haryana	5100
2.	Rewari	Haryana	2050
3.	Palwal	Haryana	1800
4.	Panipat	Haryana	3200
5.	Dharuhera	Haryana	350
6.	Meerut	UP (W)	5000
7.	Bulandshahar	UP (W)	3300
8.	Khurja	UP (W)	1800
9.	Hapur	UP (W)	3000
10.	Alwar	Rajasthan	6500
11.	MIA-Alwar	Rajasthan	100
12.	Bhiwadi	Rajasthan	3820
COUNTER MAGNET TOWNS			
1.	Gwalior	M.P.	2000
2.	Patiala	Punjab	1000
3.	Hissar	Haryana	5400
4.	Kota	Rajasthan	6000
5.	Bareilly	UP (W)	3000
Total			91,270

Statement-II*Status of provision of Value Added Services in the NCR Towns as on 30.06.2002*

Sl.No.	Name of NCR Towns	Internet	Pager	Cellular Mobile Phones	ISDN	Data I-net
1.	Faridabad	A	A	A	A	A
2.	Ballabhgarh	A	A	A	A	NA
3.	Bahadurgarh	A	A	A	NA	NA
4.	Gurgaon	A	A	A	A	A
5.	Rohtak	A	A	A	NA	A
6.	Rewari	A	A	A	NA	NA
7.	Pahwal	A	A	A	NA	NA
8.	Panipat	A	A	A	NA	NA
9.	Dharukera	A	A	A	NA	NA
10.	Kundli	A	A	A	NA	NA
11.	Ghaziabad	A	A (Pvt. Opr)	NA	A	A
12.	Noida	A	A	NA	A	A
13.	Loni	A	A	NA	A	A
14.	Meerut	A	NA	NA	A	A
15.	Bulandshahar	A	NA	NA	A	A
16.	Khurja	A	NA	NA	A	A
17.	Hapur	A	A	NA	A	A
18.	Alwar	A	NA	NA	A	NA
19.	MIA-Alwar	A	NA	NA	NA	NA
20.	Bhiwadi	A	NA	NA	A	NA
COUNTER MAGNET TOWNS						
21.	Gwalior	A	A	A	A	A
22.	Patiala	A	NA	A	A	A
23.	Hissar	A	A	A	NA	A
24.	Kota	A	NA	A	A	NA
25.	Bareilly	A	A	NA	A	A

Legend

A - Facility available.

NA - Facility not available.

Infant-Mortality Rate

2527. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO:

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

(a) the present Infant Mortality Rate for 1000 child birth in the age group of 1-5 in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number out of them both Male and Female under the age group are under weight, malnutrition and under nourishment, State-wise;

(c) whether the incidences of malnutrition and infant mortality rate in Orissa is higher than other States;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of specific programmes planned and to be undertaken in Orissa during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) As per the Sample Registration System the Infant Mortality Rate in the year 2000 was 68 per thousand live births. As far as child mortality is concerned latest information pertains to 1998. In that year the Child (0-4) Mortality Rate was 22.5 per thousand children in that age group. The State-wise Infant Mortality Rate and Child Mortality Rate are given in the statement-I and II respectively. The nutritional status of children by States, as per the National Family Health Survey-2, 1998-99 is given in the statement III enclosed. Factors that contribute to high infant mortality and poor nutritional status include poverty, low levels of literacy especially female literacy, high burden of infectious diseases and deficiencies in infrastructure. To improve infant mortality and the nutritional status of children, immunization, management and control of acute respiratory infections and diarrhoea; provision of essential newborn care and promotion of exclusive breast feeding and appropriate complementary feeding are being implemented. To prevent micro nutrient deficiencies of Vitamin A and Iron Prophylactic Programmes are under implementation. These are implemented as components of the Reproductive and child Health Programme in all States including Orissa. The Integrated Child Development Scheme is being implemented to improve the nutritional status of women and children.

Statement-I**IMR**

India*	68
Bigger States	
Andhra Pradesh	65
Assam	75
Bihar	62
Gujarat	62
Haryana	67
Karnataka	57
Kerala	14
Madhya Pradesh	88
Maharashtra	48
Orissa	96
Punjab	52
Rajasthan	79
Tamil Nadu	51
Uttar Pradesh	83
West Bengal	51
Smaller States	
Arunachal Pradesh	44
Chhattisgarh	79
Goa	23
Jharkhand	70
Himachal Pradesh	60
Jammu & Kashmir	50
Manipur	23
Meghalaya	58
Mizoram	21
Nagaland	NA
Sikkim	49
Tripura	41
Uttaranchal	50

Union Territories

Andaman & Nicobar Islands	23
Chandigarh	28
D & N Haveli	58
Daman & Diu	48
Delhi	32
Lakshadweep	27
Pondicherry	23

Source: Sample Registration System.

Statement-II

*Child Mortality Rate (CMR) India and
Bigger States - 1998*

	Total
India	22.5
Andhra Pradesh	18.1
Assam	27.5

	Total
Bihar	22.9
Gujarat	19.6
Haryana	22.4
Himachal Pradesh	16.7
Karnataka	16.7
Kerala	3.6
Madhya Pradesh	32.6
Maharashtra	12.7
Orissa	29.0
Punjab	16.8
Rajasthan	27.7
Tamil Nadu	13.0
Uttar Pradesh	29.6
West Bengal	15.0

Source: Sample Registration System.

Statement-III

*Percentage of children under age 3 years classified as undernourished on three anthropometric
indices of nutritional status, according to state, India 1998-99*

State	Weight-for-age		Height-for-age		Weight-for-height	
	Percent- age below -3 SD	Percent- age below -2 SD ¹	Percent- age below -3 SD	Percent- age below -2 SD ¹	Percent- age below -3 SD	Percent- age below -2 SD ¹
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
India	18.0	47.0	23.0	45.5	2.8	15.5
North						
Delhi	10.1	34.7	18.0	36.8	4.1	12.5
Haryana	10.1	34.6	24.3	50.0	0.8	5.3
Himachal Pradesh	12.1	43.6	18.1	41.3	3.3	16.9
Jammu & Kashmir	8.3	34.5	17.3	38.8	1.2	11.8
Punjab	8.8	28.7	17.2	39.2	0.8	7.1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rajasthan	20.8	50.6	29.0	52.0	1.9	11.7
Central						
Madhya Pradesh	24.3	55.1	28.3	51.0	4.3	19.8
Uttar Pradesh	21.9	51.7	31.0	55.5	2.1	11.1
East						
Bihar	25.5	54.4	33.6	53.7	5.5	21.0
Orissa	20.7	54.4	17.6	44.0	3.9	24.3
West Bengal	16.3	48.7	19.2	41.5	1.6	13.6
Northeast						
Arunachal Pradesh	7.8	24.3	11.9	26.5	2.0	7.9
Assam	13.3	36.0	33.7	50.2	3.3	13.3
Manipur	5.3	27.5	11.2	31.3	1.8	8.2
Meghalaya	11.3	37.9	24.5	44.9	1.0	13.3
Mizoram	5.0	27.7	13.9	34.6	2.8	10.2
Nagaland	7.4	24.1	11.7	33.0	2.4	10.4
Sikkim	4.2	20.6	9.7	31.7	0.8	4.8
West						
Goa	4.7	28.6	4.8	18.1	0.7	13.1
Gujarat	16.2	45.1	23.3	43.6	2.4	16.2
Maharashtra	17.6	49.6	14.1	39.9	2.5	21.2
Sougt						
Andhra Pradesh	10.3	37.7	14.2	38.6	1.6	9.1
Karnataka	16.5	43.9	15.9	36.6	3.9	20.0
Kerala	4.7	26.9	7.3	21.9	0.7	11.1
Tamil Nadu	10.6	36.7	12.0	29.4	3.8	19.9

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

¹Includes children who are below -3 SD from the International Reference Population median.

Clinical Trials

2528. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend provisions governing clinical trials of new drugs to allow such trials to take place in India simultaneously with trials in the country of origin of the new drugs; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Current provisions of Schedule 'Y' of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules are not conducive to growth of clinical research as they hamper collaborative research and concomitants multicentric clinical trials. Thus at various scientific fora the need has been expressed for updating the provisions of Schedule 'Y' to have international acceptance of regulations governing clinical trials.

The matter was deliberated by the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB). It was decided that the proposal to revise Schedule 'Y' may be considered by an Expert Committee. The detailed deliberations and review of the existing Schedule 'Y' is in progress by experts and ICMR.

Pharmaceutical Exports

2529. SHRI RAM RATI BIND: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the reports of unfair quality of pharmaceutical exports;

(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) and (b) Quality of exported drugs is not required to be checked separately. However, export of drugs from India has shown considerable growth and 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	6256.07
1999-2000	7230.16
2000-2001 (Provisional)	8729.89

(c) 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 11.12.2001 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.

Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Centres

2530. SHRI RAJAIHA MALYALA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the locations of Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Centres (JNCCs) abroad;

(b) the major activities of these Centres;

(c) whether any review has been made of their working; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) ICCR has 14 Cultural Centres abroad and three of them bear the name "Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Centre". They are located at Moscow (Russia), Jakarta (Indonesia) and London (U.K.).

(b) These Cultural Centres are responsible for promoting Indian culture in the areas of their jurisdiction. These activities include organisation of lectures, exhibitions of visual arts, essay competitions, performances of dance and music, plays, screening of Indian films, seminars etc. Two of the Cultural Centres at Moscow and Jakarta impart training and classes in Indian classical music, dance, tabla, yoga and Hindi. The Centres are also maintaining Libraries, Reading Rooms and Audio-Video Libraries.

Apart from organising their own activities, these Cultural Centres also provide support to the respective Indian Missions for coordinating cultural activities.

(c) and (d) The Council continuously monitors and reviews the activities of these Centres with a view to making their functioning more effective. For this purpose, the Council has instituted a system of monthly reporting by the Centres on their activities. The Council also undertakes special review of the functioning of these Centres in consultation with the Head of Missions in these countries.

Liberalisation of Visa Norms

2531. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI BHIM DAHAL:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recently held meeting of the World Trade Organisation it was emphasised on the trading partners to liberalise visa norms for Indian professionals; and

(b) if so, the names of countries requested for the same and their reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Commemorative Postal Stamps

2532. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the list of the Commemorative Postal Stamps released in the honour of the distinguished Indian personalities during the last three years and till date from Gujarat;

(b) whether the Government have received a suggestion for releasing a Commemorative Postal Stamp in honour of late Dula Bhaya Kag (KAGBAPU); and

(c) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Details are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Authentic biographical details are being collected in order to place the proposal before the Philatelic Advisory Committee, as per prescribed procedure on the subject.

Statement

List of stamps of distinguished personalities from Gujarat released in 1999, 2000 & 2001 and till date this year

Sl.No.	Year	Name of the Personality	Date of issue
1.	1999	Jhaverchand Kalidas Meghani	14.09.1999
2.	1999	Chhaganlal K. Parekh	09.10.1999
3.	1999	Indulal Kanaiyalal Yagnik	09.12.1999
4.	2000	Balwantrai Mehta	17.2.2000
5.	2001	—	—
6.	2002 (till date)	—	—

Increase in Medical Seats

2533. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is a large difference between the demand and availability of seats for medical education in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to increase the number of seats in medical colleges; and

(c) if so, the time by which the decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The Central Government have no information. The requirement of medical manpower in a particular State is decided by the respective State Government.

(b) and (c) A proposal has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for increase of seats in PG courses at various Govt. Medical Colleges. No time frame can be given for clearance of the proposal as clearance of proposal depend on availability of infrastructural facilities and recommendations of the Medical Council of India thereon.

Medical Treatment in Kalyani Hospital

2534. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kalyani Hospital, Gurgaon (Haryana) has been nominated as referral Hospital for all CGHS beneficiaries if recommended by CMO;

(b) whether the Central Government employees not covered under CGHS can also take medical consultation treatment from this hospital; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. Kalyani Hospital, Gurgaon has been recognised under CGHS Delhi for General Purpose treatment and Diagnostic procedures vide Department of Health's O.M. dated 7.9.2001 to enable CGHS beneficiaries take treatment in the said hospital after obtaining permission from the CMO In-charge in the case of pensioner beneficiaries and from the concerned office/Department in the case of serving beneficiaries of CGHS.

(b) and (c) In terms of Department of Health's O.M. No. S-14025/7/2000-MS dated 28.3.2000, Central Government employees residing in non-CGHS areas and covered under CS (MA) Rules, 1994, can avail medical facilities in any of the private hospitals recognised under CGHS. Therefore, such Central Government servants can also avail medical facilities at Kalyani Hospital, Gurgaon, after following the prescribed procedure.

Conversion of Utilised Bulk Terminal Into Container Terminal

2535. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convert the utilised bulk terminal into container terminal of ILHP with the involvement of private sector using BOT format;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Workers' Unions are against this move; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) After taking into account the downward trend in bulk cargo traffic during the last few years and remote prospects for growth in bulk cargo traffic in future at Jawaharlal Nehru Port and the substantial potential for growth in container traffic in ports in future, a decision has been taken to re-develop the existing Bulk Terminal at Jawaharlal Nehru Port, and no ILHP as mentioned in Part (a) of the question, into Container Terminal. The Government has, in principle, approved the re-development of the Bulk Terminal in BOT basis.

(c) and (d) The Workers' Unions are opposed to the proposal to covert Bulk Terminal into Container Terminal on BOT basis. Encouragement of private participation in port sector with a view to induct private capital and expertise in developing and operating port facilities is a part of the liberalization policy of the Government. In this regard, Government have issued guidelines, which envisage that the interest of the existing labour will be fully protected while allowing private participation.

Polio Eradication Programme

2536. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

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

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment about the steps taken by the Union and State Governments for the total eradication of polio amongst the children;

(b) if so, the results achieved by each State in this regard;

(c) whether the transmission of virus of polio is still active in some States of the country; and

(d) if so, the names of those States and the steps contemplated to help these States to completely eradicate this disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) The objective of the Government is eradicating Polio from the country and obtaining Polio-free certification by 2005. There has been significant progress towards

achieving polio-free status. The number of polio cases has declined from 1934 in 1998 to 1126 in 1999, 265 in 2000 and 268 in 2001. Although the number of polio cases in 2001 remained more or less the same as in 2000, the number of polio-endemic district in the country came down from 314 in 1998, to 192 in 1999, 89 in 2000 and 63 in 2001. The State-wise number of polio cases during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement. Polio is endemic now mainly in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar which accounted for 216 and 27 cases

respectively in 2001 out of total 268. Mop-up Vaccination round are being undertaken in high-risk districts of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar during low transmission season and in areas in which fresh cases of polio are detected.

The Government has planned two National Immunization Days, all over the country and two additional Sub National Immunization Days in the States of U.P., Bihar, Haryana and Delhi during the winter season of the current year.

Statement

State-wise Polio Cases 1999 to 2001

S.No.	Name of the State/UT	Wild Polio virus		
		1999	2000	2001
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	21	0	0
2.	A & N Islands	0	0	0
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
4.	Assam	0	0	1
5.	Bihar	123	50	27
6.	Chandigarh	2	1	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	0
8.	D & N Haveli	0	0	0
9.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0
10.	Delhi	73	3	3
11.	Goa	0	0	0
12.	Guajrat	9	2	1
13.	Haryana	19	4	5
14.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0
16.	Jharkhand	—	—	2
17.	Karnataka	21	8	0
18.	Kerala	0	1	0
19.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	17	2	0

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Maharashtra	18	7	4
22.	Manipur	0	0	0
23.	Meghalaya	0	0	0
24.	Mizoram	0	0	0
25.	Nagaland	0	0	0
26.	Orissa	0	0	0
27.	Pondicherry	0	0	0
28.	Punjab	4	0	5
29.	Rajasthan	18	0	0
30.	Sikkim	0	0	0
31.	Tamil Nadu	7	0	0
32.	Tripura	0	0	0
33.	Uttaranchal	—	—	3
34.	Uttar Pradesh	773	179	216
35.	West Bengal	21	8	1
Total		1126	265	268

Hepatitis-B

2537. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

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

(a) whether millions of people are suffering from virus of Hepatitis-B and many of them have developed serious liver problem;

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to check the spread of the virus;

(c) whether the prices of Hepatitis-B vaccine have been cut almost to its half;

(d) if so, the Government propose to introduce this vaccine in the Government hospitals free-of-cost particularly to CGHS beneficiaries;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Though exact figures are not available, it is estimated by the WHO that Hepatitis-B virus chronically infects approximately 4% of the population. Government has taken the following steps to prevent the spread of Hepatitis-B:—

- Central Government hospital personnel at high risk are being immunized against Hepatitis-B. State Governments have also been advised to take similar steps;
- Guidelines have been issued for mandatory testing of blood in all blood banks;
- Promotion of safe sex under National AIDS Control Programme;
- Health Awareness campaigns regarding the danger of using unsterile syringes and needles under National AIDS Control Programme; and
- Guidelines have been issued to State authorities for use of separate sterile syringes and needles for each injection.

(c) The Government does not fix the price of Hepatitis-B vaccine.

(d) to (f) Hepatitis-B Vaccine is provided to CGHS beneficiaries on prescription of the Head of Department of any Government Hospital in cases where there is danger of exposure to Hepatitis-B.

[Translation]

Rashtriya Punarnirman Vahini Project in Maharashtra

2538. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of "Rashtriya Punarnirman Vahini Project" in Maharashtra; and

(b) the names of the districts in Maharashtra where "Rashtriya Punarnirman Vahini Project" is under implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) During the year 2001-2002, the Rashtriya Punarnirman Vahini scheme was implemented in five districts of Maharashtra, namely, Mumbai, Beed, Jalna, Sindhudurg and Gadchiroli. During the current financial year, Amravati district has been added for implementation of the said scheme. Under the scheme, a number of Centrally sponsored schemes/projects are being undertaken with the participation of the NRC Volunteers.

[English]

Wage Agreement in BSNL

2539. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is undue delay in implementing the wage agreement with the non-executive workers of BSNL;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) No Sir, there is no undue delay. The Wage Agreement with the

representatives of the non-executive employees in BSNL was signed on 26th April, 2002 after a series of meeting with them. The same was approved by BSNL Board in the meeting held on 20.5.2002 and has been sent to the Ministry of Communications & IT on 29.05.2002. The agreement is being examined in the Ministry and is under process for seeking the approval of the competent authority.

Acquiring of New Ships by SCI

2540. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) is acquiring any new ships in 2002-03; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the investment involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The SCI has planned to acquire/place order for the construction of six new building vessels during 2002-03 with an investment of US \$ 428 million which would be spread over the construction period of the vessels i.e. over 2-3 years.

Medical Consultation

2541. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Authorised Medical Attendant gives medical consultation to Central Government employees within a radius of 16 km; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not covering residents of sectors 21, 22, 23, 23A, Palam Vihar, Gurgaon under CGHS dispensary at Gurgaon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) As per rule 2(a) of Central Services (Medical Attendance) Rules, 1944, the appointment of Authorised Medical Attendant is to be made as per conditions laid down in the prescribed proforma given in Annexure- 'A' to the said rule which *inter-alia* specifies that the services of the AMA would be available to the Central Government employees and members of their families residing within a radius of 16 kms of the specified area.

(b) CGHS dispensary, Gurgaon is providing coverage to all the HUDA Sectors including Sectors 21, 22, 23, 23A and Palam Vihar, Gurgaon. The said dispensary is

also providing coverage to the beneficiaries residing in DLF and Sushant Lok areas in Gurgaon.

Trauma Centres on National Highways

2542. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received requests from the State Governments particularly from Karnataka for establishment of Trauma Centers on National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the Pilot Project for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities of State Hospitals of towns/cities located on National Highways proposals in respect of the following hospitals have been received from State Government of Karnataka.

- (i) Sanjay Gandhi Accident Hospital & Research Institute, Bangalore,
- (ii) K.R. Hospital, Mysore and
- (iii) Sri Jaya Chamarajendra Hospital, Hassan.

(c) The proposals have been examined and certain additional information has been called for from the Government of Karnataka.

Reserves of Heavy Minerals in Coastal Areas

2543. SHRI B.V.N. REDDY:

SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coastal areas particularly in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Kerala have huge reserves of heavy minerals;

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

(c) whether the heavy minerals found in Indian Coastal Sands are utilised only for indigenous purposes or exported or utilized for both; 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) Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent Unit under the Department of Atomic Energy has carried out, over the last five decades, survey, exploration and evaluation of heavy minerals such as ilmenite, rutile, zircon, monazite etc. which occur as loose sands along the coastal tracts of the country. The State-wise distribution of these minerals is as follows:

(Reserves in Million Tonnes)

State	Ilmenite	Rutile	Zircon	Monazite	Garnet	Sillimanite
Kerala	95.51	6.61	6.45	1.35	1.19	39.07
Tamil Nadu	97.91	4.82	8.35	1.73	24.38	21.09
Andhra Pradesh	100.10	4.42	4.43	2.29	48.99	47.02
Orissa	45.05	1.88	1.44	1.18	32.61	21.23

(c) and (d) The minerals like ilmenite, rutile, zircon, sillimanite and garnet recovered from the beach sands have a variety of applications in different industries like

paint, foundry, welding electrodes, calandria/coolant tubes and fuel tubes in nuclear reactors, abrasives, etc. both in the domestic and international markets.

Extradition Treaty

2544. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the European countries with whom India has signed extradition treaty;
- (b) whether any negotiations have been held with the countries with whom the extradition treaty has not been signed;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Extradition treaties have been signed with Belgium, the Netherlands, Russia, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Germany and Spain.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Texts of extradition treaties with France and Poland have been finalized at the official level. The proposed extradition treaties with Bulgaria and Italy are at a preliminary stage.

Suspension of Government Official

2545. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether CVC has suggested that if a Government official has to be suspended on grounds of corruption, a reference must be made to the Central Vigilance Commission within 24 hours;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the 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) Central Vigilance Commissioner in March, 2002 had suggested that the CVC may be consulted by the concerned authorities before placing a Government servant under suspension on grounds of corruption. The CVC had stated that the Commission would give its advice

within 3 working days indicating whether suspension was justified and if no reply was received within the 3 days it could be taken that the Commission had no objection to the suspension. In cases where suspension has to be resorted immediately, the Commission had suggested that a reference be made to it within 24 hours of suspension and if the CVC did not agree, the suspended person should be reinstate.

(c) The suggestion was considered in the light of the rules and it was not found feasible. The Central Vigilance Commissioner has also been informed accordingly.

[Translation]

Reorganisation of Health-Care Structure

2546. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:

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

- (a) whether the Government propose to recognize the existing structure of health-care;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government propose to formulate any programme/scheme to promote services of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy (ISM&H);
- (e) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Health is a State subject. However, the National Health Policy—2002 announced recently by the Government of India contains some policy prescriptions which have a bearing on improving the delivery of health care services in the country which are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) to (f) The Working Group on ISM&H for the 10th Plan has approved some schemes which will augment ISM&H services. These are: grant-in-aid for opening ISM&H wing in district hospitals, speciality/clinics therapy in modern hospitals, supply of drugs to dispensaries of ISM&H in remote and backward areas.

Statement

Policy prescriptions contained in the National Health Policy—2002 which have a bearing on improving the delivery of health care services in the country

- (i) Increasing aggregate health sector expenditure from 5.2 per cent of GDP at present to 6 per cent of GDP, with Government contribution increasing from 0.9 per cent of GDP at present to 2 per cent of GDP by 2010.
- (ii) Increasing sectoral outlay for the primary sector to 55 per cent of the total public health investment for reducing various types of inequities and imbalances in the provision of health care services.
- (iii) Gradual merger of all health programmes under a single field administration; however, vertical programmes for control of major diseases like TB, Malaria, HIV/AIDS as also RCH and Universal Immunization Programmes to continue till moderate levels of prevalence are reached.
- (iv) De-centralization of implementation of various public health programmes to local self-government institutions by 2005.
- (v) Revive primary health system by providing essential drugs under Central Government funding through decentralized system.

[English]

Primary Health Centres

2547. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:
SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:
SHRI RAMANAND SINGH:
SHRI SUBODH ROY:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) the number of Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) the funds allocated by the Government to each State to strengthen these centres during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have sent any proposal to the World Bank in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the World Bank thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The number of Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs) functioning in the country is given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(b) Funds for strengthening the PHCs and CHCs are provided under the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (erstwhile Minimum Needs Programme (MNP)/Basic Minimum Services (BMS) Programme) and under Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme. A statement-II showing the funds released to the States/UTs under PMGY, MNP/BMS and RCH Programmes is enclosed.

(c) to (e) For strengthening of community Health Centres, World Bank assistance has been obtained under the State Health Systems Development Project for Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Karnataka, Punjab, Orissa, Maharashtra and U.P. Recently, proposals for financial assistance for the States of Assam (Rs. 382.16 crore), Rajasthan (Rs. 338.22 crore) and Tamil Nadu (Rs. 650.00 crore) have been posed to the World Bank and are under process.

Statement-I

Number of Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres functioning in the Country

Sl. No.	State/UT	PHCs	CHCs
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1386	219
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	65	20
3.	Assam	610	100
4.	Bihar	1648	101
5.	Chhattisgarh	512	114
6.	Goa	19	5
7.	Gujarat	1001	242
8.	Haryana	401	64
9.	Himachal Pradesh	302	65

1	2	3	4
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	337	53
11.	Jharkhand	561	47
12.	Karnataka	1676	249
13.	Kerala	944	105
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1178	228
15.	Maharashtra	1768	351
16.	Manipur	69	16
17.	Meghalaya	85	13
18.	Mizoram	58	9
19.	Nagaland	46	9
20.	Orissa	1352	157
21.	Punjab	484	105
22.	Rajasthan	1674	263
23.	Sikkim	24	2

1	2	3	4
24.	Tamil Nadu	1436	72
25.	Tripura	58	11
26.	Uttaranchal	257	23
27.	Uttar Pradesh	3551	287
28.	West Bengal	1262	99
29.	A & N Islands	18	4
30.	Chandigarh	0	1
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	6	1
32.	Daman & Diu	3	1
33.	Delhi	8	0
34.	Lakshadweep	4	3
35.	Pondicherry	39	4
All India		22842	3043

Figures are provisional..

Statement-II*Funds released to the States/UTs under RCH Programmes, during last three years*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	1999-2000 Release	2000-2001 Release	2001-2002 Release
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,961.98	1,662.15	2,027.22
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	155.24	175.72	136.26
3.	Assam	727.83	474.86	1,198.53
4.	Bihar	1,385.88	2,711.64	1,678.45
5.	Jharkhand	0.00	37.00	450.35
6.	Goa	41.11	10.40	23.08
7.	Gujarat	726.28	983.39	7,439.26

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Haryana	895.38	1,664.30	1,225.25
9.	Himachal Pradesh	312.48	427.02	277.80
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	346.54	555.39	342.30
11.	Karnataka	537.58	1,671.15	1,188.66
12.	Kerala	764.87	1,217.74	769.03
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1,836.42	3,553.34	1,297.96
14.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	314.10	845.07
15.	Maharashtra	1,403.87	1,256.71	1,927.91
16.	Manipur	500.98	421.71	661.86
17.	Meghalaya	107.84	65.64	129.28
18.	Mizoram	563.80	729.58	728.70
19.	Nagaland	145.78	146.96	117.51
20.	Orissa	1,132.50	1,524.79	1,871.77
21.	Punjab	426.26	686.25	617.63
22.	Rajasthan	1,255.65	2,313.58	2,960.59
23.	Sikkim	51.60	43.07	58.30
24.	Tamil Nadu	1,475.36	2,373.39	542.27
25.	Tripura	255.43	166.18	447.87
26.	Uttar Pradesh	3,990.12	4,654.45	7,236.00
27.	Uttaranchal	0.00	208.59	417.98
28.	West Bengal	1,455.89	2,073.46	1,933.32
29.	A & N Islands	33.57	31.04	36.26
30.	Chandigarh	43.07	117.61	24.20
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	26.43	3.88	15.02
32.	Daman & Diu	32.05	4.87	9.66
33.	Delhi	127.31	311.22	298.60
34.	Lakshadweep	28.72	21.44	12.42
35.	Pondicherry	49.28	21.79	22.58
Total		22,797.09	32,634.40	38,969.46

Funds released to the States/UTs under MNP/BMS programme and PMGY

Name of the States/UTs	1999-2000 (MNP/BMS)	2000-2001 (PMGY)	20001-2002 (PMGY)
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	1197.00	2841.90	2841.00
Arunachal Pradesh	998.00	1022.56	1231.00
Assam	4534.00	2693.56	4011.00
Bihar	10800.00	2154.37	2457.90
Chhattisgarh	—	471.00	351.71
Goa	106.55	11.70	11.70
Gujarat	11342.82	485.92	725.60
Haryana	2700.00	251.70	398.45
Himachal Pradesh	3319.83	1334.15	1596.40
Jammu & Kashmir	6312.79	1286.85	4164.00
Jharkhand	—	1016.85	759.20
Karnataka	17200.25	1126.94	1300.00
Kerala	607.00	1036.20	800.00
Madhya Pradesh	4056.69	1235.55	1460.62
Maharashtra	6856.93	1486.94	1344.42
Manipur	550.00	728.40	900.00
Meghalaya	2329.00	608.86	854.90
Mizoram	1830.00	303.08	1054.15
Nagaland	1139.00	616.96	575.90
Orissa	4127.72	1478.26	1103.80
Punjab	2458.00	606.00	452.50
Rajasthan	9656.00	1446.00	1646.00
Sikkim	540.05	421.65	650.00
Tamil Nadu	2442.99	1571.84	2173.60
Tripura	630.00	762.44	920.00

1	2	3	4
Uttar Pradesh	15413.57	8526.25	5651.00
Uttaranchal	—	188.40	140.70
West Bengal	3246.00	2517.30	2518.00
Total		38231.63	42093.55
NCT of Delhi	5525.00	No Allocation	180.00
Pondicherry	453.00	71.55	72.09
A & N Islands	956.00	275.00	237.50
Chandigarh	250.50	No Allocation	128.25
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	121.45	No Allocation	14.80
Lakshadweep	141.09	No Allocation	19.80
Daman & Diu	128.00	No Allocation	12.00
Total		346.55	664.44

Below Poverty Line

2548. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of population below the poverty line in 1987-88 and 2001-2002, State-wise;

(b) the yardstick of poverty in 1987-88 and 2001-2002; and

(c) the poverty alleviation targets enunciated in the Tenth Plan approach paper?

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 Planning Commission estimates poverty at national and State level from the large sample surveys on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of

approximately five years. The latest such survey was conducted in 1999-2000 (NSS 55th Round). The State wise percentage of people living below the poverty line for the years 1987-88 and 1999-2000 are given in statement I enclosed.

(b) The Planning Commission has adopted per capita consumption expenditure as the criterion to determine the persons living below the poverty line. The per capita consumption has been fixed at Rs. 49.09 per month in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 per month in urban areas at 1973-74 prices at national level corresponding to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 kcal in rural areas and 2100 kcal in urban areas. The state-specific poverty lines are derived from the national level poverty lines, using state-specific price indices and inter-state price differentials.

The state specific poverty lines for the years 1987-88 and 1999-2000 are given in the Statement-II enclosed.

(c) The Planning Commission, in its Approach Paper to the Tenth Five Year Plan has proposed a reduction of poverty ratio by 5 percentage points by 2007 and by 15 percentage points by 2012 as one of the Monitorable Targets of the Tenth Plan.

Statement-I**Percentage of Population Living Below the Poverty Line**

S.No.	State	1987-88	1999-2000
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25.86	15.77
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	36.22	33.47
3.	Assam	36.21	36.09
4.	Bihar	52.13	42.60
5.	Goa	24.52	4.40
6.	Gujarat	31.54	14.07
7.	Haryana	16.64	8.74
8.	Himachal Pradesh	15.45	7.63
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	23.82	3.48
10.	Karnataka	37.53	20.04
11.	Kerala	31.79	12.72
12.	Madhya Pradesh	43.07	37.43
13.	Maharashtra	40.41	25.02
14.	Manipur	31.35	28.54
15.	Meghalaya	33.92	33.87

1	2	3	4
16.	Mizoram	27.52	19.47
17.	Nagaland	34.43	32.67
18.	Orissa	55.58	47.15
19.	Punjab	13.20	6.16
20.	Rajasthan	35.15	15.28
21.	Sikkim	36.06	36.55
22.	Tamil Nadu	43.39	21.12
23.	Tripura	35.23	34.44
24.	Uttar Pradesh	41.46	31.15
25.	West Bengal	44.72	27.02
26.	A & N Islands	43.89	20.99
27.	Chandigarh	14.67	5.75
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	67.11	17.14
29.	Daman & Diu	—	4.44
30.	Delhi	12.41	8.23
31.	Lakshadweep	34.95	15.60
32.	Pondicherry	41.46	21.67
All India		38.86	26.10

Statement-II**State-Specific Poverty Lines***(Rs. per capita per month)*

S. No.	State	1987-88		1999-2000	
		Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	91.94	151.88	262.94	457.40
2.	Assam	127.44	126.60	365.43	343.99
3.	Bihar	120.36	150.25	333.07	379.78
4.	Gujarat	115.00	173.18	318.94	474.41

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Haryana	122.90	143.22	362.81	420.20
6.	Himachal Pradesh	122.90	114.10	367.45	420.20
7.	Karnataka	104.46	171.18	309.59	511.44
8.	Kerala	130.61	163.29	374.79	477.06
9.	Madhya Pradesh	107.00	178.35	311.34	481.65
10.	Maharashtra	115.61	189.17	318.63	539.71
11.	Orissa	121.42	165.40	323.92	473.12
12.	Punjab	122.90	144.98	362.68	388.15
13.	Rajasthan	117.52	165.38	344.03	465.92
14.	Tamil Nadu	118.23	165.82	307.64	475.60
15.	Uttar Pradesh	114.57	154.15	336.88	416.29
16.	West Bengal	129.21	149.96	350.17	409.22
17.	Delhi	122.90	176.91	362.68	505.45
All India		115.20	162.16	327.56	454.11

Economic Agenda for SAARC

2549. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have mooted any specific economic agenda for SAARC nations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Government of India has been advocating the need for Economic Co-operation since the inception of SAARC in 1985. The Framework Agreement on Promotion of Trade which was signed by SAARC member States in 1993 was drafted by India. Under the South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement (SAPTA) India has granted tariff concessions on 2565 items of trade to SAARC member countries. India is also providing leadership in working out other trade facilitation measures. We are keen to see an early finalisation of the South

Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA), and eventually, the establishment of a South Asian Economic Union (SAEU) as the long term goal. India also encourages investment by Indian business in SAARC countries.

Supply of Medical Equipments

2550. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Government of India and the Government of Finland for supply of High-tech medical equipment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Finland has agreed to supply High-tech medical equipment to the Government Teaching Hospitals in Karnataka;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the cost of medical equipment proposed to be supplied; and

(e) the details of the Teaching Hospitals which are yet to be supplied these equipments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) A proposal received from the State Government of Karnataka has been forwarded to the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, in December, 2000, for availing of soft credit from the Government of Finland for the purchase of medical equipment to upgrade medical colleges and attached hospitals.

Telecom Switch Producers

2551. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that WLL (Wireless Local Loop) technology is causing serious threat to domestic Telecom Switch Producers;

(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 COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) The apprehension that WLL technology poses threat to domestic Telecom Switch Producers is not correct. Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) technology is used in the Access Network for providing last mile connectivity to the subscribers and is one of the alternatives to the wireless Access Network. The access network is connected to Switch for call completion & other associated functions and thus, has different application area. Therefore, no threat to the domestic Telecom Switch Producers is foreseen with the use of WLL technology.

Appointment in AIIMS

2552. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Patient care suffers due to AIIMS policy" appeared in the 'Hindu' dated July 6, 2002;

(b) if so, whether several appointments of Assistant Professors have been made only on adhoc basis;

(c) if so, whether posts of Professors are not filled as per sanctioned strength due to which patients are suffering a lot; and

(d) the corrective steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) It is not true that the Patient's care services are suffering in the absence of appointment to the Post of Assistant Professors at the Institute. Ad-hoc appointment at the level of Assistant Professors at the Institute had to be resorted to due to interim orders passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi on 15.11.1994 in a Civil Writ Petition filed by the Faculty in the AIIMS on the issue of reservation in faculty posts. At present about 135 Assistant Professors are working on ad-hoc basis. The Hon'ble High Court has since delivered the judgement on 26.11.2001 and as directed by the Hon'ble Court, vacant posts of Assistant Professors in various disciplines have been advertised with reservation as per Government Rules, for making regular appointment. The process of selection to these posts have already been started. There are 110 Posts of Professors in the Institute out of which only 11 Posts of Professors are vacant. Steps have also been initiated for making regular appointments.

[Translation]

Funds Allocated for Upgradation of Telecommunication System

2553. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent during the last three years and current year so far by the Union Government to upgrade telecommunication system, year-wise; and

(b) the effective steps being taken to remove the ever increasing number of complaints of telephone subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The amount spent during the last three years and current year to upgrade telecommunications system is given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(b) A statement-II is enclosed.

Statement-I

Amount spent during the last three years and in the current year to upgrade telecommunication system

(Rs. in Crore)

Sr.No.	Year	DOT	BSNL	MTNL	Total
1.	1999-2000	12562.58	—	958.75	13521.33
2.	2000-2001	8629.74*	9136.94#	838.47	18605.15
3.	2001-2002	—	12231.00##	977.66	13208.66
4.	2002-2003	—	3440.00***	65.89**	3505.89

* Expenditure from 01.4.2002 to 30.9.2000. Department of Telecom Services/DOT were Corporatized and BSNL formed w.e.f 01.10.2000.

Expenditure from 01.10.2000 to 31.3.2001.

Provisional expenditure. Accounts are under finalization.

** Expenditure from 01.4.2002 to 30.6.2002.

*** Estimated expenditure up to 25.7.2002.

Statement-II

Following steps are being taken to remove the complaints of telephone subscribers.

- (i) Monitoring of fault repairs by Senior Officers and they are easily accessible to public.
- (ii) Computerization of fault repair services for better monitoring of faults.
- (iii) Provision of pagers to line staff for fast communication of faults in some cities.
- (iv) Replacement of life expired telephone instruments in phased manner.
- (v) Rehabilitation/up-gradation of external plant.
- (vi) Opening of more and more remote line units in order to reduce the cable net work up to subscribers premises which is the main contributor in the fault rate.
- (vii) Introduction of new technology e.g. Wireless in Local Loop, Digital Line Concentrator etc. to eliminate the need for underground cable.
- (viii) Functioning of Vigilance of & PG Cells.

[English]

Nimhans Hospital in Bangalore

2554. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are providing 75 per cent grants of the total expenditure to the Nimhans Hospital in Bangalore;

(b) whether the Union Government have received representation from M.Ps. requesting for 100 per cent grant to Hospital Nimhans;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Out of the total expenditure incurred by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore during the year 2001-02, 67% and 69% of that amount respectively were released as grant by the Government of India. The rest is met through grant from State Govt. of Karnataka and internal resources.

The Government has not received any representation from Members of Parliament requesting for 100 percent grant to NIMHANS, Bangalore.

Financial Assistance to Tamil Nadu

2555. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has sought Rs. 3,000 crores package to meet the present financial crisis in the State;

- (b) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government 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) Yes, Sir. The Govt. of Tamil Nadu has sought an untied grant package of Rs. 3000 crore to meet the present financial crisis in the State.

(c) As regards package of Rs. 3000 crores for Tamil Nadu to meet the financial crisis, it would not be possible to open a new window for non-plan assistance to States other than what was recommended by the Finance Commission nor does the current economic slow down affecting States and the Union in equal measure make it feasible for the Centre to allot any additionality as grants.

Telecom Service Facilities

2556. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have proposal to expedite the process of creating necessary infrastructure of telecommunication connectivity in order to provide telecom service facilities in the backward and remote Bodo Tribal areas extending up to Indo-Bhutan border;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The following infrastructure is planned for upgrading the telecom facilities in the Bodo Tribal Areas:—

- (i) Commissioning of exchanges at Borabazar, Serfanguri and Kachugaon.
- (ii) Commissioning of Digital Microwave System (6GHZ) between Goalpara-Coochbehar during the year 2002-2003.
- (iii) Commissioning of very high capacity (STM-16) Optical Fibre system between Coochbehar and Guwahati servicing Barpeta, Bongaigaon and

Kokrajhar districts of Assam during the year 2002-2003.

[Translation]

Research and Development Programme

2557. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research and development programme for the development of Posts-related technology has been carried out by the Department of Posts during the last three years;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) The Department of Posts, is entrusted with the responsibility of providing the postal services. Relevant technological developments are being utilized to facilitate and improve its operations. There is a Standing Committee for conceptualising design of new services and identifying appropriate technology to assist the Department, and it includes representatives from educational/scientific institutions.

[English]

Handling of Containers by JNPT

2558. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been drastic drop in the number of containers handled by Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) in the year 2001-2002 as compared to previous year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that fewer vessels have been called at JNPT in the year 2001-2002 in comparison to the previous year;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the shippers have expressed certain problems and delays in handling the containers at the port;

(f) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to remove the same; and

(g) the details of the expectations of traffic at the port over the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. There were delays in handling (loading and unloading) of Inland Container Depot (ICD) Rail Containers at Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust. In order to improve service levels at Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, arrangements were made to commence operations for handling ICD Rail Containers on two additional rail lines 6 and 8 w.e.f 14th July, 2002. Additional container handling equipment has been mobilized on hire basis to clear the pendency of ICD Containers and improve turnaround time of ICD rakes at the Port.

(g) The traffic projections at Jawaharlal Nehru Port for the current year and next two years are given below:—

Year	Jawaharlal Nehru Port Container Terminal (JNPCT) (Figures in TEUs-Twenty Feet Equivalent units)	Nhava Sheva International Container Terminal (NSICT) (Private Terminal) (Figures in TEUs-Twenty Feet Equivalent Units)
2002-03	7,00,000	10,30,000
2003-04	8,90,000	10,30,000
2004-05	10,00,000	10,30,000

[Translation]

CGHS Dispensaries in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar

2559. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received proposals from the Government of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh for opening CGHS dispensaries/hospitals in their States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision 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.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, the questions do not arise.

[English]

Digital DNA Park

2560. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any concept paper has been drafted for setting up of a Digital DNA park to address the problem of acute shortage in the required hardware and networking infrastructure for the growth of high-end genomics, bio-informatics, proteomics and cheminformatics, etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are being worked out. The final decision is likely to be taken during the current financial year.

[Translation]

Promotion of Sports in Rural Areas

2561. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for promotion of sports in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allotted for this purpose during the current year?

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

(b) With a view to broad basing sports and games and to tap the hidden talent in rural areas, Government is implementing the scheme of 'Rural Sports Programme'. Under the scheme, rural sports tournaments are organized in selected sports disciplines at Block, District, State and National levels. Financial assistance @ Rs. 30,000/- per discipline is sanctioned to State Governments for organization of State level sports tournaments and @ Rs. 15000/- per discipline to UT Administrations for organization of UT level sports tournaments. Block and district level tournaments are organized by the State/UTs from their own resources. The scheme is implemented through Sports Authority of India.

Similarly, in order to boardbase games and sports in the otherwise neglected areas of the North-Eastern States and to tap the hidden talent which is in abundance there, Government is implementing a component of the scheme for conduct of North-East Sports Festival every year.

(c) An amount of Rs. 125 lakh has been allocated for the current year.

[English]

Financial Services by Post Office Saving Bank

2562. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) whether the Post Office Saving Bank is the largest bank in the country in terms of network, accounts and annual deposits;

(b) if so, whether the Post Office Saving Bank has introduced a number of new financial services in collaboration with the private sector;

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

(d) the objectives of these new schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Post Office Saving Bank is one of the largest banks in the country in terms of network, accounts and annual deposits.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Department of Posts has introduced a number of new financial services in collaboration with the private sector. The objectives of these new financial services is to provide the common man and the corporates convenient access to modern financial services and products as well as to generate revenue for the Department. The scheme-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Scheme-wise details of new Financial Services

- **International Money Transfer Services:** The service, operated in association with Western union, provides the customers the facility of receiving remittances from more than 190 countries on a real time basis. The service has been operational since April 2001 and is currently available from over 1000 post offices. The service helps Non Resident Indians in particular to remit money home instantaneously.
- **Mutual Funds & Securities Distribution:** Since February 2001, a growing network of nearly 200 Post Offices is distributing select mutual funds and Bonds. The service while extending the reach of the capital market of the country also provides the common man easy access to market based investment options.
- **Electronic Funds Transfer service:** Introduced in October 2001, this Service leverages the VSAT network of the Department to Facilitate end-to-end fund transfers by Banks on behalf of the corporate sector as well as the Capital Market.
- **Warrant Payment Scheme:** The Post Office provides a single window facility to issue and pay out warrants across the country.

Post Offices and PCOs in Villages

2563. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN:
SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 30% villages in the country having no post offices and PCOs till today;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) the reasons for not providing these facilities in these villages;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any time bound programme for providing post offices and PCOs in those villages; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 77.24% of villages in the country are without post office, but all the villages in the country are provided with basic postal facilities of sale of stamps and stationery. Collection and delivery of mails. 82.28% of villages in the country are provided with telecom facility.

(c) to (e) Expansion of Postal Network is a Plan activity and opening of post offices is subject to fulfilment of prescribed norms and availability of requisite resources. During the year 2002-2003, a target for opening of 250 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 25 Departmental Sub Offices in the country has been fixed. As for the telecom facility, all the remaining inhabited villages are to be covered by 2002 subject to availability of funds from Government and supply of equipment in time. These efforts are to be supplemented by Private Basic Service Operators (PBSOs).

[Translation]

Family Planning Programme

2564. YOGI ADITYA NATH:
SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
DR. RAJESHWARAMMA VUKKALA:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

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

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment of the works carried out under the National Family Planning Programme, during the last three years;

(b) if so, the percentage of success achieved in various States;

(c) the target fixed for the Tenth Five Year Plan for the family welfare programme;

(d) whether keeping in view of explosive population in the country, the Government propose to launch any scheme to ensure effective implementation of the programme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) A Statement giving the Crude Birth Rates and Infant Mortality Rates for the last available three years is enclosed.

(c) Target fixed for Tenth Five Year Plan for the family welfare programme at all India level:

- Birth Rate of 21-20 (per 1000 population)
- Infant Mortality Rate of 45-40 (per 1000 live births).

(d) and (e) The following steps are being taken by the Government:

- An integrated and comprehensive programme of Reproductive and Child Health, which includes Maternal Health, Child Health and Contraception issues.
- Fulfilment of unmet needs of contraceptives through provision of integrated service delivery at district/below district level.
- Information, Education and Communication Programme to create awareness about the benefits of small family.
- Provision of additional inputs in weaker States/districts.

Statement

Crude Birth Rate & Infant Mortality Rate

Sl. No.	States/Union Territories	CBR			IMR		
		1998	1999	2000*	1998	1999	2000*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22.4	21.7	21.3	66	66	65
2.	Assam	27.9	27.0	26.9	76	76	75

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Bihar	31.1	30.4	31.9	67	63	62
4.	Gujarat	25.5	25.4	25.2	64	63	62
5.	Haryana	27.6	26.8	26.9	70	68	67
6.	Karnataka	22.0	22.3	22.0	58	58	57
7.	Kerala	18.3	18.0	17.9	16	14	14
8.	Madhya Pradesh	30.7	30.7	31.2	98	90	88
9.	Maharashtra	22.5	21.1	20.9	49	48	48
10.	Orissa	25.7	24.1	24.3	98	97	96
11.	Punjab	22.4	21.5	21.5	54	53	52
12.	Rajasthan	31.6	31.1	31.2	83	81	79
13.	Tamil Nadu	19.2	19.3	19.2	53	52	51
14.	Uttar Pradesh	32.4	32.1	32.8	85	84	83
15.	West Bengal	21.3	20.7	20.6	53	52	51
16.	Arunachal Pradesh	22.5	22.3	22.3	44	43	44
17.	Chhattisgarh	28.7	26.9	26.7	94	78	79
18.	Delhi	19.4	20.3	20.3	36	31	32
19.	Goa	14.3	14.3	14.3	23	21	23
20.	Himachal Pradesh	22.6	23.8	22.1	64	62	60
21.	Jammu & Kashmir	19.9	20.9	19.6	45	52	50
22.	Jharkhand	26.9	26.3	26.5	62	71	70
23.	Manipur	19.0	18.6	18.3	25	25	23
24.	Meghalaya	29.2	28.7	28.5	52	56	58
25.	Mizoram	15.8	17.0	16.9	23	19	21
26.	Nagaland	11.9	11.8	NA	NA	NA	NA
27.	Sikkim	20.9	21.6	21.8	52	49	49
28.	Tripura	17.6	17.0	16.5	49	42	41
29.	Uttaranchal	23.6	19.6	20.2	58	52	50
30.	A & N Islands	17.7	18.1	19.1	30	25	23
31.	Chandigarh	17.9	17.9	17.5	32	28	28
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	34.1	34.2	34.9	61	56	58
33.	Daman & Diu	21.7	26.9	23.7	51	35	48
34.	Lakshadweep	23.0	25.1	26.1	26	32	27
35.	Pondicherry	18.2	17.7	17.8	21	22	23
	All India	26.5	26.1	25.8	72	70	68

*Provisional.
Source: SRS.

*[English]***State Health System Projects**

2565. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provide assistance to frame State Health System Projects in order to improve the conditions of districts and sub-district hospitals;

(b) if so, the details of assistance provided to Maharashtra under the Scheme during each of the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the conditions of districts and sub-districts hospitals all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The Government does not have any scheme of providing assistance to States for framing State Health Systems Development Projects. However, on request from States, Planning Commission or WHO is approached to provide financial assistance.

(b) The State of Maharashtra has been sanctioned the World Bank aided State Health Systems Development Project from January, 1999 for a period of 6 years. The objective of this project is to improve efficiency in the health care system of the State. The total assistance being provided from the World Bank is US\$ 134 million. The disbursement for the last 3 years are:

1999-2000	-	Nil
2000-2001	-	\$1.22 million
2001-2002	-	\$9.60 million

(c) Health is a State subject, and as such, it is the responsibility of the respective State Government to improve the conditions of districts and sub-districts hospitals. However, State Governments have been requested to prepare Health Systems Development Projects for World Bank assistance. So far, such projects have been sanctioned for seven States; Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal, Orissa, Punjab, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.

Coaching Facilities at School Level

2566. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to provide coaching facilities at the school level, particularly in rural areas, keeping in view of the dismal performance of India in sports at the international level; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) No, Sir. Sports is a State subject and it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to promote sports in schools, particularly in rural areas.

(b) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Tele-Medicine Facility in Hospitals**

2567. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether G.B. Pant Hospital, Port-Blair and Sir Ramchandra Medical College and Research Centre and Hospital, Chennai have been linked to satellite recently thereby to provide tele-medicine facility;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide tele-medicine facility in other major hospitals in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Space has intimated that Tele-Medicine connectivity has been provided between G.B. Pant Hospital, Port Blair, Andaman and Sri Ramachandra Medical and Research Institute, Chennai under the ISRO's Telemedicine Pilot Project to bring health care for the rural, distant and off shore Island through satellite.

The telemedicine system consists of customized medical software integrated with computer hardware along with medical diagnostic instruments, connected to VSATs at each of the patient end (Port Blair) & expert doctors (Chennai) and linked through INSAT satellite. Generally the medical record/history of the patient is sent to the specialist Doctors who in turn study, provide diagnosis and treatment during video conference with the patient end.

(c) and (d) No such proposal is under consideration in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

[English]

Herbal Medicines

2568. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified different herbs and prepared formulations from their abstracts during the last one year; and

(b) if so, the details of new herbal medicines which were introduced during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) (i) Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) has worked on 63 Ayurvedic preparations and tested them on various disease models. It resulted in 11 leads. A new formulation for anti-gastric peptic ulcer is undergoing pre-clinical investigations.

(ii) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has used formulations prepared from heartwood of Vijaysar (*Pterocarpus marsupium*) for clinical trials in mild diabetics.

(iii) Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow has identified plants for preparation of new formulations from Mandukparni (*Centella asiatica*) for wound healing, Haritaki (*Terminalia chabula*), Ginkobiloba and Panus ginseng for anti stress activity. Similarly Picrolive, a glycoside prepared from *Picrorhiza kurroa* has been developed as a hepato protective product.

[Translation]

Computerised Post Offices in Madhya Pradesh

2569. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

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

(a) the number of post offices proposed to be computerized in Madhya Pradesh during 2002-2003;

(b) the likely expenditure to incurred; and

(c) the time by which the said work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) During the year 2002-2003, five post offices are proposed for computerization in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) The likely expenditure to be incurred is Rs. 40 lakhs approximately.

(c) The completion of project will depend on timely availability of funds, development of necessary infrastructure and procurement of required hardware.

Opening of Public Call Offices

2570. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced now policy for opening of Public Call Offices in rural areas in the last few months;

(b) the number of PCOs opened in the country, State-wise during each of the last two years;

(c) the requests for opening of PCOs received from Gujarat, district-wise which are pending with the Government; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) The information is given in the Statement

(c) At present, no application is pending in Gujarat for allotment of PCOs.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Statement

Number of PCOs opened in the country during the last two years

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	92	204
2.	Andhra Pradesh	24401	20446

1	2	3	4
3.	Assam	2412	2157
4.	Bihar	9924 (Including Jharkhand)	10433
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	151
6.	Gujarat	6804	10256
7.	Haryana	4535	4240
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1919	875
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2630	2334
10.	Jharkhand	—	1540
11.	Karnataka	12770	13912
12.	Kerala	9863	10656
13.	Madhya Pradesh	3156 (Including Chhattisgarh)	3405
14.	Maharashtra	26352	31041
15.	North East-I	1173 (Including NE-II)	379
16.	North East-II	—	37
17.	Orissa	5587	3745
18.	Punjab	5402	1878
19.	Rajasthan	7294	6836
20.	Tamil Nadu	17471	18849
21.	Uttaranchal	—	840
22.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	10020	9119
23.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	12763 (Including Uttaranchal)	7023
24.	West Bengal	2190	5751
25.	Kolkata	4938	9699
26.	Chennai	14075	10785
	Total in the network of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	185771	186591
27.	MTNL, Delhi	5935	7728
28.	MTNL, Mumbai	19418	19460
	Total in the network of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited	25353	27188

[English]

Rural Posting for Doctors

2571. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the resolution of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare rural posting for a specific period is to be made compulsory for the doctors before admission to post-graduate courses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these conditions are being followed;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to implement the conditions of the Council of Health and Family Welfare?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) No, Sir. The Central Government have not made rural posting compulsory for the doctors before admission to post-graduate courses. However, in pursuance of the Resolution of the 6th Conference of Central Council of Health and Family Welfare, in order to meet the shortage of doctors in rural areas the State/UT Governments have been advised, *inter-alia*, to reserve 25% of postgraduate seats in Medical Colleges, for in-service candidates who have worked in rural areas for at least three years with a bond that they will serve the Government for at least five years. The said resolution of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare is to be implemented by the State/UT Governments as the appointment and postings of doctors is entirely the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations.

National Immunization Programme

2572. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Immunization Programme has been affected due to sharp reduction in production of vaccines in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to overcome the situation?

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

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Installation of Dust Control System

2573. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether different major ports of the country handling bulk cargo have installed dust control system;

(b) if so, the names of those ports where it is installed and operational;

(c) whether the dust control system installed at the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust in March, 1990 has been put to use;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken against the persons responsible for such wasteful expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (e) 5 major ports, namely, Kolkata Port, Paradip Port, Visakhapatnam Port, Chennai Port and Jawaharlal Nehru Port have installed dust control system which also includes dust suppression system involving sprinkling of water on dust generating cargo. The systems are operational in 4 major ports, namely, Kolkata Port, Paradip Port, Visakhapatnam Port and Chennai Port.

At JNPT a dust control system was supplied by the contractor as part of Contract-II-Bulk Handling Facility and installed in March, 1990. This was put to use by the Port Trust during the period 1992-1997 while handling bulk cargo. However, the Port Trust was not satisfied with the performance of the dust control system as also some other systems supplied by the contractor under the Contract for Bulk Handling Facility. Hence, the Port Trust withheld final stage payment of 10% in respect of price of goods and services to the contractor. Efforts made by the Port Trust to get the defects and deficiencies rectified by the contractor did not yield the desired results. On a reference made by the contractor, the issue of withholding of payment to the contractor became the subject matter of Arbitration. The Arbitration Award directing JNPT to release the withheld payments was published in July, 1997. During the Arbitration proceedings, no progress in the matter of rectification of the defects and deficiencies was made. After settlement of the Arbitration Award, the Port Trust again made attempts to make the Dust Control System operational but to no avail.

Considering the volume of dry bulk traffic handled during the recent past and the remote prospects for further growth in the fertilizers, fertilizers raw material and food grains traffic at JNPT in the near future, JNPT has not considered it advisable to incur further expenditure in making the dust control system operational.

Post Office Savings Bank

2574. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any review has been made by an Expert Committee on functioning of Post Office Savings Bank (POSB);

(b) if so, the important recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) whether it is proposed to expand the range of financial services provided by POSB;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Department of Posts has tied up with UTI/IDBI to provide value added services to its customers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Expert Committee while recognising the significant achievements of the Post Office Savings Bank (POSB) since its inception has recommended that it should be recognized as a basic national infrastructural facility for the development of the country's financial services sector. To this end the Committee has further recommended that the POSB should, in addition to small savings schemes, undertake new services such as distribution of mutual funds and securities, electronic and transfers, smart cards/debit cards, currency exchange, direct debit of utility bill payments, distribution of retail financial products and electronic banking.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In line with the recommendations of the Expert Committee, the Department of Posts has already introduced money transfer service, distribution of mutual funds and securities, warrant payment and cash management services.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The tie up essentially envisages co-operation in various spheres like retailing each other financial products and services including payment of warrants, cash management services and installation of ATMs.

Computers in Schools

2575. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that many schools are being deprived of having Computer Software donated by Microsoft Company due to non-availability of computers;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to provide the knowledge of IT to the students (specially poor) living in rural areas;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to provide computers to the schools located in the rural areas so that they can get acquainted with the knowledge of IT: and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir. One of the requirements for supply of the Software donated by Microsoft Company is that School must have necessary hardware (Computers).

(b) to (d) Government has initiated a Pilot Project 'Vidya Vahini' to integrate technological tools and internet in the learning environment. The focus of the project is to use computer aided learning techniques to develop and train the faculty to impart education to students, teachers and encourage them to develop course content and lessons in the digital form. The emphasis is to develop and provide content in the local language. About 140 Government schools in the rural and semi-urban areas in Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal are being provided necessary infrastructure including computers.

The Department of Secondary and Higher Education under Ministry of Human Resource Development has launched a revised Computer Literacy and Studies in the Schools (CLASS) Programme under which the States/UT Governments would be provided necessary assistance for

equipping the Schools with Computer hardware and software.

Selling of Surplus Land

2576. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under the consideration of the Government to allow Mumbai and Kolkata Port Trust authorities to sell part of surplus land for developing commercial zones under the revised land use policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount expected to get from the sale of surplus land of these ports; and

(d) when a decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) No proposal of Mumbai and Kolkata Port Trusts to sell part of surplus land for developing commercial zone has been received by the Government. However, proposal has been received from Mumbai Port Trust for sale of land not required for port use, which includes sale of 28.39 hectares at Titwala, 3.63 hectares of other small vacant plots at different locations in the city ranging from 24 sq. mtrs. to 3000 sq. mtrs. and sale of let out land of 306.75 hectares let out to 2951 lessees/tenants.

(c) and (d) The sale of vacant land depends on the market response. In case of proposed sale of let out land, there are a number of variables involved in the computation of the sale price, and therefore, it is not possible to accurately estimate the returns and likely time of decision taken at this stage.

[Translation]

Survey of HIV Positive Blood

2577. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National AIDS Control Organisation has conducted any survey to ascertain the number of HIV blood donors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme for blood donation in order to meet the blood demand; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) For generating enough blood through voluntary blood donation programme, Government has already initiated a number of steps such as media campaign through TV, AIR and newspapers; developing IEC material for one-to-one communication; observation of National Voluntary Blood Donation Day on 1st October every year; encouraging rational use of blood among clinicians and the launching of special campaigns to educate masses to support voluntary blood donations.

CBI Raids

2578. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:
DR. BALIRAM:
SHRI J.S. BRAR:
SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE:
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:
SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of raids conducted by the CBI against the Government officials including IAS, IPS and other All India Services during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number out of them charge sheeted/suspended during the said period, State-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that several cases are under the investigation of the CBI since long but charge sheets have not been filed till date;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures being taken by the Government to check the corruption in the Government Departments?

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 given by the CBI, it has registered cases against 9140 Government officials including IAS and IPS officers during the last three years i.e. 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002 (upto 30.6.2002), break-up of which is as under:—

Year	IAS	IPS	Other Government officials	Total
1999	14	5	3,188	3,207
2000	18	5	2,569	2,592
2001	17	3	2,264	2,284
2002 (upto 30.6.2002)	4	1	1,052	1,057
Total				9,140

The State-wise Break up of IAS/IPS officers involved in these cases is as under:—

Year	State	IAS	IPS
1	2	3	4
1999	Haryana	—	1
	Gujarat	4	—
	Punjab	1	—
	Uttar Pradesh	4	2
	Tamil Nadu	1	—
	Karnataka	1	—
	Madhya Pradesh	1	—
	Sikkim	1	—
	Union Territory	1	2
2000	Haryana	1	2
	Punjab	1	—
	Uttar Pradesh	1	1
	Orissa	2	1
	Rajasthan	1	—
	Bihar	1	—

1	2	3	4
	AGMU	1	1
	Sikkim	1	—
	Jammu & Kashmir	2	—
	Gujarat	4	—
	Andhra Pradesh	2	—
	West Bengal	1	—
2001	U.T.	1	2
	Punjab	1	1
	Jharkhand	3	—
	Tamil Nadu	1	—
	Uttar Pradesh	2	—
	Madhya Pradesh	1	—
	Uttaranchal	1	—
	Jammu & Kashmir	1	—
	Maharashtra	3	—
	Bihar	1	—
	Karnataka	1	—
	Manipur	1	—
2002 (upto 30.6.2002)	Uttar Pradesh	1	—
	AGMUT	1	—
	Kerala	1	—
	Manipur	1	—
	Tripura	—	—
	Orissa	—	1

(b) During the last three years, one IAS officer was charge-sheeted during the year 2000 and 3 were charge-sheeted in the year 2001 whereas one IPS officer was charge-sheeted in the year 2000. None of these officers were placed under suspension. As far as other Government officials are concerned, 680 officials were charge-sheeted in the year 1999, 954 were charge-sheeted in the year 2000 and 1084 in the year 2001 and 482 in the current year upto 30.6.2002. Out of these 180 officials were placed under suspension.

(c) and (d) The charge-sheets could not be filed in several cases due to various reasons such as inter-state

ramifications involving extensive field investigation, collection and scrutinization of large number of documents and examination of large number of witnesses.

(e) Several steps have been taken to check corruption in the Government Offices, such as formulation of anti-corruption policy and constant monitoring for effective implementation of the policy. To ensure greater transparency and for eliminating corruption, Information and Facilitation Counters (IFCs) have been set up in various Ministries/Departments to provide information regarding procedures and schemes concerning organizations. The Secretary of the concerned Department, assisted by Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO), has also been made responsible for ensuring probity and integrity in that Department.

[English]

Telephone Facility to Village Panchayats

2579. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of village panchayats provided with the telephone facilities in Sikkim, district-wise;

(b) the number of telephones out of the above are out of order;

(c) the reasons for their non-functional;

(d) the action being taken by the Government to rectify the same; and

(e) the time by which all Village Panchayats in the State are likely to be provided telephone facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) All the 148 Village Panchayats in Sikkim have already been provided with telephone facilities. District-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) 20 Multi Access Relay Radio Telephones are out of order due to non availability of spares and after sales support by the vendors.

(d) Faulty Panchayats Telephones are planned to be replaced by Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) or land lines in a phased manner.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Statement

*District-wise number of Panchayats
having telephones in Sikkim*

District	Number of Panchayat Telephones
Sikkim East	53
Sikkim West	42
Sikkim North	18
Sikkim South	35

[Translation]

Cancellation of Visas

2580. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Australia has either cancelled the visas of many Indian students or repatriated them from its country;

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

(c) whether the Government have taken up the matter with Australia;

(d) if so, the reaction of Australia thereto; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Australia Immigration authorities have deported 6000 foreign students between April 2001 to March 2002. Of these, about 800 were Indians.

(b) The cancellation of visas and deportations were due to violation of student visa regulations, which put a 20-hour weekly limit for off-campus work, or for overstaying their visas. These regulations apply to all overseas students and are not directed specifically at Indian students.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Australian authorities have conveyed their readiness to organize familiarisation camps for students regarding visa regulations.

[English]

OFC Between Agartala and Silcher

2581. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which Optical Fibre link from Agartala to Silcher will be commissioned;

(b) whether the Government are considering to provide stand-by link on satellite to the State Capital, Agartala till the optical fibre link between Agartala and Silcher is commissioned; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The optical fibre link from Agartala to Silcher is planned to be commissioned by March, 2003 subject to improvement of law and order situation in the insurgency prone areas in Teliamura-Manughat section.

(b) and (c) State Capital—Agartala has already been linked by a Satellite System with New Delhi and Shillong.

[Translation]

Assistance to Iran

2582. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any sort of assistance has been provided to Iran in the wake of devastation caused by earthquake in that country on June 22, 2002; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Prime Minister, in his message of condolence on the devastating earthquake in Iran, addressed to President of Iran Seyed Mohammad Khatami, as well as during the meeting with the visiting Secretary, Supreme National Security Council of Iran, Mr. Hasan Roohani, indicated India's willingness to offer whatever relief assistance was required by Iran in handling the crisis.

*[English]***Drug Purchase Norms**

2583. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that norms for the purchase of drugs for CGHS dispensaries are not being followed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to identify the reasons for irregularities in the purchase of drugs; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the officers found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The formulary medicines for CGHS allopathic dispensaries are procured by placing in advance the annual indents with the Govt. Medical Store Depots under the Medical Stores Organisation (MSO) situated in various parts of the country. The MSO, purchases the medicines for all the indenters strictly as per Government norms and then supplies the same to the indenters including CGHS.

In case the MSO is not able to supply medicines to the CGHS, the same are purchased from the authorised local chemists appointed by CGHS on a day to day basis against individual prescriptions of the beneficiaries and supplied to the beneficiaries thereafter.

(c) and (d) In view of (a) and (b) above the questions do not arise.

CGHS Facilities in Faridabad

2584. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

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

(a) whether the Government have recently withdrawn medical facilities for treatment and hospitalization of Central Government CGHS beneficiaries and Government Pensioners in Escorts Hospital and Research Centre, Faridabad;

(b) if so, the reasons and justification therefor;

(c) the details of medical facilities available earlier to the said decision of the Government for the retired Government servants in various hospitals under the CGHS scheme in Faridabad;

(d) the details of medical-hospitalization facilities available to CGHS beneficiaries retired from Central Government services living in Faridabad;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to provide adequate medical facilities to those Government employees;

(f) whether the Government have received representation for inclusion of Escorts Hospital, Faridabad in the list of authorized hospitals; and

(g) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) CGHS beneficiaries were allowed to take treatment in 24 private hospitals recognised under CGHS Delhi as per Dept. of Health's O.M. dated 18.9.96. One of the 24 hospitals was Escorts Hospital and Research Centre, Faridabad where CGHS beneficiaries of Faridabad could take treatment in addition to those available in Central/State Government Hospitals.

In November, 2000, tenders were called for fresh recognition of private hospitals under CGHS, Delhi on the basis of which 55 private hospitals/diagnostic centres were recognised *vide* Dept. of Health's O.M. dated 7.9.2001. The said O.M. dated 7.9.2001 superseded the earlier O.M. dated 18.9.96.

Escorts Hospital and Research Centre, Faridabad had not applied in response to the advertisement issued by CGHS in November, 2000, and was therefore, not considered for recognition under CGHS, Delhi. Further, the CGHS has not received any application from Private hospitals situated in Faridabad except from one diagnostic centre in response to the said advertisement.

(d) and (e) CGHS beneficiaries residing in Faridabad can avail medical facilities in Central/State Government hospitals in addition to the 63 private hospitals/diagnostic centres which have been recognised under CGHS Delhi *vide* Department of Health's O.Ms 7.9.2001, 15.3.2002, 6.5.2002 and 14.5.2002.

(f) and (g) Recognition of private hospitals under CGHS is an ongoing continuous process. Escorts Hospital and Research Centre, Faridabad has recently applied for recognition under CGHS Delhi.

Import of Drugs

2585. SHRI RAM RATI BIND: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made registration compulsory for import of all categories of drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the kinds of drugs which can be imported freely?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare vide Gazette Notification No. GSR 604 (E) dated 24.8.2001 has amended various provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules and introduced a new provision for registration of manufacturing premises of foreign drug manufacturers and individual drugs prior to their import into the country. The notification has also introduced other provisions, viz. Import Licence for all categories of drugs, enhanced import licence fees, increase validity period of licence, deletion of exemption from requirement of import licence for bulk drugs for actual users, requirement of minimum 60% of retained shelf life for imported drugs and provision for import of small quantities of new drugs by Government hospitals for treatment of their own patients etc. No drug will be allowed to be imported for commercial use without Registration/Import Licence with effect from 1st January, 2003.

Drugs not available in the country can be imported freely by the patients for their personal uses, against the prescriptions by the Registered Medical Practitioners.

Revival of All India Sports Council

2586. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to revive the All India Sports Council; 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) Yes, Sir. The Government has recently set up an "All India Council of Sports (AICS)" as an Advisory Body. Besides others, one of the main objectives of the Council is to advice the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports regarding implementation of policies for promotion of sports and games in the country. The Council will be composed of 22 members, besides one President and 2 Vice-Presidents. The Members of the Council will be nominated by the Government. The tenure of all members except those ex-officio will ordinarily be of three years. The Council is to meet from time to time atleast once in a quarter to deliberate on matters relating to the development of sports.

Funds for Health Projects

2587. SHRI P.H. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds allocated/dispensed and spent for various Health Projects in Tamil nadu, during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have provided any financial assistance to Tamil Nadu during he last three years to develop the medical infrastructure facilities in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Details of funds allocated/released and expenditure incurred in Tamil Nadu during the last three years under various National Health Programmes for the control of major diseases like Malaria, TB, Blindness, Leprosy and AIDS is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) Assistance is provided to States/UTs including Tamil Nadu under different health and family welfare programmes and Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana to strengthen health infrastructure facilities in respect of activities relating to direction and administration, training, family welfare services, procurement of drugs, repair and maintenance of primary and community health centres etc. A total assistance of about Rs. 325 crore has been provided to Tamil Nadu under these schemes during the last three years [Rs. 105.77 crore, Rs. 99.43 crore, Rs. 119.78 crore during 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 respectively].

Statement

Funds allocated/released and expenditure incurred in Tamil Nadu under various National Programmes for the control of major diseases

(Rs. in lakhs)

Disease Control Programme	1999-2000		2000-01		2001-02	
	A/R	EXP.	A/R	EXP.	A/R	EXP.
Malaria*	392.31	114.19	174.92	133.90	99.77	85.72
T.B.	660.48	597.57	1133.92	886.13	991.12	679.31
Blindness**	1009.82	864.79	857.00	1167.96	1742.25	1072.37
Leprosy	385.79	269.42	422.74	282.32	413.04	106.74(p)
Aids	883.09	1416.71	1108.30	755.03	1393.50	1309.87

* Excludes externally aided component.

** Excludes commodity grants.

A/R — Allocation/Release.

P — Provision.

SSI Investment Ceiling

2588. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to raise the SSI investment ceiling for 13 bulk drugs and drug intermediates from Rs. one crore to Rs. five crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have recently dereserved five drug intermediates from SSI sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) to what extent it will improve the country's export market in these products?

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) Government have tabled a draft order in the Lok Sabha on 19.07.2002 seeking to raise the SSI investment ceiling from Rs. one crore to five crore in respect to ten products in the drugs and pharmaceuticals sector. The list of these items is enclosed as statement.

(c) and (d) Four drug intermediates have been dereserved by the Government vide Notification S.O. 533(E) dated 20.05.2002. These are other citrates, Methyl & Salicylate (Based on purchased Salicylate acid), Glycero

Phosphates and Halogenated hydroxy-quinoline starting from 8 - hydroxy quinolines except for integrated schemes for the manufactures of 8 - hydroxy-quinolines.

(e) The dereservation of four items and raising of investment ceiling in respect of ten items will help SSI units to enhance their competitiveness both in the domestic and export markets through facilitating technological upgradation and adoption of international quality standards.

Statement**Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Sector**

31060101	Para amino phenol-Indl. Grade
310628	Pyrazolones
310650	Benzyl benzoate
310658	Niacinamide
313125	Paracetamol
31315801	Methyle parabens and sodium salt starting from para hydroxy benzoic acid
31315901	Ethyl parabens and sodium salt starting from para hydroxy benzoic acid
31319501	Propyle parabens and sodium salt starting from para hydroxy benzoic acid
3131960	Calcium gluconate
310126	Aluminium hydroxide gel.

Establishment of Medical Colleges

2589. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from Government of Kerala for establishment of self-financing medical colleges in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) No such proposal has been received from Government of Kerala. However, 26 applications from private societies/Trust were received from Kerala in August 2001 for permission to open medical colleges. Only 5 applications were found to be complete in all respects and were referred to the Medical Council of India for inspection. The remaining 21 applications were found to be incomplete and were turned to applicant. So far, permission of the Central Government has been granted for establishment of Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences & Research Centre at Alamakkara, Kochi. Further, Letter of Intent for establishment of a new medical college at Karakonam by CSI South Kerala Medical Mission, Karakonam, at Tiruvalla by Pushpagiri Medical Society and at Kolencherry by Malankara Orthodox Syrian Medical Mission Hospital have been issued. In fifth case, Inspectors have been appointed by Medical Council of India to inspect the medical college to verify infrastructural facilities and other facilities at Mala, Trissur by Imam Razi Muslim Educational Charitable Trust, Palakkad.

National Immunisation Programme

2590. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of vaccines that are made freely available to the public under the National Immunization Programme (NIP);

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to add more vaccines under this Programme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the funds required for inclusion of vaccines including Hepatitis-B vaccine under the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Under the Universal Immunization Programme, being implemented by the Government of India through the States, vaccination is given to the children throughout the country for the control of six vaccine preventable diseases namely childhood tuberculosis, diphtheria,

pertussis, poliomyelitis, measles and neo-natal tetanus. The Government has also decided to introduce Hepatitis B vaccination for infants on a pilot basis. This programme will be implemented in slum areas of 15 metropolitan cities during 2002-03 and 32 districts during 2003-04. This pilot project is supported by Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization who are providing full commodity support (vaccine and auto-disable syringes) worth Rs. 23.89 crores for the Pilot project through UNICEF.

Dolphin Mobile Cellular Phone

2591. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MTNL's Dolphin cellular phone will cut rates to make service cheaper than private cellular phone service;

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

(c) whether the private cellular phone companies are providing much better service than MTNL; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the MTNL to adopt latest technology in cellular phone services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) MTNL's Dolphin cellular phone service is at most affordable price vis-as-vis private cellular phone service. As such further cut in rates is not contemplated at present.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The cellular mobile service provided by MTNL is comparable to that provided by any private cellular operator.

Voice Over Internet Protocol

2592. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL has any proposal to set up a Voice-Over Internet Protocol to connect six cities and provide cheaper long-distance calls;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the cost thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) A Voice over Internet Protocol network connecting six cities namely Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata and Pune on an experimental basis at an estimated cost of 7.258 crores is under installation and is planned to be commissioned during 2002-2003. At present, the tariff for the calls through Voice over Internet Protocol will be same as for the calls through conventional network.

Identity of Pre-paid Card Purchasers

2593. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made pre-paid cards legal without verifying the true identity of users;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not making it essential for Cellular Operators to verify the identity of the purchasers of pre-paid Cards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Sir, Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) operators have been instructed to streamline the procedure and ensure complete advance verification of the identity of each and every subscriber of Cellular Service including pre-paid/cash card service before providing the service.

International Conference on AIDS

2594. SHRI AMBAREESHA:
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

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

(a) whether the International Conference to control AIDS was held in New Delhi on 11-12 May, 2002;

(b) if so, the countries which participated in this Conference;

(c) the decision taken in the Conference to control AIDS; and

(d) the progress made by the Government in the field of development of anti-AIDS vaccines or drugs vis-a-vis other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The International Policy makers Conference on HIV/AIDS was held in New Delhi on 11-12th May, 2002. Besides India, the countries which participated in the conference were: South Africa, Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, Thailand, Nepal, China and Brazil.

(c) The participating countries endorsed the Delhi Declaration, enumerating their commitments to address the complexities and challenges presented by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The main features of the Delhi Declaration are: (i) to inform, educate, communicate and develop strategies, working closely with affected countries, to promote effective AIDS prevention initiatives; (ii) identify and begin to address those factors that make individuals particularly vulnerable to HIV infection, including under development, poverty, illiteracy, lack of empowerment of women, and all types of sexual exploitation; (iii) to promote social acceptance and respect for the dignity and rights of all people affected by HIV/AIDS and to oppose all forms of stigma and discrimination; (iv) to make every effort to provide progressively and in a sustainable manner, the highest attainable standard of treatment and care to people living with HIV/AIDS; (v) to support research and development of AIDS vaccines and other prevention technologies, keeping in mind the pressing needs of the developing world; (vi) to create an enabling environment and build capacity among policymakers in respective countries, and in particular, seek to strengthen legislation and regulatory systems and procedures; (vii) to mobilize political commitment at national, regional and global levels; and (viii) to promote collaborative efforts among Governments, peoples' representatives, private industry, international agencies and non governmental organizations to move forward the commitments made in this Declaration.

(d) The best long term hope for controlling the HIV/AIDS pandemic is a safe, effective and affordable preventive vaccine, but its development has encountered unprecedented scientific challenges. More than 30 candidate vaccines have been tested in over 60 phase I/II trials, involving thousands of healthy volunteers. Most of these trials have been conducted in the USA and Europe, but several have also been conducted in developing countries including Brazil, Cuba, Haiti, Kenya, Thailand, Trinidad, Tobago and Uganda. The first Phase III trials began in USA in 1998 and Thailand in 1999 to assess the efficacy of the first generation of HIV vaccines.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 4th December, 2000, with the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI)

to promote and accelerate efforts to develop an indigenous AIDS vaccine that will address the strains of the HIV subtype C predominant in India.

The modified Vaccinia Ankara (MVA) based HIV vaccine is in developing stage involving innumerable complex and complicated steps. The MVA has not reached the stage of clinical trial.

Government encourages the Indian Pharmaceutical industry to continue to develop, refine and manufacture generic anti-retroviral drugs and to focus on making these more affordable by those who need them.

New Medical College at Kokrajhar

2595. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up a new Medical College at Kokrajhar with the Central Funds; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

Role of UN Secretary-General in South Asian Region

2596. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI BHIM DAHAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UN Secretary-General has been urged by certain countries to actively involve himself in resolving

the prevailing tension in the sub-continent particularly between India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether he is engaged in any manner to find solution to the problems of terrorism being faced by India from Pakistan; and

(c) if so, the efforts being made by the UN Secretary-General in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) The tensions between India and Pakistan in the recent months, arising out of Pakistan's support to cross-border terrorism are issues on which the UN Secretary-General (UNSG) has expressed his concerns. In this framework, the UNSG has reiterated his condemnation of all acts of terrorism and has indicated that there can be no tolerance for such acts especially across the Line of Control in Kashmir. In statements the UNSG has also urged the President of Pakistan to take vigorous action to ensure full implementation of the policy set out in his speech of January 12, 2002.

Cargo Handling

2597. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) has not been able to handle cargo as targeted in terms of liquid and general cargo;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reasons for the shortfall;

(c) whether the bottlenecks have been identified;

(d) if so, the major hurdles being faced by the Port Trust in meeting targets; and

(e) the steps taken by JNPT to meet the cargo targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The details of cargo handled vis-a-vis target for the financial year 2001-02 and the current year 2002-03 are given below:

Year	Cargo	Target (MT)	Achieved (MT)	Shortfall (MT)
2001-02	Liquid	3,338,000	2,846,753	491,247
	General Cargo	812,000	794,043	17,957
2002-03 (April to June, 2002)	Liquid	879,000	875,569	3,431
	General Cargo	345,000	175,969	169,031

The decrease in handling of cargo is mainly due to change in Government Policy for import of fertilizer and raw material, self reliance in fertilizer production resulting in sharp fall in fertilizers import, development of domestic fertilizer industries resulting in sharp dip in import of fertilizers and fertilizers raw material, decanalization enabling use of smaller vessels through minor ports located closer to fertilizer plant sites, development of captive jetties in and around JNPT etc.

The continuous declining trend in dry bulk traffic has resulted in underutilization of mechanized bulk handling plant. Accordingly, the port has decided to convert bulk terminal into Container Terminal. The liquid cargo and general cargo will be mainly handled at two liquid berths constructed by M/s BPCL on B.O.T. basis and new shallow draught berth & Port craft berth constructed by JNPT.

Crude Death Rate

2598. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) whether it is fact that Crude Death Rate has declined rapidly;

(b) if so, the Crude Birth Rate in 1981, 1991 and 2001;

(c) the percentage of population growth rate in 1981, 1991 and 2001; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to accelerate decline in population growth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) As per Sample Registration System brought out by Office of the Registrar General of India, the estimates of the Crude Birth Rate is as follows:

Year	Crude Birth Rate
1981	33.9
1991	29.5
2000	25.8

(c) Average Annual Exponential Growth Rate of Population as per Population Census is as follows:

Year	Growth Rate (in %)
1981	2.22
1991	2.14
2000	1.93

(d) The steps taken by the Government include:

- An integrated and comprehensive programme of Reproductive and Child Health, which addresses Maternal Health, Child Health and Contraception issues.
- Fulfillment of unmet needs of contraceptives through provision of integrated service delivery at district/below district level.
- Information, Education and Communication Programme to create awareness about the benefits of small family.
- Provision of additional inputs in weaker States/districts.

Scams in State Public Service Commissions

2599. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN:
SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of scams in State Public Service Commissions of various States have come to the notice of the Union Government;

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

(c) the number of persons found guilty in these scams; and

(d) the action taken against them?

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. Recently scams in Punjab, Public Service

Commission and Maharashtra Public Service Commission have come to the notice of the Central Government.

(c) and (d) The Chairman and Members of the State Service Commissions are appointed by the Governor of the concerned State. However, for the removal of any Chairman/Member of a State Public Service Commission, the competent authority is the President. The Central Government has received references regarding the misconduct of Chairman of Punjab PSC and ex-Chairman of Maharashtra PSC from the respective State Governments stating therein that preliminary investigations have confirmed their misconduct. While the conduct of ex-Chairman, Maharashtra PSC is under further investigation by the State Police, necessary sanction has been accorded by the GOI for the prosecution of Chairman, Punjab PSC.

[Translation]

Cancellation of Licenses of Journals

2600. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently cancelled the licences of certain journals under the Indian Post Office Act 1898; 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) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Repairing of Roads by MTNL

2601. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the roads dig up for laying of cables in societies by MTNL (Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited) are not repaired by MTNL and societies themselves have to spend huge amount of money for the repair;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Government issue necessary instructions in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Roads dug by MTNL inside the societies are filled back after laying telephone cables for providing communication facilities. No restoration charges are paid to societies as per practice in MTNL. However, cable is laid inside the society in consultation with them and generally in Kuchcha area. The same is filled by MTNL after cable laying. If pucca area is to be crossed, trenchless method is also used. Efforts are made to avoid damage as far as possible.

(c) Yes, Sir, laying of telephone cables through trenchless method has been adopted by MTNL, to avoid inconvenience to societies/public.

[English]

Space Mission

2602. SHRI A. NARENDRA:
SHRI Y.V. RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the physical and financial targets fixed for various space mission during the Ninth Plan Period have been achieved;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the projects that are spilling over to the Tenth Plan; and

(d) the total expenditure incurred on launching of satellites during the Ninth 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) to (c) The targets set for the various Space Missions for the Ninth Five Year Plan, both physical and financial, have been mostly achieved. The details of major space missions targeted and achieved during the Ninth Plan are as under:

(1) Launch of operationalisation of:

(i) Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS-1D) onboard PSLV-C1 for natural resource management applications.

- (ii) IRS-P4 (Oceansat) satellite, the first oceanography satellite of India, onboard India's PSLV-C2.
 - (iii) Technology Experiment Satellite (TES), the most advanced remote sensing satellite of India, onboard PSLV-C3 for high-resolution imaging applications.
 - (iv) INSAT-2D satellite for communication purposes.
 - (v) INSAT-2E satellite, the most advanced of the INSAT-2 satellites, for communications and meteorological services.
 - (vi) INSAT-3B & INSAT-3C satellites of the third generation INSAT-3 series for communication services.
- (2) Launch of the first developmental flight of Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-D1), successfully launching experimental GSAT-1 satellite as a major step towards achieving self-reliance in launching 2 tonne class of INSAT type of satellites.

In addition, the indigenous cryogenic engine has been successfully tested for its full flight duration. The project on establishment of Second Launch Pad at SHAR Centre, Sriharikota has made substantial progress during the Plan period.

Besides the above, in respect of the missions GSLV-D2, GSLV-D, IRS-P6 (Resourcesat) and INSAT-3A planned for Ninth Plan, the major portion of the work has been completed and the launch has marginally spilled over to the beginning of Tenth Plan period.

(d) The total expenditure incurred in launching of satellites during Ninth Plan is Rs. 1349.52 crores.

Financial Assistance for Development on Nilgiris

2603. SHRI T.M. SELVANGANPATHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Government of Tamil Nadu for financial assistance for the year 2002-2003 for the development of Nilgiris under the Hill Area Development Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government 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) to (c) Annual Plan proposals under Hill Area Development Programme (HADP) amounting to Rs. 2210 lakh for the year 2002-03 were received for Nilgiris from the Government of Tamil Nadu. Major sectors proposed to be covered under the programme are Soil Conservation, Forestry, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry & Dairy Development, Roads, Medical & Public Health, Tourism, Rural Energy Conservation, Sericulture, etc.

The Annual Plan proposals have been considered and approved and the first instalment of Special Central Assistance under HADP has been released to the State Government.

Scheme in Postal Traffic

2604. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether consequent to rapid advances in communications technology, there has been a corresponding decline in postal traffic volumes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the protective measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The postal traffic in 2000-2001 has declined by 10% as compared to traffic in 1999-2000.

(c) The Department has taken following steps to improve transmission and delivery of mails:

(i) Segmentation of mails into various channels like Metro, Rajdhani, Green Channel and Patrika Channel.

(ii) Regular monitoring of mail routes and delivery.

(iii) Rationalization/restructuring of delivery by redeploying adequate manpower in the expanding urban conglomeration.

- (iv) Live Mail Survey at regular intervals both in rural and urban areas to identify weak links and streamline the arrangements.
- (v) Encouraging pre-sorting of mails by bulk mailers.
- (vi) Opening of separate centres with adequate manpower to handle seasonal mails.

In addition new products like Speed Post, Business Post, Express Parcel Post have been introduced to cater to time sensitive and business mail.

NGOs In Health Sector

2605. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Non-Government Organisations engaged in implementation of health programmes in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the details of the amount provided by the Union Government to the organizations during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Cellular Licences

2606. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under the consideration of the Government to allot third generation cellular licences to existing mobile phone operators, instead of auctioning the spectrum through opening bidding; and

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

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

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

Waiting List for Telephone Connections

2607. SHRI Y.V. RAO:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:

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

(a) the total number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether any time limit has been fixed to clear the waiting list;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government are considering to reduce the telephone rent; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The total number of persons in waiting list for telephone connections in the country as on 30.06.2002 is 2045886. The State-wise waiting list as on 30.06.2002 is as per statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) Sir efforts are being made to clear the Waiting List by March, 2003 by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) subject to availability of funds and timely availability of materials.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

State-wise waiting List for Telephone Connections

Sl. No.	State	Waiting list as on 30.06.2002
1	2	3
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	477
2.	Andhra Pradesh	82678
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2938
4.	Assam	10500
5.	Bihar	86834
6.	Chhattisgarh	3115
7.	Goa	8524
8.	Gujarat	92828
9.	Haryana	98737

1	2	3
10.	Himachal Pradesh	25377
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	42266
12.	Jharkhand	14212
13.	Karnataka	125719
14.	Kerala	600635
15.	Madhya Pradesh	12818
16.	Maharashtra	211699
17.	Manipur	5720
18.	Meghalaya	1582
19.	Mizoram	1079
20.	Nagaland	825
21.	Orissa	17908
22.	Punjab	109598
23.	Rajasthan	127063
24.	Sikkim	176
25.	Tamil Nadu	66439
26.	Tripura	7018
27.	Uttar Pradesh	96906
28.	Uttaranchal	9593
29.	West Bengal	170974
30.	Delhi	11648
Total		2045886

[*Translation*]

Communication Service

2608. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages of Rajasthan where communication service has started and number of villages which are remaining;

(b) whether any target was fixed to cover the villages by communication service in Rajasthan during 2001-2002;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the extent upto which it was achieved; and

(d) the reasons for not achieving the target and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN):

Telecom

(a) So far Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has provided 23858 villages with telephone facility and M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd., the private basic operator in Rajasthan has provided VPT connections in 312 villages of Rajasthan. There are 15,313 villages yet to be operated with VPTs in Rajasthan.

Postal

The communication service of daily delivery and collection of mails and sale of postal stamps and stationery is available to all the villages in Rajasthan. However, post offices exist in 9645 villages and 204 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras exist in Gram Panchayats as on 31.3.2002. Post Offices/Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras do not exist in remaining villages.

Telecom

(b) to (d) The remaining villages are to be covered by M/s Shyam Telelink Limited in Rajasthan, which the company is supposed to cover by the end of December, 2002.

Government is insisting upon the company to complete its unfulfilled target by the end of December 2002 against submission of additional performance, bank guarantee and deed of guarantee.

Postal

The target of opening of 20 new post offices and 70 new Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras was fixed to cover the villages by postal counter facility in Rajasthan during 2001-2002. 20 new post offices in villages and 80 new Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras in Gram Panchayats were opened during 2001-2002 in the villages of Rajasthan.

[*English*]

Research on Amla

2609. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Amla (*Emblica officinallis* of *Phytanthus Emblica*) is cultivated and used as Ayurvedic medicine;

(b) whether financial grants is being provided by the Government to those who cultivate Amla for Ayurvedic Medicine;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the National Medicinal Plants Board is conducting detailed research on Amla; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Medicinal Plants Board has identified 31 medicinal plants including Amla for funding their cultivation. They have also funded scheme for ensuring quality planting material for propagation.

[Translation]

Meeting of Indo-U.S. Group on Terrorism

2610. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the meeting of the Joint Working Group of India and America on Terrorism concluded recently in Washington;

(b) if so, the issues discussed; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The fifth meeting of the India-U.S. Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism was held on 11-12 July 2002 in Washington D.C.

(b) The two sides shared assessment of the international terrorism situation, including in South Asia, and discussed ways to further advance their bilateral cooperation and strengthen multilateral efforts in combating terrorism.

(c) Reaffirming their nations' shared commitment to prevent acts of terrorism and neutralise terrorist organisations, the two sides agreed to further intensify their cooperation to combat terrorism, including through expanding and upgrading anti-terrorism training and capacity building programmes in a number of areas: strengthening intelligence sharing, coordinating action and deepening investigative cooperation; promoting cooperation in counter-terrorism related technology and equipment; and, working together for the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1373, which provides a comprehensive and mandatory framework for sustained global action against terrorism.

Aid to China

2611. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has provided any assistance to China to help the people of that country displaced/killed due to the devastating floods in June, 2002; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Approved Doctors/Dispensaries in Faridabad

2612. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of Central Government servants entitled to medicare facilities under the CGHS are living in Faridabad;

(b) if so, the details of CGHS approved Doctors/Dispensaries functioning at present in Faridabad and authorized to refer CGHS beneficiaries for specialized treatment to Hospitals in Faridabad;

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government consideration to authorize more Doctors/Dispensaries and Hospitals for treatment/Hospitalisation to meet the increasing number of beneficiaries of Central Government servants settling in Faridabad; 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. There are 4501 CGHS card holders which comprises 19,205 beneficiaries (both serving and pensioners) who are registered with the CGHS dispensary at Faridabad.

(b) CGHS beneficiaries residing in Faridabad can avail medical facilities in Central/State Government hospitals including Badshah Khan Hospital (of the State Govt.) in addition to the 63 private hospitals/diagnostic centres which have been recognised under CGHS Delhi vide Department of Health's O. Ms. dated 7.9.2001, 15.3.2002, 6.5.2002 and 14.5.2002.

(c) and (d) Recognition of private hospitals under CGHS is an ongoing continuous process. Escorts Hospital and Research Centre, Faridabad has recently applied for recognition under CGHS Delhi.

Permission for Clinical Trials

2613. SHRI RAM RATI BIND: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) is granting permission for clinical trials, bio-equivalences and marketing permissions;

(b) if so, the procedure laid down for Bio-tech products;

(c) the number of applications received for drug clearance and the number out of them have been cleared so far during 2002; and

(d) how much time it took to grant permission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposals for import/manufacture of genetically modified therapeutic products (Bio-tech Product) are evaluated by Department of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) under Ministry of Environment as per Gazette Notification G.S.R. No. 1039 dated 5th December, 1989, and as per Schedule 'Y' in Drugs and Cosmetics Rules at the office of the DCG(I). After satisfactory evaluation and recommendation from DBT/GEAC, O/o DCG(I), approves the Bio-tech products with the help of eight members multi disciplinary expert panel constituted by Ministry of Health.

(c) and (d) The evaluation of new drug applications is a complex and continuous process as per Scheduled-Y under Drugs and Cosmetics Rules and various according to the nature of molecule/drug. Therefore, depending upon the nature of the application, it may take on an average more than 5 years for approval of investigational new Drug (i.e. a drug molecule not tested on human being anywhere in the world) about 1-3 years for the first time approval of the drug already approved elsewhere but requiring confirmatory clinical trial and about 2-3 months for subsequent applications for already approved drugs. This is, however, subject to submission of all required data as per provisions of Schedule-Y of Drug and Cosmetics Rules.

Since the issue of Gazette Notification vide GSR No. 900 (E) dated 12th December, 2001 till 30th June, 2002 528 applications have been received alongwith requisite fees for approval of various categories of New Drugs which includes investigational new Drugs (IND), Unapproved new Drugs, Generic version of New Drugs, New Dosage Form and Modified Release of New Drugs etc. Out of this following 70 cases has been approved based on the satisfactory clinical trial/Bio-equivalence study report, Laboratory test report etc.:

1. Cases of new drug application (NDA)-9
2. Cases of Bulk Drug-4
3. Cases of subsequent New Drug Application (Generic) (SNDA)-29
4. Cases of modified drug release formulation-1
5. Cases of Fixed Dose combination-10
6. Cases of new Dosage Form-16
7. Cases of new indication-1

Remaining cases are under various stages of evaluation such as under Clinical trial/and or Bio-equivalence study, or in consultation with the subject expert or at laboratory testing stage etc. As soon as the satisfactory reports are received from the laboratory/applicant the approval will be accorded.

Harassment of Indians in Malaysia

2614. SHRI BHIM DAHAL:
SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether persons from Indian origin are subjected to constant harassment in Malaysia;

(b) if so, whether representations have been received by the Government in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Indian nationals working in Malaysia occasionally approach the Indian High Commission in Kuala Lumpur with complaints, usually about non-compliance by the employer of the terms and conditions of the Contract of Employment.

(c) When such complaints are received, the Mission uses its good offices to find a mutually acceptable solution. In cases where the employers do not cooperate to meet the justified demands of the Indian employees, the complaint is forwarded to the Department of Labour, Government of Malaysia. The Mission also initiates action to get the Malaysian employer/company black-listed by informing the Protector of Emigrants, Government of India.

Extradition Treaties

2615. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to implement the extradition treaties signed with various countries;

(b) the details of the Indian Nationals arrested abroad during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to secure their release?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Requests for extradition received from foreign countries are considered in terms of the applicable treaty and Indian Extradition Act, 1962. Requests for extradition received from investigating agencies in India are examined and forwarded to the concerned foreign country, in accordance with the provisions of the bilateral extradition treaty.

(b) These details are published in the Annual Report of the Ministry of External Affairs. The figures of Indian

nationals arrested abroad during the last three years are as under:

Year	1999	2000	2001
Nos. of Indian prisoners	8945	9243	4556

(c) Prisoners are dealt with according to local laws. The welfare and well-being of Indian prisoners is monitored through visits by the Consular Officer of the concerned Indian Mission/Post. Deserving cases are taken up with the local authorities.

Foreign Football Coaches

2616. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Sports Authority of India has sent a team abroad to scout for coaches for football;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of foreign coaches employed by the Sports Authority of India; and

(d) the States selected by Sports Authority of India for focusing on football?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A total of 42 foreign coaches are employed by Sports Authority of India i.e. 27 on long-term basis and 15 for short duration.

(d) Sports is a State subject. Moreover, promotion of a particular sports is primarily the responsibility of the concerned National Sports Federation. However, Sports Authority of India (SAI) is promoting different sports disciplines including football in different States/UTs through its Regional Centres under its Sports Operational Schemes like SAI Training Centres, Special Area Games.

The number of trainees in the discipline of football under various schemes of SAI is given as under:

1. SAI Training Centres—378 Boys and 38 Girls.
2. Special Area Games—96 Boys.
3. National Sports Talent Contest Scheme—155 Boys and 12 Girls.
4. Army Boys Sports Company Scheme—86 Boys.

Assistance to African Countries

2617. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has assured African countries of assistance in economic and technological fields; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, sector-wise and country-wise?

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

(b) The relevant details given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Assistance rendered to Sub-Saharan African countries under Aid to African Countries Fund, ITEC and G-15 Programmes during the last three years

S.No.	Country	Assistance
1	2	3

Project

1.	Senegal	Entrepreneurial Training and Development Centre (ETDC) built with Indian technical and financial assistance under G-15 under estimated cost of US\$ 4.49 million. The project has been handed over to the Senegalese authorities in April, 2002.
2.	Senegal	Agricultural Development Project. Indian agricultural experts were deputed and tractors were donated to implement the project. The project was aimed at providing expertise and equipment to Senegal to develop rice farming and to cultivate better variety of cotton. Project cost Rs. 10 crores.
3.	Burkina Faso	Indo-Burkina Faso Agricultural Assistance Project. Tractor and other agricultural equipment were donated to the Burkinable side

1	2	3
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		to implement the project with the help of 6 Indian farmers and technicians sent from India. The project aimed at assisting and training the Burkinable farmers in mechanised farming to produce quality seeds.
		A mobile workshop was also donated.
4.	Namibia	India-Namibia Plastic Technology Centre. Completed and commissioned in August 2000 by four engineers deputed from the National Small-Scale Industry Corporation.
5.	Namibia	The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources installed 10 bio-gas plants in June 2000.
6.	Namibia	Supplied hospital equipment and one ambulance for Indira Gandhi Maternity Centre at Onemaya, Namibia in 2000-2001.
7.	Ghana	As an assistance to improve productivity in agricultural sector, 15 cultivators of wheat were donated on a trial basis in 1999.
8.	Tanzania	Two cashew nut processing plants were donated and set up in the year 2000-2001.
9.	Nigeria	Grant of US\$ 5 million in September 2001 to revive Nigeria Machine Tools by HMT(I).
10.	Zimbabwe	Development of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs) under G-15-Under process.
Donations		
1.	Mozambique	Donations of 25,000 mosquito nets and anti-malarial drugs to the flood victims of Mozambique in 2000.
2.	Mozambique	Medicine and medical equipment in 1998-99.
3.	Seychelles	Donation of medicines and cooking oil in 2000.

1	2	3
4.	Ghana	Donation of sewing machines, bicycles, motor cycles, water pumps and computers in 2000.
5.	Ghana	Medical and surgical equipment in 1998-99.
6.	Benin	Water pumps and equipment for husking, rice and peanuts in the year 2000.
7.	Ethiopia	82 metric tonnes of milk powder for the victims of drought in 2000-2001.
8.	Zambia	Anti-Cholera and anti-malarial drugs in June 2000.
9.	Uganda	Medical equipment to Ugandan hospital in 2000-2001.
10.	Tanzania	100 metric tonnes of rice in 1999-2000.
11.	Cote d' Ivoire	40 diesel pumps and 300 sewing machines in 1998-99.
12.	Kenya	Medicine and X-Ray film in 1998-99.
13.	Madagascar	Medicine to fight Cholera epidemic in 2000-2001.
14.	Namibia	X-ray machine to a government hospital and baby milk powder in 1998-99.
15.	Uganda	25 metric tones high yielding maize seeds and 100 diesel pumps in 1998-99.
16.	Nigeria	Indelible ink for the General Elections in 1999.
17.	Benin	Indelible ink for the General Elections in 2001.
18.	Lesotho	Indelible ink for the Municipal Elections in 2001.
19.	Uganda	Indelible ink for the General Elections 2000.

India-EU Ties

2618. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an official level meeting was held in New Delhi between New Delhi and EU to review relations on May 1, 2002; and

(b) if so, the progress made so far to improve relations with EU?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The India-EU Troika Senior Officials Meeting took place on 2nd May 2002 in New Delhi at Foreign Secretary level as part of the institutionalized dialogue with the EU. Apart from being India's largest trading partner, India and EU have a shared strategic partnership based on commitment to democracy and rule of law as well as promotion of socio-economic development and prosperity. The strength of the relationship is reflected in the institutionalization of Annual Summits between India and the European Union.

Trans-Shipments Facility

2619. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is not having facilities to receive bigger international vessels at any port;

(b) whether it is also a fact that most of ports' business is attracted by small countries like Colombo, Singapore etc. since they have the trans-shipment facility;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to provide such trans-shipment facility at any one of the major ports in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (e) Major portion of container traffic from India is trans-shipped mainly through ports in neighbouring areas like Colombo, Singapore and the Gulf region. One of the reasons for trans-shipment at outside ports is the limited draft at Indian Major Ports which do not allow handling of mainline, present and future generation, large vessels. Therefore, the Government has decided to set up an International Trans-shipment Container Terminal at Vallarpadam,

Cochin. A lone bid received for development and operation of this Terminal is under consideration of the Government.

National Coaching Scheme

2620. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:

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

(a) whether National Coaching Scheme is being implemented at the district level in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the assistance provided by the Union Government to State Governments for the implementation of this scheme during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(d) whether the Union Government are satisfied with the performance of this Scheme;

(e) if so, the extent to which the rural areas have been benefited under the scheme and in what manner;

(f) whether Government propose to set up such National Coaching Centres at Tehsil level to give thrust to the registered sports organizations; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the National Coaching Scheme of Sports Authority of India, two coaches are provided to the District Coaching Centre (DCC) and 8 coaches to State Training Centres (STC) in the identified disciplines taking into account the popularity of the discipline and the availability of requisite infrastructure in the State. Presently, there are 1539 coaches out of which 792 coaches are with the State Governments and remaining 747 are with SAI Schemes and related programmes.

(c) Under the National Coaching Scheme, only the salary of the coaches deployed in the State Coaching Centres and District Coaching Centres is met by the Central Government. The details of salary paid to these coaches are being collected.

(d) The Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) of the Ministry of Finance have made a study of the National Coaching Scheme and found that coaches deployed at the District level under the DCC have not given satisfactory results

and, therefore, they have recommended for withdrawal of coaches from DCC. The same is being done by shifting coaches to the Sports Promotional Scheme of SAI like SAI Training Centres, Special Area Games Centres, Army Boys Company, National Sports Talent Contest Scheme and Centres of Excellence.

(e) As indicated above, coaches posted in the identified DCC/SCC also contribute towards realizing the objective of broad basing of sports in the rural areas.

Further, there is a separate scheme of Rural Sports being implemented by SAI with the following objectives:

(i) To generate sports consciousness and mass involvement of rural youth in sports activities.

(ii) To strengthen sports at the grass root level.

(iii) To provide opportunities to rural youths to join main stream of competitions.

(iv) To identify talent for further nurturing.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Postal Services In Rural and Urban Areas

2621. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether commensurate with the hike in postal tariff there have been improvements in mail transit/sorting/delivery of mails both in urban and rural centres;

(b) the categories of postal articles carried by air and surface modes;

(c) the steps taken or being taken to improve the mobility of postmen in rural areas;

(d) whether the Government are considering to provide rural postmen with waterproof raincoats and mail bags during monsoons; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Improvement in transmission, sorting and delivery of mail is a continuous process and is closely monitored. Necessary steps are taken to ensure

timely delivery of mail in rural and urban areas irrespective of tariff charged.

(b) All first class mail which includes letters, post cards, letter cards and money orders are transmitted by air depending on the availability of air service and delivery advantage. The second class mail like book packets, registered newspapers, pattern and sample packets and blind literature packets are transmitted by surface except where air surcharge is paid.

(c) In order to enhance the mobility of postmen in rural areas, the Department grants cycle advance for purchase of bicycles as well as maintenance allowance. However, Gramin Dak Sevaks are given maintenance allowance if they own a cycle and use for delivery.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The Department is already supplying water-proof rain coat to rural postmen and Gramin Dak Sevaks in case they are using bicycle for delivery except in hilly areas where the condition of using bicycle is waived. Water-proof delivery bags are supplied to postmen.

Immunisation Programme

2622. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of children in the country had still not been vaccinated against life-threatening infections;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the time by which entire country is likely to be covered under the immunization programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Under the Universal Immunization Programme, being implemented by the Government of India through the States/U.Ts., vaccination is provided to children throughout the country for the control of serious but preventable diseases namely childhood tuberculosis, diphtheria, pertussis, poliomyelitis, measles and neo-natal tetanus. As per WHO/UNICEF evaluation, the percentage of fully-immunized children in the country against these six diseases in 2000-01 was 53.6%. The reasons for relatively low national (evaluated) coverage is the low level of performance in the States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand (less than 25%). The coverage in these States has remained low due to inadequacy of public health

infrastructure and delivery systems as also weaknesses in supervision and vacancies at crucial levels.

These States have been provided with additional funds for (i) recruiting auxiliary nurse midwife (ANMs); and district immunization officers (ii) meeting training needs, and (iii) improving the reach, quality and monitoring of routine immunization.

Due to success of Intensified Pulse Polio Programme, the country is by and large free from polio virus circulation except U.P., Bihar and West Bengal.

Demands of CGHS Employees

2623. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the intermittent pen down strike of CGHS employees for the last two months across the country resulting in avoidable inconvenience to the beneficiaries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the main demands of the employees; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to resolve the demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. The All India CGHS Employees Association has given notice for protest for 1 to 3 hours daily during July/August, 2002 in support of their demands.

(b) The main demands of the Association include promotion to all CGHS employees, waiving of CGHS contribution made by CGHS employees, re-designation of the post of Store Keeper-cum-clerk (Homoeo), full reimbursement of medical expenses in respect of CGHS staff and credit facilities for taking treatment in private unrecognised hospitals, enhanced rate of washing allowance for some categories of CGHS employees, 60:40 ratio of LDC to UDC working in CGHS, timely and good supply of medicines, modification of recruitment rules in respect of certain categories of posts, implementation of assured career promotion (ACP Scheme), upgrading pay-scale of Dresser, filling up of vacant posts, reimbursement of cost of liveries, decentralisation of powers for making appointment on compassionate grounds and also in respect of House Building Advance, giving the scale of Assistant Accounts Officer to the Accountants in CGHS, and regularisation of ad-hoc services of CGHS employees from their date of appointment.

(c) Action has already been initiated to consider the demands of the Association in consultation with the concerned Depts./agencies. A continuous dialogue has been maintained with the employees Association. Decisions on some of the demands have already been taken and communicated to the Association.

[Translation]

Fast Pace Projects

2624. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently identified certain projects which are to be executed on a fast pace;

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

(c) the time schedule for completion of these projects and expenditure to be spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) In October 2001, 92 major projects, with an outlay of Rs. 100 crore and above each, were identified for accelerated implementation. Of these, 27 projects with an aggregate cost of Rs. 11,263 crore have been completed up to June 2002.

(b) and (c) The requisite details in respect of the remaining 65 projects are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Date of Approval (mm/yyyy)	Original Cost (Rs. Crs)	Date of RCE Approval (mm/yyyy)	Approved Revised Cost (Rs. Crs.)	Now Anticipated Cost (Rs. Crs.)	App. Cumm. Expenditure till now (Rs. Crs.)	Date of Commissioning (mm/yyyy)			Delay (months) relative to Latest Approved/Original
								Original	Latest Approved	Now anticipated	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Coal											
1.	TPS-I Exp. (NLC) Neyveli, Tamil Nadu	2/1996	1590.58	12/2001	1420.27	1423.47	1053.88	3/2001	05/2002	12/2002	7 (R1)
2.	Ravinderkhani New Tech UG(SCCL) A.P.	12/1995	242.95	—	—	242.94	21.26	3/2003	—	3/2003	0(O)
3.	Jhanjra U.G. (ECL) West Bengal	12/1982	184.55	08/1995	403.96	386.44	370.15	3/1994	03/1998	3/2003	60 (R1)
4.	Pootki Balihari (BCCL) Dhanbad, Jharkhand	12/1983	199.87	04/1997	199.87	162.60	169.27	3/1994	03/2000	3/2003	36 (R1)
5.	Mine-1A (NLC) Neyveli (Tamil Nadu)	2/1998	1032.81	—	—	1015.74	707.51	3/2003	—	3/2003	0(O)
6.	Satgram UG (ECL) Burdwan, W.B.	5/1979	26.37	02/2002	118.87	118.87	111.02	3/1989	03/2003	03/2003	0 (R3)
7.	Expansion of Mine-(NLC) Neyveli, Madras, Tamil Nadu	3/1992	1336.93	12/2001	1658.38	1667.76	1414.38	10/1996	04/2003	4/2003	0(R1)
8.	Dudhichua (NCL) Madhya Pradesh/Uttar Pradesh	8/1992	868.93	03/2001	1281.39	1281.39	1045.76	3/1998	03/2004	3/2004	0(R2)
Total			5482.99		5082.74	6319.21	4893.23				

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Fertilisers											
9.	Namrup Plant Revamp (HFC) Namrup, Assam	10/1997	350.00	09/2001	509.40	509.40	276.69	5/2001	02/2002	10/2002	8(R1)
	Total		350.00	509.40	509.40	276.69					
Mines											
10.	Expn. of Capacity of Smelter & CPP (NALCO) ANGUL (Bhuvneshwar), Orissa	2/1998	2061.98	—	—	2061.98	1396.26	5/2002	—	1/2003	8(O)
	Total		2061.98	—	—	2061.98	1396.26				
Steel											
11.	10/11A Bailadila Deposit (NMDC) Bastar District (MP)	8/1995	430.50	—	—	449.02	293.73	8/1999	—	8/2002	36 (O)
	Total		430.50			449.02	293.73				
Petroleum											
12.	Barauni Refinery Expansion (IOC) Barauni (Bihar)	2/1999	1803.00	—	—	1979.00	1454.77	5/2002	—	8/2002	3(O)
13.	Catalytic Dewaxing Unit, Haldia (IOC) Haldia, WB	7/1999	422.00	—	—	394.00	237.23	5/2003	—	9/2002	-8(O)
14.	New Solvent Dewaxing Unit (IOC), Digboi Digboi, Assam	2/1999	419.00	—	—	406.00	325.39	11/2002	—	12/2002	1(O)
15.	Hydrotreater at Digboi Ref. (IOC) Digboi, Assam	2/1999	343.00	—	—	351.00	272.72	5/2002	—	12/2002	7(O)
16.	Aug. of Virangamkoyali of SM Pipeline (IOC) Gujarat	5/2001	329.05	—	—	180.69	9.79	3/2003	—	3/2003	0(O)
17.	Aug. of Koyali-Virangam-Sidhpur Product Pipeline Guj (IOC) Sidhpur, Gujarat	8/2001	119.01	—	—	119.01	3.68	7/2003	—	7/2003	0(O)
18.	Integrated Para-xylene (IOC) Panipat, Haryana	6/1999	4228.00	—	—	5104.00	244.96	8/2004	—	8/2004	0(O)
	Total		7663.06	—	8533.70	2548.54					

Column 12: O-Original Approval, R1-1st revised date, R2-2nd revised date

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Power											
19	Load Despatch Scheme (LDC) For Northern Region	3/1995	479.51	02/2002	658.92	658.92	465.44	3/2000	07/2002	7/2002	3(R1)
20	Unified Load Despatch Communi- cation System (ULDCS) Southern Region	2/1995	621.57	02/2002	683.00	683.80	454.74	3/2000	07/2002	7/2002	0(R1)
21	North-East HVDC Link (PGIL) UP/Bihar	9/1998	671.56	—	—	671.56	380.82	12/2001	—	10/2002	10(O)
22	Simhadri TPP ST-1 (NTPC) Vizag (A.P.)	7/1997	3650.79	—	—	4155.03	2738.10	12/2002	—	12/2002	0(O)
23	Tehr Tr. System (PGCIL) Delhi/UA	3/1994	421.00	—	—	702.97	488.04	3/1999	—	12/2002	45(O)
24	System Strengthening in Southern Region (PGCIL) AP/TN	2/2001	396.28	—	—	396.28	222.96	2/2003	—	2/2003	0(O)
25	Tehr Dam & H.P.P. (THDCL) Tehr Garwal, UA	3/1994	2963.66	—	—	5209.10	4218.05	3/1999	—	8/2003	53(O)
26	Dulhasi Hydroelectric Project (NHPC) Kishtwar, Doda Distt., J&K	11/1982	183.45	07/1989	3559.77	4227.92	3335.76	11/1990	03/2001	12/2003	33 (R2)
27	LD&C Scheme in NER (PGCIL) NER States	8/1997	158.94	—	—	267.35	63.35	3/2000	—	12/2003	45(O)
28	Nathpa Jhakri H.E.P. (NHPC) Distt. Kinnaur/Shimla, Himachal Pradesh	4/1989	1678.02	06/1998	7666.31	9083.30	6589.32	4/1996	03/2002	12/2003	21(R2)
29	ULDCS-Western Region (PGCIL) WR States	2/2001	262.18	—	—	254.82	10.15	2/2003	—	6/2005	28 (O)
30	Teesta HE Project Stage-V (NHPC) Sikkim	2/2000	2198.04	—	—	2198.04	414.72	2/2007	—	2/2007	0(O)
31	Loktak D/s HEP (NHPC) Manipur	12/1999	578.62	—	—	578.62	18.58	6/2006	—	12/2008	30 (O)
	Total		14263.62		12568.00	29087.71	19400.03				
Railways											
32	Katpadi-Pakla-Tirupathi (GC), SCR AP/Tamil Nadu	4/1992	63.00	—	72.31	180.64	66.50	3/1994	03/1998	9/2002	54 (R1)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
33.	Thane Turbhe-Nerul-Vashi (MTP) Mumbai, Maharashtra	5/1992	403.39	—	—	403.39	222.83	3/2000	—	12/2002	33 (O)
34.	Tirumalai-Vellacheri Extn. of MRTS (MTP) Chennai, Tamil Nadu	4/1996	605.70	—	—	684.32	421.82	3/2002	—	12/2002	9(O)
35.	Belapur-Seawood-Uran Electrified Double Line (MTP) Mumbai (Maharashtra)	3/1996	401.81	07/1997	—	495.44	30.67	—	—	3/2003	—
36.	Kharagpur-Bhubaneswar (RE) INCL Adra-W. Onssa	3/1995	258.58	—	—	317.35	192.45	3/2000	—	3/2003	36(O)
37.	Hotgi-Gadag (GC), SCR Maharashtra/Karnataka	6/1995	180.00	—	—	263.91	136.61	3/1999	03/2003	3/2003	0(R1)
38.	Calicut-Mangalore Doubling (SR) Karnataka/Kerala	2/1996	240.00	—	—	488.90	441.59	—	—	12/2003	—
39.	Daitari-Keonjhar-Banspani New Line (SER) Onssa	3/1993	242.50	11/2000	537.74	591.05	310.71	12/1997	—	12/2003	72 (O)
40.	Jammu-Tawi Udhampur New Line (NR) J&K	3/1981	560.00	03/1990	112.00	479.00	390.52	3/1994	—	3/2004	120(O)
41.	New Jalpaiguri-New Bongaigaon (GC), NEFR Jalpaiguri, W.B., Assam	11/1998	536.85	—	—	523.82	276.82	3/2003	—	3/2004	12 (O)
42.	Gudur-Renigunta (LD), SCR, A.P.	4/1997	139.69	—	—	139.69	68.53	—	—	3/2004	—
43.	Kuppam-Whitefield Double (SR) Karnataka & AP	3/1992	108.11	05/2002	105.01	162.23	78.65	3/1996	—	3/2004	96(O)
44.	Virangam-Bhildi (WR), GC Rajasthan/Gujarat	4/1990	155.66	—	—	134.80	16.27	6/1995	—	3/2004	105(O)
45.	Freight Operations Information Systems (FOIS) All India	3/1984	520.00	11/1989	1098.00	426.12	255.52	3/1995	—	3/2004	108(O)
46.	Ambala-Moradabad (RE) Punjab/Haryana/UP	3/1993	152.21	—	—	152.21	123.44	3/1998	—	3/2004	72(O)
47.	Borivli-Virar Quadrupling, WR Bombay (Maharashtra)	4/1995	326.90	—	—	509.13	112.95	3/2001	06/2000	3/2004	45 (R2)
48.	Arsikere-Hassan-Mangalore (GC), SR, Karnataka	4/1995	186.16	—	—	321.78	183.40	3/1996	—	3/2004	96(O)
49.	Tamluk-Digha (NL), SER West Bengal	3/1984	43.72	—	—	293.97	66.92	3/1997	—	3/2004	84(O)

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
50. Panvel-Karjat (NL), CR Maharashtra		2/1996	89.00	—	—	137.00	68.89	3/1997	—	3/2004	84(O)
51. Luni-Barmer-Munabao (GC), NR Rajasthan		4/1997	240.00	—	—	283.94	104.06	—	—	3/2004	—
52. Eklakhi-Balughat (NL), NFR W.B.		1/1986	36.80	04/1994	105.91	274.41	135.05	—	—	3/2005	—
53. Guna-Etawah (CR) MP/UP		4/1985	158.77	01/2001	274.56	400.00	296.07	3/1994	—	3/2005	132(O)
54. Parbhani-Purna-Mudkhed- Adilabad GC (SCR) M.P.		4/1985	117.97	—	—	142.22	7.98	3/1995	—	3/2005	120(O)
55. Secunderabad-Mudkhed- Jankampet-Bodhan (GC). SCR AP/Maharashtra		8/1997	283.52	06/1998	276.28	287.83	88.20	—	—	3/2005	—
56. Kumarghat-Agartala (NL), NEFR Tripura		4/1996	575.00	—	—	895.00	192.35	—	—	3/2005	—
57. Chennai Beach-Chengalpattu Via Tambaram (MTP) Chennai, Tamil Nadu		4/1999	464.99	—	—	464.99	115.50	4/2004	—	3/2005	11(O)
58. Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala PH-II (NR) Kapurthala (Punjab)		8/1985	180.00	02/1989	314.57	452.68	354.87	3/1992	—	3/2005	156(O)
• Total			6760.33		2896.38	9905.82	4759.17				
Road Transport & Highways											
59. NH5: 4 Lanning of Jagatpur- Chandikhol-Orissa (KM 27 8-61) (GQ) Jagatpur, Orissa		2/1995	137.60	—	—	173.00	65.66	11/2002	—	2/2003	3(O)
60. Ahmedabad-Vadodara Expressway (GQ) Gujarat		1/1986	128.40	—	137.20	500.00	199.92	12/1991	12/1991	6/2003	138 (R1)
61. Naini Bridge & Link Rd. Between NH-2 & NH-27 Allahabad, UP		3/1995	100.36	—	300.00	219.78	79.00	6/2001	06/2001	2/2004	32 (R1)
Total			366.36		437.20	892.78	344.58				
Shipping & Ports											
62. Acquisition of Ind. LR-II Tanker From Cochin Shipyard Mumbai, MH		3/2000	151.29	—	—	149.65	126.91	7/2002	—	8/2002	1(O)
63. Port Facilities for MRPL Ref Expn (NMPT) Panambur, Mangalore, Karnataka		7/1999	236.50	—	—	236.50	109.93	1/2002	—	10/2002	9(O)
64. ACQ of 700 Passenger-Cum 160 T Cargo Vessel from Hindustan Maharashtra		6/2000	129.62	—	—	129.62	49.34	2/2003	—	8/2003	6(O)
Total			517.41	—	—	515.77	286.18				

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Urban Development											
65.	Delhi Metro Rapid Transit System PH-I Delhi	9/1996	4860.00	—	—	8800.00	2094.48	3/2005	—	9/2005	6(0)
Total			4860.00	—		880.00	2094.48				
Grand Total			42756.25	21493.72		67075.39	36292.89				

LEGENDS

AAI	Airports Authority of India
NCL	- Northern Coal Fields Limited
AIR	All India Radio
NL	New Lines
DOUBL	Doubling of Lines
RD & BR	- Roads and Bridges
FOIS	Freight Operations and Information Systems
RE	Railway Electrification
H&FW	Health and Family Welfare
THDC	Tehri Hydro Electric Power Corporation Limited

IOC	- Indian Oil Corporation Limited
VSNL	- Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited
NHPC	- National Hydro Electric Power Corporation
WS & PU	- Workshops and Production Units
UG	- Underground
OC	- Open Cast
LDC	- Load Dispatch Centre
GC	- Gauge Conversion
MTP	- Metro Transport Project
NR	- Northern Railway
GQ	- Golden Quadrilateral
RCE	- Revised Cost Estimate.

*[English]***Control Drug Laboratory, Kolkata**

2625. SHRI RAM RATI BIND: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Control Drug Laboratory (CDL), Kolkata is the only Laboratory in the country for approval for new drug samples;

(b) whether all new drug samples are sent to CDL, Kolkata for testing;

(c) whether the Government have received complaints about corruption prevailing in this laboratory in granting approval to the new drugs; and

(d) 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) and (b) No, Sir. Testing of new drug samples are also being carried out at Central Drug Testing Laboratory (CDTL), Thane and Central Indian pharmacopoeia Laboratory (CIPL), Ghaziabad in addition to Central Drug Laboratory (CDL), Kolkata.

(c) and (d) No such complaint has been received.

Aid to Sri Lanka

2626. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has extended a credit of US Dollars 51 million to Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the purpose thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Two agreements providing for credit of US\$ 51 million were signed on July 3, 2002 between the Government of India and the Government of Sri Lanka in Colombo.

The first pertains to a credit of US\$ 31 million for the purchase of wheat grain from India. This credit is being extended to the Government of Sri Lanka in response to a request made by the Sri Lankan Prime Minister during his visit to India in December, 2001. The

proceeds of this credit will be utilised to import 300,000 MT of wheat grains over a period of 20 months at the rate of approximately 15,000 MT per month. The concessionary credit will cover 100% of the FOB value of wheat grains imported from India. The credit is extended at a concessionary interest rate and has a repayment period spread over 15 years with a grace period of 5 years.

The second agreement is to provide credit of US\$ 20 million to support the economic stabilization programme negotiated by the Government of Sri Lanka with the International Monetary Fund under a Standby Arrangement in April, 2001. The proceeds of this credit will support the Sri Lankan Government's balance of payment requirements. This credit is also provided at a concessionary rate of interest with a repayment period of 9 years commencing from 2005.

Zinc and Iron Deficiency in Children

2627. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

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

(a) whether 75 per cent of Indian children suffer from iron deficiency and 40 per cent suffer from zinc deficiency;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in association with the Delhi Municipal Corporation launched a massive exercise in Delhi to study the effect of zinc on mortality and morbidity of children under the age of 2 years;

(d) if so, the number of children on whom experiment is being conducted;

(e) the period over which the result of this experiment is expected to be known; and

(f) how the supervision about keeping a daily watch and maintaining record of each and every child is being done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) As per the National Family Health Survey-2 (1998-99), 74 per cent of children in the age group six to thirty five months were found to be anemic. Limited studies from North India indicate that 30-40 per cent children from low socio-economic groups, in the age group six to thirty five months, have low levels of plasma zinc.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The All India Institute of Medical Sciences and Municipal Corporation of Delhi have started a pilot project to study the effect of zinc and iron deficiency in children. The objectives of this study include an assessment to see whether improved intake of zinc will reduce mortality and severe morbidity such as diarrhoea, pneumonia, septicemia and meningitis and improve physical growth of children. About 80,000 children are included in the study which will be completed in two years time.

(f) The supplement is administered to children by trained community health workers of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. This activity is supervised by physicians and supervisors trained by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. The community health workers maintain a register in which daily intake of the supplement is recorded. The register is reviewed every week by a supervisor trained by All India Institute of Medical Sciences. All this information is computerized and reviewed by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences team of pediatricians.

Toll Free Numbers in Natural Disaster Management Services

2628. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL has allotted two four digit toll free telephone numbers to natural disaster management services, country-wide;

(b) if so, whether BSNL has issued necessary directions to field areas to implement this order;

(c) whether any such toll-free numbers have been made operational in the cyclone prone areas of Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the status of toll-free numbers in coastal Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) the details of any other facilities BSNL have offered in such natural disaster prone areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Toll Free Numbers are yet to be made operational in cyclone prone areas of Andhra Pradesh. District administrations have been requested to complete commercial formalities for provision of Toll Free Numbers.

(e) Normally, INMARSAT Terminals are deployed by BSNL as an immediate measure in the affected districts at the time of Cyclone.

Norms for Pre-Paid Cards

2629. SHR: ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether the TRAI have received number of complaints regarding different terms and conditions from one service provider to another as reported in 'The Hindu' dated July 12, 2002;

(b) if so, the whether the TRAI have issued directions to all cellular companies asking them to adhere to certain standard terms and conditions for pre-paid cards; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Sir, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is responsible for fixation of tariffs of Telecom Services. As per information furnished by TRAI, it had come to its notice that terms and conditions of pre-paid services offered by Cellular Mobile Service Providers (CMSPs) often vary from one service provider to another on numerous counts. Due to this, the subscriber of pre-paid services is unable to make any meaningful comparison terms and conditions offered.

(b) TRAI has issued a directive on 11.7.2002 to all CMSPs to include certain minimum information on common parameters so as to enable comparison between pre-paid tariff plans offered by service providers. The said directive would become effective from 1.8.2002.

(c) The salient features of the said directive are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Salient features of the directive of TRAI dated 11.07.2002 to Cellular Mobile Service Providers (CMSPs) regarding pre paid cards are as follows:—

The CMSPs should include the following terms and conditions in all tariff plans to be introduced by them in future:—

(i) The value of the Prepaid card in Rs. (Denomination of the prepaid card)

(ii) Validity period of the Prepaid card.

(iii) Charges for replacement of lost/stolen/damage SIM cards.

(iv) Conditions for carryover of balance and grace period.

(v) Specify the facility for the subscriber to know the balance in Rupees including if the facility is Toll free or not.

(vi) Cost of the card/Recharge coupon including Entry fee (SIM activation fee), Maximum retail price of the Recharge Coupon, Total amount towards talk time available in Recharge coupon. It should also be specified that the balance of the amount is towards administration charges, other charges and Service tax.

(vii) Clearly specify Airtime/PSTN charges. In case of any changes the same should be publicized/advertised soon after the same becomes effective.

(viii) Procedure to connect Customer care center.

(ix) Availability of Toll free Numbers.

(x) Availability of Supplementary/Value added services.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

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): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Vigilance Commission, New Delhi, for the period from 1st January to 31st December, 2000.
- (2) A copy of the Memorandum (Hindi and English versions) explaining the reasons for non-acceptance of the Commission's Advice.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5890/2002]

- (3) (i) A copy of Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Construction Industry Development Council, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Construction Industry Development Council, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5891/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Indian Post Office (3rd Amendment) Rules, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 381 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th May, 2002 under sub-section (4) of section 74 of the Indian Post Office Act, 1998.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5892/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy of the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Amendments Rules, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 447 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th June, 2002 under sub-section (3) of section 16 of the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5893/2002]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Academy of Ayurveda, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Academy of Ayurveda, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5894/2002]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata, for the year 1999-2000.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5895/2002]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata, for the year 2000-2001.

- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) Showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5896/2002]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now statement to be made by Deputy Prime Minister. Who is making the statement on his behalf?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Where is the Home Minister?

MR. SPEAKER: The Home Minister has informed me that on his behalf, the Minister of State will be making the statement

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanj, U.P): Mr. Speaker, Sir, people are dying of starvation in the country

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let the statement be over, then I shall call you ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this issue is more serious than this statement. People are dying of starvation in the country ...*(Interruptions)* a discussion was held on this issue and the Agriculture Minister made a statement ...*(Interruptions)*. It is a very serious issue. That is why I humbly urge that as far as other issues are concerned the proceedings of this House may be withheld for some time and a discussion should be taken up on this issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Akhilesh Ji, I am going to allow you to raise this issue. I know the importance of this issue. That is why I have said in the beginning and I am also saying this right now,

[English]

that statement will not take more than five minutes. Let the statement be over, then during the 'Zero Hour' I am going to call you. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: So, after the statement is over, please allow us. This is a very important issue.

SHRI KAMAL NATH (Chhindwara): Sir, please call me first as I have been waiting since yesterday.

12.03 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Situation Prevailing in the State of Jharkhand

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): Sir, since 18th of July, 2002, there have been disturbances in different parts of Jharkhand for and against the so-called "Domicile policy" of the Government. While organisations like Jharkhand Dishom Party, Adiwasi Chhatra Sanga, Adiwasi Janadhikar Manch, Sadaan Chhatra Sangh have supported the Government's policy, other organisations like Chhatra Yuva Sangarsh Samiti, Jharkhand Upekshit Yuva Manch, Jharkhand Youth Association, etc. have strongly opposed it.

The opponents of the Policy organised *bandhs* on 18th and 26th July, while the supporters organised *bandh*

on 20th and 24th July, 2002 leading to clashes between pro and anti-policy agitationists. This resulted in damage to Government property including some of the Government of India undertakings like MECON, SAIL and office of the Principal Accountant General.

Five persons have been killed in the disturbances. Curfew was imposed in three police stations of Ranchi city on 25th July, 2002 which was extended to five police station on 26th July, 2002. A number of persons allegedly involved in the incidents have been arrested.

As per the information received from the Government of Jharkhand, no new "Domicile policy" has been issued by the Government. However, Government of Bihar had defined "local persons" by an order of Labour and Employment Department dated 3rd March, 1982, according to which, with a district as unit, those persons whose names or whose ancestors' names were recorded in the last survey of record of rights, were to be considered as 'locals'. These 'locals' were to be given preference in the matter of employment in certain categories of jobs. Government of Jharkhand have further informed that this order of Bihar Government was adopted by them under Section 85 of the Bihar Reorganisation Act, 2000 *vide* Government order dated 22nd September, 2001.

The Government of Jharkhand has clarified through press notes that no new 'domicile policy' has been framed, only the policy followed by the Government of Bihar since 1982 has been adopted by the newly created State. The Chief Minister has also clarified that this provision relates to recruitments to Group 'C' and 'D' categories of posts in public employment including the Police Constables for which the recruitment process is now on. He has also clarified that the provision is only to give "preference" to the locals and applications are being accepted from all candidates and there is no restriction on any body's participating in the selection process.

The Union Government has expressed its concern over the law and order situation and damage caused to the lives and property of the people in the State and has directed the State Government to maintain law and order at all cost. Nobody should be permitted to take law in his own hands and disrupt peace and tranquility in the State.

The State Government has now made elaborate arrangements to maintain peace and law and order. A large number of civil and armed police as well as Central para-Military Force have been deployed in sensitive areas. Curfew is being relaxed gradually as the situation is returning to normal. The Chief Minister reviews the law

and order situation himself every day with the senior officials of the State Government. The Chief Minister has also called a meeting of leaders of all the Political Parties on 1st of August, 2002 to sort out the issue. Three writ petitions on the issue are pending in the Jharkhand High Court.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I am turning to 'Zero Hour'. Please cooperate with me. let me speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: On this, there are no questions to be asked and you understand the rules very well. No questions can be asked on the statement as per the rules.

I am now going to 'Zero Hour'. I have received 55 notices for 'Zero Hour'. Some of them are really of great importance and, therefore, let me take them up one after another. I will take up the issue which are of important nature first and thereafter, if the time permits I will allow other.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH (Chhindwara): Sir, please allow me first. I am waiting since yesterday. ...(Interruptions) It should get some precedence.

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to take up your issue, no doubt. Shri Kamal Nath, there is one notice which requires more attention. Immediately after that, the second position is yours.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, why do we not take my issue first? I will just take one or two minutes. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli): Sir, I also have a very urgent matter to raise here. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Okay; I am giving one minute to Shri Kamal Nath because he wants to conclude it in one minute.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not under our rules. It is difficult for me to give you permission. You can raise this issue later but not at this time.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Sir, is a very serious matter. How can we wait for such an important issue?

MR. SPEAKER: I will give you a chance once Shri Kamal Nath conclude.

12.07 hrs.

[English]

RE: REPORTED PRESS STATEMENT MADE BY KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE, M.P. ABOUT GODHARA TRAIN INCIDENT

SHRI KAMAL NATH (Chhindwara): Thank you, Sir. Last week, while the debate on Gujarat issue was going on, I had mentioned that there was a certain compulsion for the Government to announce the election in Gujarat and one of those compulsions, which I had said, which was a very major compulsion, was the revelation of, maybe, something sensational. ...(Interruptions) Yesterday the newspapers have reported—and I am happy that the hon. Minister of Railways Shri Nitish Kumar is sitting here—that Kumari Mamata Banerjee has said that "Shri Nitish Kumar has been rewarded for Godhra; I know the forensic report. ... It was all pre-planned. The fire did not start from outside; but inside." ...(Interruptions) Sir, I am just reading out. This is a matter which I raised last week in a debate in this House.

Now, today, Kumari Mamata Banerjee has further reiterated that "Shri Nitish Kumar, in regard to the Godhra carnage, knew a little too much of his role in the cover up." ...(Interruptions) I has asked for that. ...(Interruptions) This is what she says. ...(Interruptions) Sir, why should they interrupt me? You have permitted me to speak. I want your protection. Is it that they can have their say and we cannot? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I would request the hon. Members to please sit down.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, this is not our allegation; it is an allegation of their ally. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, I am saying that Kumari Mamata Banerjee is with them. ...(Interruptions) this Trinamool Congress in an ally of the NDA. I am just saying that she has made a very sensational charge, that of a cover up. I had demanded that the forensic report should be laid on the Table of the House.

...(Interruptions) The hon. Minister of State for Home is here. I had also asked last week that the names of those who were killed at the Godhra railway station should be disclosed. At that time I said that there is a compulsion, that this be kept secret and thus the compulsion is to announce an election.

Yesterday, Kumari Mamata Banerjee and the Trinamool Congress themselves made this charge. ...(Interruptions) She herself made this charge.

She goes on to say today: "The Prime Minister's office has been hijacked. for some time, the Prime Minister has been isolated. Who is the real Prime Minister?" She is asking this. ...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PROMAD MAHAJAN): I thought the Congress Party had only one 'she'. Now, he is referring to one more 'she'. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Kumari Mamata Banerjee goes on to ask "Who is the real Prime Minister?" Then she goes on to say that Shri Vajpayee is in prison like Mughal Emperor Shahjahan. He has been isolated. He has been hijacked. Sir, this raises a very big and serious question. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Now, my only submission to you, Sir, is that please direct the Home Minister to lay the forensic report on the Table of the House and also to lay the name of those who have been killed in Godhra carnage on the Table of the House. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Akhileshji I am calling you to speak and you are not getting up.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): This is an allegation of an ally of NDA. This is not an allegation of the Congress Party. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): It is not their internal matter alone. This concerns the entire country. ...(Interruptions) She is with them. Here party is

in the NDA. The Government over an explanation. ...(Interruptions). It is not their internal matter alone. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All of you, Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Mr. Speaker, Sir, nothing should be discussed about Gujarat. They are trying to disturb the peace of Gujarat.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharanjganj, Bihar): Sir, I also want to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: I will also give you a chance.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Nitish Kumar, on this question, I have received other notices also. I have permitted Shri Kamal Nath to speak only because since yesterday, he had been asking to raise this issue. If you want to reply to this, wait for some time. Afterwards, I will request you to reply. Then, you can reply.

Now, there is an important issue to be raised by Kunwar Akhilesh Singh. Let him raise that issue.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHARY (Khammam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, It's a matter of joy that Delhi is expending the showers of rain.

MR. SPEAKER: But here there is a shower of questions in Zero Hour.

SHRI JAWAHAR LAL JAISWAL (Chandouli): Mr. Speaker, Sir there has been a report of deaths of two persons due to starvation in Dhan-Kuwardi village, Navgarh block of my parliamentary constituency Chandouli district. ...(Interruptions). It was assured by the Government of India that there would be no death due to hunger. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, are they having double role as both of them have stood up?

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Since all have given notice on the same subject that is why both to them are on their legs. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a practice in the House. Kunwar Akhilesh Singh wanted to speak on this. He had given a notice. So, I allowed him to speak. Otherwise, how can the House be conducted?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanj, U.P): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the death of two persons due to starvation in village Dhankumari Kalan, block Navgarh, district Chandouli of the largest state of our country i.e Uttar Pradesh is certainly a tragic incident. There was a tragic death of a 60 year old Harijan Vishwanatha and a 50 year old Dagiya in village Kubra, Grampanchayat Dhankumari Kalan, district Chandouli of Uttar Pradesh. This was intimated by the Gram Pradhan of that village's Panchayat to the District Collector by a Registered letter. The honourable Member of that area Shri Jawahar Lal Jaiswal also informed this to the District Magistrate and District administration but I regret to say that District Magistrate, District Administration and the State Administration are trying to suppress the news of these deaths by denying having received any such information. Not only the Government of Uttar Pradesh but also hon'ble Ajit Singh ji, the Agriculture Minister of this country is making a ruthless fun of these deaths. He assured this House while discussion was going on about drought under rule 193, that we have sufficient stock of foodgrains in our godowns and there will be no death in the country due to drought. But this statement of honourable Shri Ajit Singh ji is not only misleading this House but also the entire country. Today, when we have sufficient stocks of foodgrains in our godowns, such tragic death in the largest state of our country is certainly a question mark on our system. That is why I demand, through this House, that action should be taken against those persons who have misled this House. A high level enquiry should be conducted for these deaths. We would also demand that a joint committee of the Houses must visit the spot and enquire about these deaths.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter. The parliamentary constituency of Shri Jaiswal ji is Chandouli. There is Navgarh village of block Dhan Kumari Kalan and whose Majra Malla is known as Kunwardih, two persons, one Dagiya whose age was 50 years and other Vishwanath aged 60 year died of starvation. We have clearly mentioned the names of the deceased, village, district

and block. Two persons have died there of hunger. The Gram Pradhan also informed in this regard to the District Administration but they are denying this fact repeatedly. The Agriculture Minister has also announced repeatedly in this House and even the newspapers are flooded with his statement that we have sufficient stock of foodgrain in our godowns. But even than deaths are taking place there. This is a very serious matter because the entire opposition had already warned you in this regard. Even the Members of ruling party and several Members of Madhya Pradesh had also warned you that now labourers and Agriculture labourers will die of hunger but even then the Government did not take any concrete step.

Now the question is whether we should tolerate such deaths or ask the people to die after facing the bullets of the police instead of dying of starvation and break open the godowns which are full of foodgrains and take away all the quantity of grains available there because there is no other solution to this problem. Such a serious situation is imminent. What steps have been taken by the Government to handle such a situation? This is true that the hon'ble Jaiswal ji met the D.M. and apprised him of the drought situation. In this area situation is very serious. There is paucity of water. The entire area is a mafia stronghold. I request the Government that it should take this problem seriously and solve it immediately because District Magistrate and other officers are not paying any attention to the problems of the farmers. Mr. Speaker, Sir, only you can issue instructions. If nothing is done and people continue to die due to hunger, we will call upon the people to break open the godowns.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as Shri Mulayam Singh ji and Akhilesh ji has just raised the issue of deaths taken place in Chandouli due to drought, I would like to tell that Chandouli is a parliamentary constituency of my colleague Shri Jaiswal ji. This is a very serious matter. This is the season of plantation of paddy seedling in eastern Uttar Pradesh. In this season people who did not have any work, use to earn their livelihood in paddy fields by planting of paddy seedling. But this year, due to lack of water, paddy seedling could not be sown and people did not get regular employment. This is the result of the situation that Dagia and Vishwanath died. This is a very serious matter. Today, there is a desperate situation every where. Country is facing a serious problem. Such a situation will lead to hoarding. As Mulayam Singh ji has just told that the Government said that godowns are full of grains, is very strange because on one hand Government claims that we have sufficient stock of good grains but on the other hand people are dying due to hunger. The situation cannot

be more pathetic than it. Today, the condition is that people having their own cattle do not have even fodder to feed them. They are compelled to take them to slaughter houses. The Government do not have any positive approach on this issue. A task force headed by the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Home Affairs has been constituted and the Minister of Finance Shri Jaswant Singh, Minister of Agriculture Shri Ajit Singh, Minister of Food, Shri Sharad Yadav and the Minister of Rural Development, Shri Shanta Kumar are its members. Are the services of the Minister of Railways and the Minister of Water Resources not required to meet the drought situation? Why these two Ministers have not been included in the task force? I would like to ask the Government as to what steps have been taken by the Government so far to meet the drought situation? What is the role of this Government? Today, the statement of Shri Ajit Singh ji has been published. In such a situation, the loan amount of small farmers can be waived off. Today, whatever is told to us. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: 55 Members have expressed their views on this issue. Now, you please sit down.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government should explain as to what positive steps are being taken by them in this regard. The Government says that task force is being formed and they are doing this thing and that thing. I would like to know from the Government as to what is being done by them?

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in many areas of eastern Uttar Pradesh ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow those Members who have given notices on this subject. Chandra Shekar ji, do you want to speak?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia, U.P.): Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, speak after Shri Jaiswal ji.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, news has been published in today's newspapers regarding death of two persons due to hunger in Chandouli district but the reality is that the situation in eastern Uttar Pradesh is worst. Generally, monsoon comes in eastern Uttar Pradesh between 15th June to 15th July but even after expiry of one month when it did not rain, the Central and the State Government started to think over the ways and means by which they can meet the drought situation in Uttar Pradesh. There are 15 per cent such farmers in eastern Uttar Pradesh who do not have their own land

to earn their livelihood. Therefore, they have to depend on wages. Since it has not rained so far, no work regarding ploughing and sowing has been started. These people have been jobless. The news published in the newspapers regarding death of two persons reflects their pitiable condition. There is no exaggeration in saying that if this situation continues for the next 10-15 days hundreds of such incidents may take place. I, through you Sir, would like to submit to the Government that this is very unfortunate and irony that on the one hand, lakhs of tonnes of foodgrains is getting rotten in the F.C.I. godowns of the country but on the other hand, people are dying of starvation in my State. Can the speeches of hon'ble Minister of Agriculture here or the Chief Minister of the State satisfy their hunger? Will such deaths continue to occur? These people will continue to give speeches and make policies only. I, through you Sir, would like to request that instructions may be given to the Minister to Agriculture and request may be made to the Uttar Pradesh administration to provide foodgrains to the people wherever starvation is taking place so that no one in my State may die of hunger.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this matter is so serious that I cannot remain silent. The situation is such that on the one hand, we have enough stock of foodgrains but on the other hand people are dying of starvation. It appears that there is no government in Uttar Pradesh. Common people do not know as to what is being done by the government. But is it fair to create controversy on it or would a discussion be held on this matter? I would like to request you that a committee comprising hon'ble Members may be sent there to assess the situation. If the government says that people have not died of hunger but Gram Pradhan says that they died of hunger and if Shri Jaiswalji who is an MP himself says that it is true that people have died of hunger then what the controversy is? Sometimes, this House should also take initiative. We should not divide this House over the matter like this. I, through you Sir, would like to request the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that this matter may be looked into. If the situation is so serious and Mulayam Singh ji says or not that people will be forced to indulge in violence but it will not affect the Central Government. I got surprised to listen the statement which the State Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs was just giving. If they think that the situation is like Jharkhand then they can wait for a few days. The Government thinks it fit to remain silent over each point, be it the matter of medicines, Jharkhand or hunger. When Government breaks its silence, then it will not be possible for the people to tolerate the silence of the Government till it is broken.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Jawahar Lal Jaiswal is an MP from that area where this incident took place. Please let him speak for a few minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: He has not given a notice you have spoken on behalf of your Party.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli): Sir, before taking his seat in the Parliament a member has to take oath. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pandian, A few deaths have taken place in his constituency and as an exception I am allowing him to speak briefly.

[Translation]

SHRI JAWAHAR LAL JAISWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, two persons have died of hunger in Kwardih village of Gram Sabha Dhankwari in block Naugarh of Chandouli. Nangarh block is situated in a forest area and irrigation is done through dams in Chandouli district. There are two pumps canals one each in Narayanpur and Bhupauli. 18 and 11 pumps have been installed in Narayanpur and Bhupauli villages respectively. On 13th when I met the District Magistrate, only three pumps were functioning in Narayanapur. Farmers were crying for water for paddy nursery there. When I met the District Magistrate, he assured me that he would make efforts to get all the pumps operational. But after that only six pumps could be made operational and sufficient water could not be made available to all the fields. Farmers are not able to sow paddy seeds and people are not getting job there. All the pumps can be made operational there if an amount of rupees ten crore is provided to them. Collector had demanded rupees ten crore from the Government about one year back to make all the pumps operational. As the Government is not providing the said amount all crops are being destroyed there. Today, two persons have died of hunger there and if the paddy crop fails thousands of persons will die. I would like to request you that arrangements may be made immediately to provide water for the crops there so that people can be saved from dying of hunger.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, this is a matter of public importance. You know that every Member of Parliament before taking his seat in this House has to take an oath and if he/she violates that oath, then he/she is liable to be disqualified. So also is the case with the Ministers of the Union. He/she has to take an oath before entering

into office. The oath says:

"I bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India as by law established; that I will uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India; that I will faithfully and consciously discharge my duties as a Minister for the Union and that I will do right to all manner of people in accordance with the Constitution and the law."

Sir, if a Minister violates this oath of office, then he is liable to be disqualified to be a Union Minister. ..."

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, how can you allow this to be raised? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, I have given this to you. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, he has said that he has supported the LTTE ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, how could you allow this? This is in gross violation of the rules. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: When the LTTE is a banned organisation. ...*(Interruptions)* How can a Minister support the LTTE ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, I do not mind anything being raised but the Member should give a proper notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: He said that he will continue to support the LTTE ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, nothing, that has been raised without giving a notice, should be allowed to go into the records. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can speak without making any specific allegation.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, this is a legal question ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pandian, you are aware of the rules. Now, whatever he has said in an allegatory form against the Minister should be expunged from the records.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, I am talking on law
...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, one is very much entitled to quote from the newspapers
...(Interruptions) How can that be expunged
...(Interruptions) Sir, only because the Parliamentary Affairs Minister is objecting
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No. It is not because of that.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, in the year 1948 one Shri Balakrishna Pillai who was a Minister in Kerala uttered a word
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pandian, please take your seat for a minute.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: He is quoting from a newspaper report. How can that be expunged?
...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): He was referring to a statement made by the Minister. He was not making any allegation.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): It is not an allegation, Sir. He is quoting from a newspaper report.

MR. SPEAKER: The rules are clear on the issue. If a Member wants to make an allegation, he can give a notice and make allegation against a Minister also. I have not received any notice to this effect from Shri Pandian.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: It is not an allegation. It is a fact.

MR. SPEAKER: Therefore, he can always say that the Minister has made a wrong statement, I have no objection. He can always say that the Minister was not right in making a statement. But I would not allow him to make an allegation against a Minister.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Balakrishna Pillai uttered one word that Kerala will turn into Punjab. A writ of *Quo Warranto* was filed before the Kerala High Court. Kerala High Court decreed saying that it was for the Parliament or the Legislature to decide on disqualification.
...(Interruptions) That is why I have come here. Shri Pramod Mahajan, you also see the statement of your Minister.
...(Interruptions) MDMK Ministers are a part of the NDA Government. How can they continue to be

Ministers if they continue to support LTTE, which is a banned organisation? ...*(Interruptions)* LTTE is a banned organisation under POTA. Do they invite any action from the Central Government or do they invite any action by the State Government under POTA, or is the Government going to take action? I have given a copy. You are the supreme power here. It is for the Speaker to take action.

You may know about the Broadlaw's case. In the House of Commons he violated the Oath of Office. He was disqualified. Then, he again violated the Oath of Office. He was disqualified three times. So, Sir, I would ask the hon. Speaker ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Bhavnaji, please raise your issue.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KAMAL NATH: The Minister is ready to reply. Let him reply.

MR. SPEAKER: I have given you enough time, Shri Pandian. Please sit down. Shrimati Bhavnaben Chikhali.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: She also has an important issue to raise. Let her raise her important issue.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, it is for you to take action. Parliament is allowed to take action according to the Constitution. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has not made an allegation. He has informed the House about a certain statement. The Minister is present here and he wants to say something. He should be given a chance to speak whether he has made such a statement or not.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Let the Minister speak.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: He is not the Minister, Sir.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: I am sorry, Sir.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: I am going to complete, Sir. Please allow me. Please give me one minute.

MR. SPEAKER: You have completed already.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Please allow me to complete. Give me one minute, Sir.

In this House, you occupy the Vikramaditya's Chair. According to the Prime Minister, you occupied the Vikramaditya's Chair. It is for you to take action. It is for you to initiate action on the floor to disqualify the Minister. Even from primary membership you can disqualify him. *...(Interruptions)* There are precedents even in this House. Shrimati Indira Gandhi was disqualified, removed. Was it not so? Shrimati Indira Gandhi was remove. There is a precedent. Suppose there is a violation of Oath of Office, you have to initiate action. You may please initiate action.

DR. C. KRISHNAN (Pollachi): Sir, there is no violation in this.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: A Member also cannot violate the Oath of Office. He is primarily a Member and secondarily a Minister. Is he qualified to be a Member when he has violated the Oath of Office under the Third Schedule of the Constitution?

DR. C. KRISHNAN: The only violation is that the Tamil Nadu Government has use POTA in a wrong way. This is unduly controlled by the Tamil Nadu Government. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pandian, please sit down.

[Translation]

Bhavnaji, please raise your issue. Your issue is very important.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: That is why I quoted Balakrishna Pillai's case. Balakrishna Pillai resigned. I have quoted an example. In Tamil Nadu, in 1985, ten Members were disqualified.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down, Shri Pandian.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Give me one minute, Sir.

SHRI SPEAKER: I have given you two minutes when you asked for one minute.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: I will finish, Sir.

In Tamil Nadu, ten Members were disqualified for violating the Constitution. *...(Interruptions)*

In Tamil Nadu, 10 Members had been disqualified, and it was also upheld by the Supreme Court.

So, Sir, I would urge upon the *Vikramaditya* Chair to take action, to direct the hon. Prime Minister to drop him from the Cabinet and initiate action in this House. Thank you *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shrimati Bhavna Chikhalia

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, what is your ruling? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): Sir, I am on a point or order *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order during 'Zero Hour'. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Sir, let the hon. Minister respond *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have called the name of Shrimati Bhavna Chikhalia. Please let her speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA (Junagarh): Mr. Speaker. Sir, railway traffic, hospitals and other essential services came to standstill in Gujarat and entire Gujarat plunged into darkness due to power failure since yesterday night to this morning. This cause a lot of hardship in Gujarat. It's reason was taking of 1600 megawatt power from Western Grid by Madhya Pradesh instead of its share of 1120 megawatt. Thus Gujarat has to suffer due to taking of 500 megawatt more power by Madhya Pradesh from Western Grid. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Gujarat has been suffering from power shortage for five to six years and she is talking of yesterday. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I also want to rise an important issue. Please allow me to raise it.

MR. SPEAKER: I will give you a chance.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please keep silence in the House. Let here raise the issue of electricity. It is a very important issue.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, six states suffered a lot of difficulties since last night till this morning because Madhya Pradesh showed in discipline in drawing excess power from Western Grid. ...(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, power frequency should have been 47.08 but due to indiscipline on the part of Madhya Pradesh it became 48.52. Due to raised frequency, there is no power in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Chhatisgarh, Goa and Daman-Diu since last night and all these states are suffering a lot due to it. Even in today's newspapers. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member is talking of yesterday. People are suffering there due to power failure even today. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Kamalnath ji, you are a senior Member. Please sit down.

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the states getting power from Western Grid are facing a lot of difficulties due to indisciplined behaviour of Madhya Pradesh in drawing excess power from the grid. Non-availability of power has affected very much the rail traffic in Gujarat and other six states of Western Grid ...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this problem will continue as long as their party is in power in Gujarat. The hon. Member is mentioning only yesterday's incident. I would like to ask here as to what was the situation of Gujarat four years ago, why she is not mentioning about that ...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Gujarat and other states of Western Grid are suffering due to indiscipline of Madhya Pradesh Government ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it seems that power of Ataljee has decreased since Shri Lal Krishna Advani became Deputy Prime Minister ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: For the last four years, the power is on this side and the greed is on other side. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, now it seems that there is no power even in the power grid of Advaniji. ...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister should give a reply in this regard. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma, you can associate yourself with what she has said.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Subodh Mohite.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): Sir, I should also be allowed to speak. We are also facing an acute problem in Orissa. Farmers are committing suicide in my constituency ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by hon. Member of Parliament Bhavnaben Devrajibhai Chikhalia regarding power-cut in Gujarat from last night till today's morning which caused a lot of hardship to the people.

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister is present in the House. I want that she should give a statement about it ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Sir, farmers are committing suicide in my constituency. You heard the problem of U.P. Now, please hear the problem of Orissa also. ...(Interruptions)

In my constituency, on the 27th of this month, one farmer committed suicide in front of the Collector's Office. In U.P. we heard that farmers committed suicide out of starvation. But in South pockets of Orissa, in procuring crops of rabi, the FCI is not purchasing paddy from the farmers. Even whatever paddy has been purchased, the FCI is not effecting payment in time. One poor farmer was starving. The FCI which is procuring paddy through the miller agents, did not effect payment to the farmers for months together. So that farmer consumed poison in front of the Collector's Office and died. This is going to happen everywhere.

So, my appeal to the Government, through you, Sir, is to impress upon the FCI to make immediate payment to the farmers for the paddy that was procured. Otherwise, more and more farmers are likely to die. ...(Interruptions)

Sir, this is a very important problem, and you may please direct the Government to take care of this problem.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: He had given a notice. Please sit down

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE (Ramtek): Mr. Speaker, Sir. Hon'ble Member from Gujarat Smt. Bhavana Chikhalia have raised a issue. I think. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If you cooperate, all of you will get an opportunity to speak. Otherwise, it will become very difficult to accommodate all the hon. Members. The time would get over and the House will be adjourned. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Mr. Speaker Sir, issue of electricity, that has been raised by Smt. Bhavana Chikhalia in this House. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to him. He is already speaking.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Somnath Chatterjee, do you want to speak on this?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Mr. Speaker Sir, the issue raise by Bhavanaji is a very important national issue. ...(Interruptions) The State Minister in the Ministry of Power is present here. I have come to know that since last evening there is no power in five states namely Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Goa. Even in Gujarat, where we have faced such a severe natural calamity, there is no electricity. It is a very important issue. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep silence in the House. It is in your own interest. Otherwise, most of the hon. Members will miss the opportunity of raising issues in the House. Please cooperate.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: I understand that the Grid which failed in our country was one of the strongest grid. Western Grid of India had never failed so far. In fact the northern grid failed some time ago but the Western Grid which was considered the strongest grid has too failed. You can imagine how the situation is getting from bad to worse. The reason being given for this is that government of M.P. drew more quantum of electricity. I am not ready to accept this reason ...(Interruptions) ...(Interruptions) There is a scientific reason for it. ...(Interruptions) Madhya Pradesh drew more electricity, I can accept it. But simultaneously cheques and balances of power grid is also a main reason. I think the reasons given by him that they drew more electricity, I like to cite an example. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I can not give you more time. Your time is over, so please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Sir, I am concluding
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

It is a technical subject as I think the entire House will agree with me. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Subodh Mohite, during 'Zero Hour', you should be very specific and speak for only two or three minute and not more than that.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Mr. Speaker Sir, Hon'ble Minister was sitting here at the time I was raising the question and she went out as I conclude my question. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I just told you to put forth your views. Actually I could have requested you to associate with him. Now your time is over.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Mr. Speaker Sir, my only request is that the matter be investigated thoroughly and its reports be laid on the table of the House. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHIBU SOREN (Dumka): Mr. Speaker Sir, please give us a chance to speak. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Your subject is different. You are well aware about the rules of this House. According to these rules, I cannot allow you to speak.

SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Then time will be over.

MR. SPEAKER: Please meet me in my chamber there I will tell you that how the issues are raised in the House.

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot): Mr. Speaker Sir, I rise up to associate myself with the issue raised by an M.P. from Gujarat, Smt. Bhavnaji. Due to failure of Western Grid, a 2200 MW power plant of Corba caused total darkness in 5-6 states and this caused heavy losses to many states. Bhavanaji emphasised that demanding of 500 MW more power by the Madhya Pradesh was the reason to a Technical snag which caused black out. I would like to bring a report to your notice, the report is—

[English]

"According to the MPSEB officials, the 2,200 MW NTPC thermal plant has developed a technical snag on Tuesday evening, consequently causing under-frequency in the Western Grid."

[Translation]

This 'reason is not related to Madhya Pradesh only. This problem was caused by the Technical Grid and Corba Thermal Plant. I would like to associate myself with this that general public suffered considerably due to non-availability of electricity in hospitals and other places of essential services. ... (Interruptions) I would like to know whether you are giving any assurance that such situation will not occur in future. ... (Interruptions) I would like to ask the Government, whether Government of India will give any assurance to the country or to this House that in future no such fault will occur which may lead to a Grid collapse in the situation of a drought.

[English]

We want an assurance from the Government. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You may please take up the power issue ... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by Shrimati Bhavnaben Chikhali. It is an important issue. It has been reported in *The Hindustan Times* that due to gross negligence on the part of Madhya Pradesh, there was a total failure of electric power in five States of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Daman and Diu. ... (Interruptions) The whole of the area was in dark. In hospitals, emergency operations were disrupted. The farmers were the worst sufferers. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I have been waiting to speak ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to take up that.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Sir, my only request is, senior Members should allow us to raise important issues. ... (Interruptions) When we are raising an important issue, the Members should listen to us. ... (Interruptions) Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by Shrimati Bhavnaben Chikhali. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: When we started with the 'Zero Hour', I had said that the Minister of Railways is here in the House and he would reply on the issue of railway zones. As you are aware, this issue was discussed at length last time in the House during 'Zero Hour'. Since the Minister is here, we are all interested to listen to him. I would request Shri Somnath Chatterjee to speak and thereafter the hon. Minister would speak.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We may also be allowed to speak ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody will not be allowed to speak. A lot of Members have already spoken. I cannot permit everybody to speak otherwise, the Minister will not be able to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh wants to raise the issue from the other side of the House. So, I will permit him to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, what we sincerely want is avoidance of confrontation. We are very much concerned that the matter should not degenerate into a matter of confrontation between one State and another.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, I had raised this issue and the Minister was ready to reply. So, when he replies to this, he can reply to my point also.

RE: BIFURCATION OF EASTERN RAILWAY ZONE

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, we are agitated because without any discussion either on the floor of the House or with the Governments concerned or with the Chief Minister or without any opinion in favour of this division, it has been carried out on the plea that some six years or three years back some decision had been taken. Sir, all the reports that are available in this country with regard to this starting from the C&AG Report, Standing Committee Report, Railway Convention Committee Report, Rakesh Mohan Committee Report as also six ex-Chairmen of the Railway Board have strongly opposed it. They have said that it will be an operational disaster.

Sir, we are concerned with the future of the Railways. Unfortunately, it is turning out to be an issue between one State and another. We are keen to avoid it. But we are against this attitude. It has to be done on a basis which is acceptable to the nation. This bifurcation is being done only for the sectional interest of some of the allies of the NDA Government and with a view to create division between one State and another. Such a decision cannot be taken. We strongly oppose this. Before any action is taken, there has to be a full discussion and everybody should be given a chance to express his views. This is our demand. I would request you to kindly ask the Minister not hurry this. He should take everybody into confidence. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: You will not be allowed to speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Friends, please try to understand. This issue was discussed last time also.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. This is not the way. Everybody must sit down. I would request everybody to sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: So, may I take it that you do not want a reply from the Minister on this question?

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: You please go back. You sit down please.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Let there be a full discussion. ...(*Interruptions*) We want a full discussion on the floor of the House ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Don't you want a reply from Minister?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunath Singh ji, you please speak.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): First you make them sit. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I want to keep peace in the House.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Uttar Pradesh is also getting affected in this case of zone, so we should also be given its reply. It is also falling in Hazipur zone. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, you have called me.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, we are not against Bihar. Please do not misunderstand us
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunath Singh jee, I am allowing you to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Deve Gowda wants to make a suggestion. Let him make whatever suggestion he wants to make.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, this matter should be referred to an Expert Committee
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you do not want to permit even a former Prime Minister to speak in this House, what is this going on? Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: You had called my name.

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to make some suggestions as to how silence can be maintained in the House and how the Minister can reply. Let him say that. But you are not allowing him to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, I have taken your name and I am going to permit you to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA (Kanakpura): Sir, I thank you very much for having given me an opportunity to speak.

The issue of creation of Railway Zones has been pending for the last several years even though there have been Reports by several Committees. During our regime, we had taken a decision to create six Railway Zones. I do not want to mix politics here. Based on the recommendations, we had taken certain decisions without violating those recommendations. But the unfortunate thing is that—I have got the highest regard for Shri Nitish Kumar—about a month back he has made a mention that creation of these Railways Zones is based on political decisions.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): I have not said so. I do not know where it is reported.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: If it has been wrongly reported, I withdraw my words. I have gone through the papers and if you want, I will produce the Press cutting to you. Whether it is rightly or wrongly reported, what I am saying is based on what has been reported. I was not present in that meeting. I am only concerned with the economic feasibility and technical feasibility. Seven new Divisions have been created. There is no question of even an iota of consideration as regards viability. Three new Divisions of 500 kilometres, 400 kilometres and 380 kilometres were created. Is this the way to run the Railways? Has the Railways Board agreed for the creation of these new Divisions? ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): You had inaugurated the Hajipur Division.

[Translation]

It was done by you only. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: I am not against Bihar or anybody. The only thing is creation of new Division apart from new Railway Zones. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: You had laid the stone.
...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: I had not inaugurated any new Division. Let there be a threadbare discussion

in this House. Let the Government take any decision. I have no objection on it. It is upto you and it is your decision. We cannot question or object to it as long as you enjoy the confidence of the House. The only thing is, how this Government has handled the whole issue for political considerations is the matter to be discussed. I want an answer from them. The whole matter should be discussed. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHR¹ KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): If it was done by you, it is not political and if something is done by us, it becomes political. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI H.D DEVE GOWDA: Apart from Railway Zones, they have created new Divisions. There is no question of uniformity or there is no question of any consideration of economic viability. Sir, there should be a through discussion in the House on this issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Kamal Nath jee raised one issue regarding statement of Kumari Mamata Banerjee. Shri Somnath Chatterjee is raising the issue of railway zones. We were of this view till date that Communist Party thinks at a national level ...(*Interruptions*) But after going through his today's statement, I feel that I was wrong. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: This is very unfair. I request Shri Prabhunath Singh not to divide the people. I began by saying that my submission is not against Bihar. Crores of Bihari friends, brothers and sister are in West Bengal. Everybody knows that.

13.00 hrs.

We are not against them. The only thing is that there is a feeling that certain decision has been taken with regard to a most important public carrier in this country, which may not be beneficial to the country as a whole and to the Railways. Therefore, our submission is that we want a discussion on the floor of the House. Let us ventilate our points. My friends will also do that. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh is such a good friend of ours. He has also certain views. Let them come. Let there be a proper discussion and a proper response from the hon. Minister. What crime am I committing? Why are you saying that I am against Bihar. ...(*Interruptions*) I am not at all against Bihar. Where is the double standard?

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: All of you please take your seats.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, see what is happening. I am unable to permit you to speak only because of this. Hon. Members are not prepared to speak with self-control on this issue. So, let the hon. Minister speak now.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, allow us to express our views.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunath Singh, you please speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): It is your decision and not our decision. ...(*Interruptions*) This Government is only implementing that decision. It was your decision.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Is it Lok Sabha or something else? What is going on here? Please sit down. This is not good. This is unbecoming of members.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete. Shri Somnath Chatterjee, my request is that Shri Prabhunath Singh has his own views. Let him express his views.

...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, if Shri Somnath Chatterjee says that he is not against Bihar and Bengal, then, I thank him, but his emotions reflect something else. It seems that he is confined to Bengal only. He is not in a position to think beyond the interest of Bengal ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you deviating from the subject? You express your views. You stick to your point.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Kamal Nath raised the issue of award. We want to know whether Mamata Banarjee. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I did not raise the issue. I said that Kumari Mamata Banarjee is saying. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I said that he has quoted the statement of Kumari Mamata Banerjee ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I said that Mamata Banerjee was saying that she had been awarded and forensic report may reveal some startling facts. So she wants election ...*(Interruptions)*. After this you also were present that day ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I have heard you ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAMAL NATH: But you have not heard properly. I am saying that ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sometime, you are not clear ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I am always clear ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mamata jee has said that she has got it as a reward about which Kamal Nath ji has told this House. We want to know that Mamatajee has been a member of NDA, a partner ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAMAL NATH: She is still a member ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: She is about to opt out as a partner. ...*(Interruptions)* Today she is there, tomorrow she may opt out, this is a 'separate' issue.

She opted out in between, then came back and is about to opt out now but I say that. She has been a partner for such a long time and if railway minister hide some facts which she is unable to recollect ...*(Interruptions)* She remembered that she wanted railway ministry which she could not get, then came up the issue of railway zones and when Atal Bihari Vajpayee jee reiterated in his cabinet meeting that Hazipur Zone would remain as it is in the interest of the country from the administrative point of view. Now, Mamatajee is remembering Godhara and concealment of Godhara fact. ...*(Interruptions)* She does not bother about this. She is concerned about the time when she was Minister of Railways and a big scam took place through some supplier. Now she is worried that the scam will be investigated into. So she is levelling these type of charges and counter-charges in desperation ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Why did you not tell her? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I have come to know about it just now. I shall bring this matter before this House ...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He is not abusing individually.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the hon. Member has made an allegation against the NDA Government and its former Minister of having done something wrong. Therefore, the NDA Government is totally accountable to the House. The whole truth must be revealed by the Government regarding this allegation. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAMAL NATH: He is revealing an allegation against his own Government.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunath Singh ji, your time is over. You should speak without levelling allegations on any subject.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I as well as the House have yet to hear Nitish Kumar.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If Shri Prabhunath Singh completes it in two minutes. I will permit Shri Acharia to make his submission.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: It was also stated in that statement that who was the Prime Minister. In a way, there was an attack on the Deputy Prime Minister in the statement. Kamal Nath ji, the leader of opposition sits here. *...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, this is very wrong. This is not the language that he must use. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will remove that word from the record. I will expunge it from the record.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: He is abusing a woman Member. What is this? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have removed that word from the record.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: This is an abuse heaped on a woman Member. I strongly condemn it. He does not know what language he should use. Let him go to the school to understand the language. He does not deserve to be a Member of the House ...(Interruptions).

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please complete your matter. Why are you diverting to other issue.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I am coming to the issue of Zones ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Speak on this issue only.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Let him first apologise. He does not deserve to be a Member of this House. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already told you that I have removed that word from the record.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I said what Kumari Mamata Banerji said. He said: "The PMO is being hijacked. Who is the real Prime Minister?" I was referring to that. He is abusing the Leader of the Opposition ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: No Member can be described in that language. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: He should apologise to the House. Sir, you have to protect the honour of the Members.

MR. SPEAKER: I have removed that word. Whatever he said about the Leader of the Opposition, that has been removed. The Leader of the Opposition has the same respect as the Leader of the House. I have removed that word.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We cannot allow him. He must apologise first.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Instead of finding out what I said, he is going off on a tangent and abusing a Member of the House. Let it be the Leader of the Opposition or any other Member. Is this the way we are going to describe a Member of the House?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: No Member can be described in that language ...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): He must first apologise.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I also know what is parliamentary or unparliamentary language ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Your allotted time is over now.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: He has got nothing to say about Bihar or Bengal. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: If he does not apologise, we will not allow him to speak.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): He must apologise. What is this?

MR. SPEAKER: He is a senior Member of the House. I have removed that word from the record. Those words are not to be used.

13.08 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. SPEAKER: He is a senior Member of the House. I think he understands his responsibility. Such words should not be used in the House as regards the Leader of the Opposition.

13.09 hrs.

At this stage Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev went back to his seat

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker. Sir, though it is not unparliamentary language ...*(Interruptions)*. If someone is hurt by my language, then I withdraw my words.

[English]

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Let the hon. Minister reply now.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you have raised an important issue. I wanted the Minister to reply. I can adjourn the discussion any time because the time of the 'Zero Hour' is over. Since this is an important issue on which a lot of Members have spoken, I thought that the Minister would reply. I am giving two minutes to Shri Basu Deb Acharia now and thereafter the Minister will reply. I am not going to allow anybody else to speak on this issue.

Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you also speak without making any allegations.

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN KUMAR (Jahanabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether ten MP's of a single party will continue to speak? ...*(Interruptions)* Are we here only for listening.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I will adjourn the House if you will not listen to me.

[English]

If you do not take your seat now, I will adjourn the House. I am giving you a warning. I will take it that you do not want a reply from the Minister.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to speak for a minute on this ...*(Interruptions)*. If they can speak, then I will also speak for a minute.

MR. SPEAKER: You had spoken on that day also.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, kindly allow Raghuvansh Babu to speak.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV (Saharsa): Sir, we should also be given time.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Eastern Railway Zone is being bifurcated to create a new zone with its headquarter at Hajipur. It is also a fact that in 1996, the then Railway Minister announced creation of six new railway zones and in 1998, the present Railway Minister announced creation of another additional zone.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: You, please, talk about the country and not Bengal only.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It concerns not only Bengal but the whole country as well.

[English]

Sir, we would like to know whether the creation of new zones is in the interest of Indian Railways or not. The Railway Minister has not announced a single new project because the Indian Railways is facing acute resource crunch.

Sir, when I was the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Railways in 1996, the Standing Committee on Railways criticised this decision. Afterwards, the C&AG and all the former Chairmen of the Railway Board also criticised the creation of new zones.

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a decision about Hajipur Railway Zone was taken in 1996. ...(*Interruptions*) It was discussed time and again and it was found to be in the public interest and the country ...(*Interruptions*) if any changes are made in this regard, it will not be tolerated.

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the creation of new zones will not add to the operational efficiency of the Indian Railways. The Cabinet has endorsed the decision which was taken in 1996 and no review has been made. So, we demand that this entire issue should be referred to an Expert Committee to study whether there is any necessity for additional zones or not. We also demand that there should be a full-fledged discussion on this issue in the House.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a lot of decision is taking place at different levels for many days on the question of Railway zones. In 1996 a decision was taken by the Cabinet on this. I was an MP at that time too and foundation stone was laid in Hajipur. I would like to ask—have the people of Bihar entered into any agreement that they will remain slaves forever? We never tried to takeover any part of Bengal. ...(*Interruptions*) These people are jealous ...(*Interruptions*). When a new zone has been set up in Bihar ...(*Interruptions*).

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Please discuss it on merits. That is our earnest appeal ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Somnath Chatterjee, let him reply.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is there to reply.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: This country has enough problems. ...(*Interruptions*) There is no dearth of problems ...(*Interruptions*). We want an objective discussion ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep quiet. Now, let the Minister reply.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, Kamal Nath ji referred to my name while mentioning some issue here. Basically, I would like to speak on that issue. Meanwhile, a discussion on zone and division has also taken place. I would touch this subject but in brief. First I will respond to the point raised by Shri Kamal Nath ji who has referred to some statement given by the lady member of the House outside the House, whether in it has been stated that I am being rewarded for covering up the Godhara incident or for concealing the facts. I have a long public life. Nobody can force me to hide any fact in the public life. I myself found it quite astonishing. I took it lightly when I first saw that statement but when hon. Kamal Nath ji, for whom I have great respect raised this question then I felt that it will be appropriate for me to mention here that some of my friends from the press had also asked me about it and I told them that Railway is the victim of the Godhra incident. It was the railway passengers who got killed and it was railway property that got damaged. I would like to know which are the facts that were called for during the investigation which the Ministry of Railways did not provide? Which are the facts that are with the Railway Minister and he did not disclose to the public? It will be a great lesson for me if I am informed. Everybody in the House is aware of the role of the Railway Ministry in such a case. *Ex-gratia* payment is made when some accident takes place, claims are filed which is given through the Railway claim tribunal. *Ex-gratia* payment is made immediately by the Railway Administration. The Godhra incident is an untoward incident. Later on, the Act was amended and untoward incidents were also included in it. Whatever *ex-gratia* payment was to be made by the Railways in this regard, has already been made. Whatever was required to be done for the identified victims, whether they were dead, severely injured or having simple injuries have been done.

It is the duty of the State police to enquire into such incidents. The Railway Ministry cannot enquire into such incidents separately. By inquiry, I mean investigation. I would definitely like to know about the investigation. I would request Kamal Nath ji and the House to tell the facts that were hidden by the Railway Ministry and the Railway Minister which affected the investigation work. I want to refute this charge with all my might. As far I am aware no such fact was hidden which affected the investigation work. I want to refute this charge with all my might. As far I am aware no such fact was hidden

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

which affected the investigation work. A list of injured or dead or those who could be identified was published. There is a list of passengers and the reservation Chart is also available and it can be made available at any time. A newspaper has also sought this information from me. I want to mention the name of that newspaper and it was the correspondent of the Times of India. Who sought this information through a letter. I forwarded that letter to the Director, Public Relation, Ministry of Railways and asked them to make available the information to them. Information has been received from the Traffic Department that this train runs from Muzzaffarpur via Faizabad and the day on which this incident took place according to the list of passengers chart, most of the reservations in coach S-6 were from Lucknow and Kanpur. A few reservations were from next stations also. I have personally seen that chart. The position of the train was such that it was already overcrowded and people had boarded the train from last stations.

13.20 hrs

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

People having reservations faced inconvenience while boarding the train and whether they actually boarded the train or not there is no record to this effect. Chart is available but checking could not be made in this regard as to the number of passengers actually travelled is not known, and the T.T.E. remarked on the chart that the coach was over-crowded because a large number of persons had come for the rally and they had captured the coach due to which checking could not be made. The number of a passengers having reservation and the number of passengers without reservation travelling in that coach could not be ascertained. Therefore, so far as showing of the chart is concerned there is no problem but the people listed in the chart have actually travelled or not, we do not have information about it. We have seen that out of the people who have received the *ex-gratia* payment, the names of 4-5 deceased passengers are listed in reservation chart. The amount paid for grievous injury is comparatively much more than the amount paid for simple injury. *Ex-gratia* payments have been made accordingly. We have enquired about the number of claims that have been received in Railways claims Tribunal. I have been informed that probably eight passengers have submitted their claims. We have also seen this that claims have been made by the family members of the deceased passengers. The names shown in that are 7 dead and 1 injured passenger i.e total eight passengers but according to the chart there are total 9 people listed in the dead and injured category. Whether

the remaining passengers have travelled or not, traffic Department has been directed to inquire about this fact I have also asked that out of them how many passengers have got their reservation cancelled. It is learnt that such passengers are less in number. The number of such people has been informed as six. These figures can be rectified according to the passengers who have got their reservations cancelled. I have given orders to the effect that Railway staff or Inspectors should be sent on the addresses of the people and inquire whether they have travelled or not? Fire broke out in coach S-6. I have given instructions that inquiries should be made on the addresses of all the passengers who had reservations in that train and it should not be restricted to only those who were travelling in coach S-6. It takes time to complete all these formalities or to do investigation. Whatever facts we will accross we will make them public. There is nothing to suppress the facts. I would like to assure the House that facts can neither be suppressed nor they will be suppressed either from my side or from the side of the Government and Railway Administration. We have not imagined it even in our dreams. Such a heinous massacre took place, the investigation of which is going on. Whatever be its outcome, legal action should take its own course. All possible help has been extended and it being extended by the Railway administration. We'll also do our best in this regard. We have inquired our concerned staff of Railways and also RPF in this regard. We have gone through the records. Therefore, I would like to request you to disclose all such facts which have not been mentioned by me. Let me be apprised of those facts also which can bring about some rewards.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I do not play the politics of bargaining. We are with N.D.A. and our party is Samata Party. We have contested the elections together. Our alliance is not based on bargaining. We have our common Minimum Programme which is known as National Agenda of Governance. Our party has no objection till the time the working of the Government is based on the National Agenda of Governance. If there is any difference of opinion between the two Parties, we'll discuss it sitting together. Therefore, there is no bargaining in the matter of Railway zones. I would first like to clarify the point raised by Shri Deve Gowdaji. Whatever I have done is just the implementation of the decision taken by he cabinet during his period. He has mentioned about Division. There should be no confusion, this decision regarding zones was taken by the Government of United Front ...*(Interruptions)* you please listen to me. Why are you interrupting me like this?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): What is new in this? When you are asking the entire House that what is that ...(*Interruptions*) when you have asked the entire House that what fact has been remained untouched with regard to the Godhra incident which could...(*Interruptions*) you are asking ...(*Interruptions*) you have asked that is why I have stood up to speak. You please listen to me for just one minute, I have stood up for you ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him complete now.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, he asked the entire House with respect to Godhra incident. ...(*Interruptions*) When I rise, he does not yield. I am very sorry. He has gone back on his invitation. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri G.M. Banatwalla, he is replying to all those issues raised by the hon. Members. Let him reply.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: When he asked all the Members of the House, he should yield. I am very sorry. He has gone back on his invitation given to the House to tell him about the Godhra incident. ...(*Interruptions*) Let him yield. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri G.M. Banatwalla, will you please resume your seat?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let it go on record that he does not want to yield. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: What have I said which is objectionable? I have said that what kind of information do you want which is with us and we are not making that public. If any information is with the Ministry of Railways, we are ready to make that available. We have not mentioned any objectionable thing in that. In my knowledge. ...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL (Jalesar): You have asked the House that what is that thing. If it is not education for you, it will be education for me. You please tell ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I am telling. I am responding. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please ask after the reply of the Minister. He is replying, why are you interrupting?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he can ask by writing a letter, he can ask questions in the House. He can ask according to all the rules made in this regard. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): There should be a full-fledged discussion on this.

[*English*]

Sir, we want a full-fledged discussion on this. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is replying to all those issues raised by the hon. Member. What do you expect from him?

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, the House is for debate and discussion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right, that is a different matter.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: On a vital issue, there has been no discussion. We want a discussion on this. This is our request. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is agreeing even for that. It is up to the House to find time.

...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Let him talk. The issue of having a discussion on this can be dealt with in BAC. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Ex Prime Minister Honorable Devegowda ji has raised such points in his statement which need to be replied in the House. Beside the issue of zones he has said about division. I would like to inform him that the decision regarding zone was taken in the year 1996 by the Cabinet

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

and so far as the decision of Division is concerned it was taken by the Ministry of Railways, which was taken quite earlier. You would be surprised to know that the decision of Nanded Division was taken in the decade of 1980. In the year 1995-96 the then Railways Minister announced to create few more Divisions in the House itself. We have announced to create few more Divisions in the House itself. We have announced about eight Divisions. What is this ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: You are telling totally incorrect thing. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Why are you interrupting him?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is giving the details.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I am telling something. Shri Devegowda ji was under this impression that we have *suo-motu* created Divisions but it is not like that. The Divisions were created earlier. We only issued notification to operationalise those Divisions. I have mentioned about the Nanded Division, which decided in the eighties. Later on ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please hear him.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: It is not fare if you treat this as a running commentary. Because I will not reply to running commentary.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should not reply to running commentary.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I myself was expert of running commentary during the Tenth Lok Sabha but now our role has changed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is being repeated today.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The then honourable Speaker Shri Shivraj V. Patil is sitting here. I can not reply to this.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: During Tenth Lok Sabha we used to have lunch hour.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Sometimes we did not have.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I feel, when these people move to that side this thing happens. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He has pampered you.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Yes admit that.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have to adjourn the House for the lunch also.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Sir, the decision of issuing notification of eight divisions was based on the past decision. We have not created any new division ourselves. They might have misunderstood us. We would provide them each and every information. Since they had a wrong impression about creating a division that is why we have given all information to them. The decision of zones was taken long back and it was taken by the Cabinet. Railway Ministry was asked to determine the area for zones. After determining the area we have issued the notification, which has been informed to this House. I don't have any objection if anybody wants to have a detailed discussion in this regard. We can have separate discussion about supplementary demands. But this subject has been notified. Lot of comments were being made about this issue outside this House. The cabinet has conferment about the steps being taken by the Ministry of Railways. Even the if you want to have a discussion then House is the appropriate place for this. You can raise a discussions and I will be a part of this discussion, even if you discuss Supplementary Demands I will give detailed replies to it. Because it is already 1.30 and everyone is eager to go for lunch. ...*(Interruptions)* There is not much distance between hunger and anger. That is why I don't want that such kind of situation is created. We must have discussion in a healthy atmosphere. I would like to inform you in details about its operational feasibility of this.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Let there be a discussion....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, suggestions have already been given. You have also given your suggestion. The Government is also prepared to go in for a discussion. Then you can find out the time from the Business Advisory Committee.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: Sir, I am not going into the merits. I will take hardly two minutes. When the hon. Minister is replying, I never disturb him. I never rise from my seat. I want to hear him. There is no question of any disrespect. In 1996 we had taken some decision. He said what happened in 1998, 2000 and subsequently now there is the final decision about the Notification. I have gone through the Notification. A Notification for a new division was issued. I have got a copy of the Notification. A Notification for new railway zone was simultaneously issued. Now I do not want to enter into the merits. But let this House have an opportunity to discuss the entire matter, whether it is based on the political convenience or based on the advice given by the experts or the railway authorities or the Railway Board. Financial feasibility, technical feasibility—all these things have to be discussed in this House. We have to provide Rs. 1800 crore. I do not want to now take the valuable time of the House. Let there be a threadbare discussion. It is not the question of Bihar or Karnataka. ...(*Interruptions*) Hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister, you give us an opportunity for discussion. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The whole House now agrees for a discussion. You can find out the time from the Business Advisory Committee. Then you can have a discussion.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I am not against discussion. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: I thank you very much. Let the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs fix up the time. That is the only demand. Otherwise, the reply of the hon. Minister cannot satisfy us.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: One must understand this. I would request the indulgence of the House that in the Business Advisory Committee, we can discuss what are the pending important legislation, Bills and Ordinances. If the Business Advisory Committee could find out the time for this discussion, then there is no problem ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: So the House has agreed to that.

The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.30 p.m.

13.34 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Thirty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.33 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Thirty-Three minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[SHRI P.H. PANDIAN *in the Chair*]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up matter under Rule 377.

- (I) **Need for construction of a bypass on National Highway at Modl Nagar in Ghaziabad District, U.P.**

[*Translation*]

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR (Hapur): Mr. Chairman Sir, Modinagar is an industrial town in my constituency. It is situated on both sides of the National Highway no. 58. Businessmen and industrialists from various parts of the country come here in connection with their business and of its being a National Highway, a large volume of traffic passes through Modinagar and due to it, often traffic jam take place. In the event of any accident, people stage dharna and demonstrations and they damage public property. There is a long pending demand of the people of Modinagar that a by-pass should be constructed in Modinagar so that traffic problems are solved. Therefore, I request the Central Government to immediately construct a by-pass on National Highway in Modinagar.

- (II) **Need to start Mumbai suburban train service on Vasai-Diva railway line in Maharashtra.**

[*English*]

SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA (Dahanu): Sir, work of doubling of Vasai-Diva railway line is going to be completed shortly. There is a long standing demand to start Mumbai suburban railway service on this route. Thane is the headquarters of the Thane district. Kalyan and Ulhasnagar cities are big cities in Thane district. The people from Talasavi, Dahanu, Palgar, Vasai and Gujarat side have to go to Thane via Dadar railway station. Because of that, trains are overcrowded up to Dadar station. If suburban trains are started on this route,

[Shri Chintaman Wanaga]

passengers can go to Thane directly and it will help reduce overcrowded trains.

I therefore, urge upon the Government to start Mumbai suburban train on this route.

(iii) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Jharkhand to promote literacy in the State

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the illiteracy prevalent in Jharkhand. Although the Central Government is providing funds to the State and running a number of schemes for spreading literacy. The percentage of literacy in Jharkhand is still between 30 to 50 percent and among tribals and women, it is all the more less. It has been observed that shortage of teachers is the main reason of illiteracy in this state. Presently, the number of teachers is less than the sanctioned posts because of which the endeavour of the Central Government for increasing literacy is not succeeding and many schools are lying closed for want to the teachers. There is a great need of teachers in Primary, Middle and High Schools. Vocational courses are also needed so that people can get employment after learning different trades.

Through this House, I request the Government to take necessary states for recruitment of teachers, as per the requirement in Jharkhand State. If needed, funds should also be made available for this purpose.

(iv) Need to exempt small units from compulsory furnishing of 'C' from on Inter-state sale in Union Territory of Daman and Diu

[English]

SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL (Daman and Diu): The "C" form has been made compulsory on inter-State sale in Daman where approximately 98 per cent sale is inter-State and the industry shall face great practical difficulty for implementing the same. This may also cause flying of industries from Daman to different respective States which shall hamper the basic idea of the Central Government for promoting industries in backward areas and particularly in a very small area like Daman where goods are manufactured and are only dependent on inter-State sale mostly to individuals.

Sir, here I would like to mention that these industries are contributing to the National Exchequer by way of direct and indirect taxes amounting to Rs. 3000 crore approximately and generating employment.

Sir, I feel that after implementation of furnishing of Form "C" compulsory, the small units which are dependent on individuals for their sale in the respective States have no other option but to migrate from Daman.

I humbly request the Ministry of Finance to exempt Union Territory of Daman and Diu from compulsory furnishing of Form "C".

(v) Need for construction of a flyover at Chilbilla in Pratapgarh district on Faizabad-Allahabad National Highway, U.P.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH (Pratapgarh): Mr. Chairman Sir, through the House, I want to draw the attention of the Government towards construction of a flyover at Chilbilla in the middle of Pratapgarh town of my parliamentary constituency, Pratapgarh. This place lies on Faizabad-Allahabad route and recently it has been declared as a National Highway. The commercial vehicles from Uttar Pradesh as well as from other states also pass through this road. On Chilbilla route traffic jams for long hour are very common which causes lot of difficulties to the people.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to construct a flyover at Chilbilla in Pratapgarh district on Faizabad-Allahabad National Highway on priority basis.

(vi) Need to accord sanction to the proposal of Cochin Port Trust Board for setting up transhipment terminal at Vallarpadam In Kerala

[English]

SHRI GEORGE EDEN (Emakulam): The setting up of a world class transhipment terminal at Vallarpadam is one of the most ambitious projects of Cochin Port Trust. A feasibility study was undertaken in 1990 and it was updated in 1998. The updated feasibility study on Vallarpadam recommended taking up the project in phases, the total cost being estimated to be Rs. 1,875 crore. The Vallarpadam project will be helpful for new projects like Petronet Terminal at Puthu Vipeen and the deepened channel can be made use of by the L.N.G. project also. It will also give boost to value addition of

industries in Kerala. The Port Trust Board had approved the proposal in its meeting held on 7.9.2002 and the proposal was forwarded to the Ministry of Shipping on September, 2000. But the project has still not taken off.

As a long outstanding major project to be implemented in the State of Kerala and that too very vital for the development of Cochin Port Trust, I request the Ministry of Shipping to consider all the above aspects and to take necessary steps to implement the project at the earliest.

(vii) Need to provide employment opportunities to apprentices who completed apprentice course training in Chittaranjan Locomotive Workshop, West Bengal.

SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY (Asansol): I would like to draw the attention of the House as well as the hon. Minister of Railways in the matter of employment of the apprentices who completed apprentice course along with shop training in Chittaranjan Locomotive Workshop. These apprentices have also passed the All India Trade test. Prior to this, the Chittaranjan Locomotive Workshop used to absorb these skilled apprentices, but for the last three-four years, the Management has not yet provided them with the employment in Chittaranjan Locomotive Works or elsewhere in the Railways. About 350 apprentices are waiting for appointment. On the other hand, the Management recently recruited 400 unskilled persons in C.L.W. without providing these skilled and trained apprentices with the jobs.

Therefore, I urge upon the hon. Railway Minister to engage the above apprentices in jobs without delay as they have been waiting for four long years.

(viii) Need to reduce basic excise duty on life saving medical equipment.

DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI (Peddapalli): A drastic increase in duty on medical equipment and devices has taken a heavy toll on the health care sector. A basic duty of five per cent on life saving medical equipment and devices and an additional duty of 20.8 per cent on several others through a CVD of 16 per cent has hit the common man.

The Finance Bill 2002-03 has levied a basic duty of five per cent on 156 life saving equipment and devices (prices between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 1.5 lakh). Typically these are imported devices and equipment used in heart, neurological and nephrological disorders and peripheral vascular diseases, for example, cardiac stents and

catheters, cath lab and CAPD equipment (used in dialysis).

Further, some other crucial medical devices will now attract a CVD of 16 per cent.

The excise notification says that for companies with a manufacturing plant under MODVAT, CVD would be only four per cent. On the other hand, if the item is imported, CVD would be 16 per cent.

With increased costs limiting the size of the healthcare market, India may become less attractive for potential foreign investors.

I, therefore, request the Union Government to reconsider and reduce the duty hike on life saving medical equipment and devices like stent, catheter, etc., in the interest of general healthcare in the country.

(ix) Need to include left out villages for construction of link roads under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana particularly in Jalesar Parliamentary constituency, U.P.

[*Translation*]

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL (Jalesar): Under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana, link roads are to be constructed for connecting all the villages having a population of one thousand and above if these are not connected with any link road. Throughout the country including my Jalesar Parliamentary constituency, U.P., Phase-I Phase-II Phase-III have already been constructed under PMGSY. By the year 2007, all the villages having a population between 250 and 500 are to be linked by roads. Due to non-verification of financial position while preparing the Master Plan of the district by the state Governments, many villages have been left out in spite of fulfilling the conditions of the scheme as result of which these villages are deprived from benefit of development in my Lok Sabha Parliamentary constituency. Villages of Tundla block in district Ferozabad, Nagla Chhainkur, Rampur, Parakharpur, Harchandpur, villages of Naarkhi Block Gadavia Garhi, Ahiwaran village Sadasukh of Ferozabad block and village of Jalesar (district Etah) block, Bharatpur, Nagla, Nagwai, Nagla Meera, Fazilpur, Kyaar, Villages Dupariha, Balidadpur, Narau Madesara, Nagla, Vdai of Awagarh block and villages fatta ka Nagla, Vidhipur of Sadabad Block in district Hathras and villages of Block Sahapau Nagla Brahman and in district Etah, Nidholi Kalan and Marhara blocks have been deprived of the benefits of this scheme despite fulfilling all the requirements under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana.

[Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel]

The Union Government is requested to direct the State Government to physically verify all the villages afresh all over the country for inclusion in the scheme and also go get the foundation stone laid by the Members of Parliament for the construction of roads under this scheme.

- (x) **Need to protect the interest of workers engaged in manufacturing of high density poly-ethylene monofilament yarn mosquito nets in Karur Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu**

[English]

SHRI M. CHINNASAMY (Karur): Sir, Karur Parliamentary Constituency in Tamil Nadu is famous for manufacture of high-density poly ethelene monofilament yarn mosquito nets. More than two lakh labourers are employed in these manufacturing units and manufactured products are being supplied to the whole of North India. But now these manufacturers are severely affected due to the smuggling of Nylon nets from Bangladesh and Bhutan into India. The smuggled mosquito nets are being sold at a throwaway price to the public thus affecting the supply of HDPE monofilament yarn mosquito nets.

In order to save these industries from closure and to save the lakhs of labourers from unemployment, the Government should come forward to purchase the mosquito nets through the Ministry of Health instead of Nylon mosquito nets. This was already represented by me to the hon. Prime Minister on 10th May, 2002. The Government will have to take serious steps to stop the smuggling of mosquito nets from Bangladesh and Bhutan through Kolkata in order to save the lakhs of labourers from unemployment and starvation.

- (xi) **Need to look into the problems being faced by the students of Mizoram University in seeking admission in other Universities.**

SHRI VANLAL ZAWMA (Mizoram): Sir, the Mizoram University Bill was passed by this august House on 16th March, 2002. The President of India gave his consent on 25th April, 2000. Accordingly, the Vice-Chancellor was appointed by the Visitor, that is the President of India.

The Mizoram University has been functioning smoothly from July, 2001. The first public examination was conducted in the current year, that is 2002, following the North Eastern Hill University (NEHU) syllabus. Certificates were given to the students.

However, students passing or graduating from the Mizoram University are facing the problem of admission in some institutions. For example, in the Department of History and the Department of Political Science, Delhi University, students have been turned down on the grounds that they had not heard of 'Mizoram University'

and that it was not in their University Grants Commission (UGC) list. Their application forms were rejected and students had to go back to Mizoram. Being a Central University, this kind of treatment to our students from other institutions is incomprehensible.

I, therefore, raise the problem faced by the students of Mizoram University and request immediate redressal from the concerned authority.

- (xii) **Need to frame guidelines for allocation of funds for proper maintenance of National Highways in hilly regions, particularly in Himachal Pradesh.**

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, H.P.): Mr. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to bring to the notice of the Minister of surface Transport that in hilly areas, comparatively more expenditure is incurred on the maintenance of National Highways but under the policy of the Government of India, equal amount is given for the maintained properly in plains but in hilly region, particularly in Himachal Pradesh highways pass through remote and tribal areas where land slides often take place due to heavy rains and snow fall and roads get damaged at various points. More machinery and labourers are required there to repair these roads and to remove the debris from there. The State Governments feel that the money allocated by the Central Government for the maintenance of National Highways is inadequate and they have to incur more expenditure from their own source for keeping these Highways motorable.

In such a critical situation, through you, I request the Hon'ble Minister that different parameters may be fixed for hilly and border areas and more funds be given to Himachal Pradesh in comparison to plains for the maintenance of National Highways so that the State Government can maintain these highways properly.

14.54 hrs.

DEMAND FOR EXCESS GRANTS 1999-2000—GENERAL AND SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS 2002-2003—GENERAL

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We now move to the next item. Demand for Excess Grant (General) and Supplementary Demands for Grant (General) are to be discussed together. Time allotted for discussion is two hours.

Motions moved:

"That the respective excess sum not exceeding the amount shown in the second column of the Order Paper be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to make good the excess on the respective grant during the year ended on 31st March, 2000, in respect of the following Demand entered in the first column thereof Demand No. 100."

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and

Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during on the year ending the 31st day of March, 2003, in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof, against Demand Nos. "1, 9 to 14, 23 to 26, 28, 38 to 40, 42, 48, 54, 56, 58, 61, 66, 71, 75, 78, 81 to 83, 85, 88 and 102."

The time allotted is two hours. Every speaker should remind himself or herself about this time limit.

Demand for Excess Grants (General) for 1999-2000, submitted to the Vote of the House

No. and Name of Demand		Amount of Demand submitted to the vote of the House	
1		2	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
100	Chandigarh	...	492010
	Grand Total	...	492010

Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2002-2003 submitted to the Vote of Lok Sabha

No. & Title of Demand		Amount of Demand for Grant Submitted to the Vote of Lok Sabha	
1		2	3
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE			
1.	Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	—	100000
MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES			
9.	DEPARTMENT OF MINES	1300000000	300000000
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY			
10.	Department of Commerce	10100000	100000
11.	Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion	100000	—
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY			
12.	Department of Posts	6400000	—
13.	Department of Telecommunications	100000	7200000000
14.	Department of Information Technology	100000	—

1	2	3
DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION		
23. Department of Development of North Eastern Region	1800000000	—
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS		
24. Ministry of Environment and Forests	178300000	—
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS		
25. Ministry of External Affairs	1254600000	—
MINISTRY OF FINANCE		
26. Department of Economic Affairs	195500000	—
28. Payments of Financial Institutions	31914100000	1618400000
38. Indirect Taxes	—	100000
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION		
39. Department of Consumer Affairs	51200000	—
40. Department of Food and Public Distribution	11400000	—
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE		
42. Department of Health	100000	—
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS		
48. Other Expenditure of the Ministry of Home Affairs	40700000	—
MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES		
54. Department of Heavy Industry	5455000000	300000
MINISTRY OF LABOUR		
56. Ministry of Labour	142400000	—
MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS		
58. Election Commission	100000	—
MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES		
61. Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources	100000	—
MINISTRY OF POWER		
66. Ministry of Power	300000	—
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY		
71. Department of Scientific and Industrial Research	80100000	—
MINISTRY OF STEEL		
75. Ministry of Steel	1860000000	1450000000

1	2	3
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES		
78. Ministry of Textiles	1300000000	—
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS		
81. Ministry of Tribal Affairs	52800000	32000000
MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION		
82. Department of Urban Development	—	1346000000
83. Public Works	—	100000
85. Department of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation	—	15000000
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS		
88. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports	24000000	—
UNION TERRITORIES		
(WITHOUT LEGISLATURE)		
102. Lakshadweep	—	27500000
GRAND TOTAL	45677500000	24103600000

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): Sir, I thought you are giving me that much time.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand here in this House, at a time, when the economy is certainly not something on which one can congratulate the Government. As was said, it is, perhaps, a very difficult time. The driver in the seat has been changed knowing that the vehicle is almost coming to a grinding halt. However, as everybody is asking, "What can this man do now?" That is your picture. It simply says, "What can this man do now?" All you diplomatic specialisation, all your charm which you used in the diplomatic field as the Foreign Minister, I suppose the Prime Minister expects, will bear some fruit in this Ministry now or is it simply that it became rather uncomfortable to have the former Finance Minister reply to a lot of questions which were being asked and so they thought it is better that you do the explanations in as diplomatic a manner as possible.

Sir, looking at the economy today, industrial growth is stagnating, and exports are falling. The Cabinet has rejected the proposal for VRS, I mean, the compulsory part of it, for Government employees in spite of repeated assurances that you were downsizing the Government, I mean, the bureaucracy, in order to bring down your cost

overheads on administration. The PSUs are fast disappearing. I must also say that, perhaps, after all the exercises you have done on fast track capitalism, it is destroying the economy and making India a dependent nation, something which for years we had promised we would never let happen.

If I can recount just some of the effect that we see today: the revenue collections have begun to fall and interest payments are mounting in comparison. Loans are becoming the only way to finance your various schemes and added to that is, of course, the effect of disinvestment in the public sector using that money for your window-dressing of budgetary needs.

There is also now a proposal which, I am told at the instance of the PMO, the Cabinet Secretary has presented for privatising pensions and the Employees' State Insurance. You will be playing, like you did in the UTI, with 19 million households by privatising pension schemes and let people again do what they did with UTI. You say that this is a way of downsizing, but at the same time, you do not downsize your bureaucracy.

Sir, I am not going into the details of each scam because this is something which we have talked about

[Shrimati Margaret Alva]

so many times in his House. The stock market scam saw an estimated Rs. 70,000 crore in share values just disappear. I am on the JPC and I will not go into anything. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI (Bijnor): You are levelling baseless charges. You level the charges by name.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: You give me a reply. I am ready to listen.

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: You people are involved in scams yourselves and here you are levelling baseless imputations.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: You speak when your subject is taken. Please do not speak over finance.

[English]

Please do not disturb me. You can give him time and let him speak. He does not have to comment on everything I am saying.

15.00 hrs.

Leaks from within led to huge withdrawals in the UTI leading to its collapse. What has come out in the Press? We recently, just last week, had a briefing by the CII, and I have the figures with me. There was a special briefing for the MPs. The UTI has no money left after redeeming the 30th June Scheme; four schemes fall due this year to be redeemed, and eight more fall due next year. Just for the year 2002, you are going to need Rs. 3,000 crores to Rs. 3,500 crores to be able to pay back the people to whom commitments have been made. Where is the money going to come from? I presume, you will sell some public sector undertakings or borrow from whichever bank in the world is prepared to bail you out. An estimated Rs. 20,000 crore of savings of small people have been lost in the UTI scam, and these are not the big ones. The big ones drew their money in time because they were properly advised through inside sources, but the small people who invested their lives' savings in UTI are today asking you as to what you have done with their money and where they would go.

Sir, the Defence scams are on tape to see. The Commission is inquiring into it. The Defence Minister has appeared before it. There are top aides in the Defence

Ministry in the dock. Some have been court-martialled and others are under investigation. The Commission is meeting. Well, more funds seem to be coming to political parties again, while the Commission is still inquiring.

The ICEI age, if I may say so, is melting. 'Pink slips' are becoming the order of the day. More and more of the young people, who had thought that the information technology age was a heaven, today, in India, have begun to receive 'go-home' slips, the pink slips. The Telecom scam has been discussed and I will not go into it. There was a multi-crore windfall to companies by withdrawing rather by reducing the licence fee. I do not want to ask as to who gained and where.

Sir, there is a debate on the disinvestment issue tomorrow, and I am not going into the details. However, your Tenth Plan Approach Paper has set a target of Rs. 16,000 crores a year from disinvestment. What more are you going to sell? Wherefrom are you going to raise Rs. 16,000 crore every year? Is it going to be done by selling out and disinvestment of all PSUs? I don't know as to what you would have to be Rastrapati Bhawan would have to be sold. Your annual target for the Tenth Plan, as per the Approach Paper which you circulated, is Rs. 16,000 crore. We have seen the disinvestment of Modern Foods, BALCO, Maruti, and now the *Navratnas* are on auction, if I may say so. The NALCO matter was discussed in the House. What is the money being used for?

[Translation]

You said you are also doing.

[English]

When Shri Manmohan Singh and the Congress Government went for disinvestment, there was a plan of action. The money was being used for reinvestment either to help the sick units revival or for purposes of creating a fund to help train those who would be out of jobs in the public sector. There was a system and planning. What are you doing today? Where is the money being used except to bridge the gap in your budgetary requirements?

You have come for Supplementary Demands. I suppose, by October, you will come again and, by January, you will come again.

[Translation]

I do not know, how all of a sudden External Affairs needed money?

[English]

In the middle of the year, what was so big that the External Affairs Ministry has done? It has been a disaster on the diplomatic front with the Americans coming and saying that Kashmir has been internationalised and other announcing that India is not a safe place to go to. It led to a total collapse of the tourist trade in India.

[Translation]

Many other ministries also want money. I don't know why?

[English]

The Ministry of Finance is asking for money; the Ministry of Consumer Affairs is asking for money. But what is shocking in this is that I thought there would be a head somewhere in these Demands for a Drought Calamity Fund at this moment, to which the Government would perhaps take money from other ministries and put in. But there has not been a mention of that here. We are faced with the worst drought of the century. The villages, in many parts of our country, are in the grip of drought without even drinking water and everybody is looking towards the sky for a few drops of rain.

[Translation]

Team will go to see and come back, but how long will it take?

[English]

We have seen this happening. There was a debate in the House, assurances were given, teams were sent.

[Translation]

We will send team, team will go. We shall assess, but how long will it take?

[English]

But migrations have started. The aged, the women, the children and cattle only are left in the villages and the able-bodied persons are moving out of the villages in search of employment to survive. What has been the response of the Government? I would like to say, 'please do not play politics with Drought Relief Fund.' These are human lives, no matter to which State they belong.

Sir, the Chief Minister of my State was here the other day with leaders of all parties including that of yours from Karnataka. I just would like to mention a few things here. In the year 2000-01, we had a drought and we asked for Rs. 900 crore but we did not get one rupee for Karnataka. Then we asked for Rs. 80 crore because of crop damage due to a hail storm but no funds were released. This year we have asked for Rs. 500 crore but the response has been very lukewarm the other day. We had asked for a sum of Rs. 70.51 crore from the National Calamity Contingency Fund and for the first time we have got, shall I say Thank God, Rs. 30 crore. We have received that amount. These are the responses of the Government to the terrible situation that we are faced with.

Sir, let us take the case of Madhya Pradesh. I am talking particularly of the States with which we have been involved. I am not saying the other States are not important. I am talking about five or six Congress ruled States that are in real trouble. So is the case with Haryana and Punjab. The States of Bihar and Assam are reeling under unprecedented flood situation. People are dying but the godowns of the Government are filled with sixty million tonnes of foodgrains. What is the Government doing with it? Are you going to let them lie there when people are dying because of rain and lack of work? A 'food for work' programme should have been announced by the Prime Minister the moment the intensity of the drought was realised.

[Translation]

What is happening?

[English]

Can we play with human misery in this bureaucratic fashion where team would go, they have to be hosted, looked after and taken around? They would come back then make an assessment and then prepare a report. What is happening?

Sir, I was a Member of the National Drought Management Committee in the 1980s when I was a Minister under the late Rajiv Gandhi. He chaired every meeting. We were on a leash. We had to monitor things everyday. We were given charge of different States. I was given the charge of Rajasthan with two other senior Ministers. We had to check the hand pumps, we had to check the water and we were supposed to go there. A meeting, every week, was held in the Prime Minister's Office where he chaired it and used to say that this was

[Shrimati Margaret Alva]

his report and asked about our reports. There was a system of cross-checking things. Here, the Ministers are sitting. This Government has 79 Ministers. Many of them complain that they do not get files; they do not have rooms to sit and they have no work. Please sent them to those areas, let them sit in the drought-hit areas and see how the money is going to be spent and what is going to be done. What is the response of the Government? Believe me, this drought is going to either make or break our economy. How do we manage it? It is not a question of relief. It is a question of drought management as the late Rajiv Gandhi had said. You have to manage it.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): The drought situation has already been discussed in this House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: I know that. ...*(Interruptions)* But I did not speak on that day ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I think, you were present there when the hon. Minister was replying to the debate on the drought situation. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: I am not using my time ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I think you were there I understand your feelings. I support your feelings. But, I think you were there. Were you there? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a discussion on Demands for Excess Grants. Probably she may ask for financial help.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: That is what I am saying to them. How is it that they have not mentioned even one rupee of special grant to States in these Supplementary Demands? I thought that in response to ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): The National Calamity Relief Fund is there, National Calamity Contingency Fund is there. From that corpus the funds will go ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: It has already been announced by the Minister. There is no need to mention it in this. The programme has already been announced. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly cooperate. The time allotted is two hours. Please sit down.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: A task force has been set up under the Chairmanship of hon. Deputy Prime Minister of the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: When she has got the floor, nobody can interrupt. There cannot be any cross talk.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan): Sir, may I know the rules for putting on the microphones? Whenever a Member from that side speaks, the microphones are put on; and when we talk, microphones are not put on. May I know the rules? Whenever Kirit talks the microphone is put on; whenever I talk microphone is not put on. What is the secret? Why is this partiality?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will find out. When the Speaker give his consent, the microphones is put on. That is the normal procedure. I will find out.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): I appreciate my friend Kirit's struggle to become a Minister. But he should not do like this. Let the Member complete her contribution. The Minister is here. He is competent to respond. Let him respond.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I have only asked whether she was present during the discussion that day. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

We appreciate her concern.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted for Congress is 25 minutes. We have to accommodate three speakers from Congress. She has taken 20 minutes.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, it is not a question of microphone, it is not a question of one hon. Member or some hon. Members appreciating ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: The whole party was not there. When the Minister replies, you go out.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Somaiya, this is not good.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I am not prepared to learn parliamentary manners from him, let him be sure.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Exactly! We do not need to learn rules from him. We have been in Parliament long before he has come to Parliament.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He has no authority to teach others; all these self-appointed guardians of this House have no authority to teach us. The Chair is there. If some Member is not speaking properly or talking irrelevant things, there are rule book, the Chair should decide that. All the self-appointed guardians of this House are giving everybody lectures! ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara): You are doing the same thing. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have not given consent to any other Member except Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I want your ruling whether, during discussion on Supplementary Demands for Grants, a Member has a right to ask the Finance Minister any allotment for drought relief. If you say no, you give a ruling and she will not speak on those things. If you say she can, she will continue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: She has got a right. Shri Somnath Chatterjee is a senior Member. He can advise the Members, but not all.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I was not advising. I was requesting very humbly that there are rules of procedure in the House. I will depend on the Finance Minister. I am sure he will guide his members, if they listen to him. I do not know! With Vajpayeeji's present position, they may not listen to him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I appreciate your advice.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Okay, let us leave drought since Shri Somaiya is allergic to that subject.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Margaret Alva, you have consumed 20 minutes. The time allotted to your party is 25 minute. I have to accommodate three speakers from Congress party. We have to complete the discussion within two hours.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: I am going to ask the Minister what he is doing about the mounting NPAs which he has to deal with. They run into Rs. 83,000 crore. Thirteen per cent of the gross advances are today NPAs. Of course, they have come with an Ordinance on the 21st of June, as if Ordinances by themselves are

going to solve the problem. I want to know as to what is the next step. I know that denationalisation is on their agenda. But no one is going to help you pass that. So, you will have to find out other ways by which you can sort it out.

IFCI is bankrupt. On the 26th of March, it reneged on redemption of preferential shares. I must say that its NPAs today exceed 600 per cent of its net worth. What was the Finance Ministry doing until it reached that figure? It does not meet capital adequacy requirements; it has been downgraded to inadequate safety level; and many pension funds of public sector undertakings and charitable trusts have been invested in IFCI. Therefore, you have to bail them out. You are going to require an amount of Rs. 1500 crore more, to do that. I am asking the Finance Minister.

[Translation]

You have been made Finance Minister. You have to do something.

[English]

I do not know whether he has a magic-wand or any special way of dealing with some banks or some international agency to be able to get this entire money. I am just giving you the figures of funds which you are going to need in the course of this year. This Supplementary Budget is an eye-wash. He will need to come back again for crores and crores of rupees in the next few months.

We are talking of Foreign Direct Investment. Again, there will be voices asking,

[Translation]

What does it have?

[English]

I am just asking him. Investments are only in speculative investment-of stocks and shares, consume goods, quick profit areas, etc. I would like to know how much money is going to be there, (specially after Dabhol and Enron) is going to come, into power sector, into infrastructure, into creating jobs, etc. Instead of creating one crore jobs, a year which was promised, it is VRS, it is closing down of the small scale industries, it is competition from the huge multinationals, which is there. Even *bindis* today are on the OGL.

[Shrimati Margaret Alva]

[Translation]

Even Bindi may be imported for the ladies of Hindustan.

[English]

Everything is being imported—vegetables, fruits, milk, milk products, etc. Anything that you want is being imported. Whatever we have here is on sale. The poor Minister is sitting here. Even Air India is on sale. He is trying to bring in massages to keep Air India passengers happy.

[Translation]

These will not be even plane for massages. It is also being sold.

[English]

I am asking the Minister. On the one hand, they are disinvesting and on the other hand, FDI is not coming in. I want to mention some figures to him.

Clearance vis-a-vis actual inflow's percentage-wise is 47.7 in 1991; in 1998; it has dropped to 33.8. We are told that it is going to go down further. There is no assurance of any politically stable society. Look at how much Gujarat has lost—it is Rs. 5000 crore. Now, investments are moving to other States. People want a secure atmosphere to invest, which you are slowly eroding. There is slump in the economy and they have no definite policy.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA (Junagarh): It is coming. It will come tomorrow and will come after that also. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: We are looking towards that. Your minister too will have to address.

MR. CHAIRMAN: When you get your chance, you can respond. Otherwise, she will get more time, under the guise of replying to you.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, WTO regime has eroded our small scale sector and our industries. I want to say that the small scale sector is dying. Unemployment is mounting. The sickness in the small scale industry is growing. Everything is because of competition from all over. Including *shampoos* and other cosmetics are coming

from other countries. People of this sector have told me this. They have met me and reported to me saying that they could not survive under this regime.

We know what has happened to the tourism sector because of what happened on 11th September. People have cancelled the bookings that they had made for the whole season. Tourism has been the most hit—33 per cent has been the occupancy level, after what had happened. I am only saying that the Minister needs to look at issues and not just make soft speeches that he makes, the situation is really serious. I am not saying that the defence of the country is not important but everybody knows what it costs if you keep your defence forces on full alert on the borders for such a prolonged period, through summer and now through winter. Generally, wars are not fought sitting there over eight to ten months. You fight, finish and then withdraw. But here, the way the economy is bleeding with this experiment is something which all of us know about and I will not go into it.

I will make my last point and then conclude. He will again say that it is out of context but then the Minister has asked for grants for public works and so on. I welcome the Prime Minister's Gram Sarak Yojana. We in the rural areas really welcome this connectivity of villages, remote areas, by road. But the conditions which are being imposed for giving these contracts are such that only huge contractors, who can give these huge deposits and so on, are able to get the work and many who have investment, who have contract labour who are not so big are totally pushed out of it and are really in trouble. We are saying that while you give these huge contracts to multinational big companies, let there be a provision for the smaller people to be able to participate because, otherwise, you are going to make them bankrupt with all their investments.

I have taken time and I am grateful for your patience. In conclusion, I would only like to point out to the hon. Minister that as the economic growth slows down to five per cent or less, as agriculture stagnates with drought and floods and destroys our hopes, as industrial investment declines by almost a third, exports grind to a poor five per cent as against the 20 per cent target, and as income and regional disparities widen further, the Government's obsession with privatisation and cut in public spending will grow but it has to be contained. A hollowed out irresponsible state, presiding over an unequal, discontented and divided society is a recipe for social and political collapse and in that scenario I ask again, "what can this poor man do!"

[Translation]

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI (Jaunpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me a chance to speak on supplementary budget. Just now Hon'ble Alva jee was expressing her ideas. I do not want to discuss her ideas but I would certainly like to say that the present economic condition of the India has not become so within some years, months or days. It has been an incessant process and present situation is the result of that. As Hon'ble Alva jee told herself that driver has been changed in the middle so it seems to me that to augment the speed to make it more correct, it's need was felt. We should thank Hon'ble Prime Minister for that because Hon'ble Sinha jee, the former Minister of Finance was working according to the need of public and whatever we had, the country had, he was trying to run it systematically but for financial discipline, Ministry of Finance was handed over to Hon'ble Jaswant Singh and he has been welcomed by the media, financial institutions and financial experts of the country. Almost every area of the country welcomed this change. This change is not only confined to cabinet but the change is visible in policies too with positive results. Hon'ble Prime Minister had called upon a meeting of economy experts which was presided by himself. He asked for their advice to make economy dynamic. A scheme has been prepared for the implementation of their advice. Work has begun under the same scheme.

I hope to achieve the expected productivity target by the year end. The present recession is world wide and we are trying to protect our people in the present market situation.

Hon'ble member Shri Alva jee was speaking about UTI. It was a bad thing. No one would disagree with that because small investors had invested in that scheme with a hope to earn profit. UTI was not constituted overnight. It was an old institution. People had faith in that financial institution but the situation became such that people were shocked but they were compensated. A big amount demanded in the Supplementary Budget is for the small investors so that they may not get disappointed and can get back their amount whenever they want. That is why it has been invested and appears to be a big amount. Similarly it seems that the Government have tried to solve the problems of the persons who have invested in others banks.

Just now there was a mention of W.T.O. and arrival of foreign goods in the Indian market. Madam Alva must be remembering that when it was allowed she was the

Minister. We have not allowed it. When W.T.O. was signed. We were not in power. She was in power. At that time we had raised the voice that unless our country gets prepared for it and the economic conditions of the country becomes fit for it, we should not sign these documents. Presently there is no need for this we should sign these documents only when we are prepared for this but we did not take into account our condition. At that time we were dancing to the tunes of I.M.F. and World Bank. We are repaying our loans by the amount given by them. We were repaying our loans by taking loan. We conceited our prosperity over our poverty. We misguided the country and jumped into the international arena. We should have waited and should not signed it, as was done by China. First we should have improved our economic condition and made our country self-reliant by promoting the smaller Industrial Units and rural production. Then we should have signed it had we done so, there would not have any problem. China has signed it now. She is not facing any problem. We should have got the country prepared for it. We are struggling and trying save ourselves at international level.

We have to see as to how to safeguard the interests of the country and the common people in the changing economic scenario at the international level because we are not going to compromise over the nation's interest. We have never made our Budget under the pressure of I.M.F. and World Bank.

Just now the name of an Ex-Finance Minister was taken. I would not like to say something about him. I remember that at that time I was a member of Lok Sabha. At that time the provisions in the Budget were made as per the dictates of the I.M.F. and World Bank. We are not making that mistake. We have never worked under the pressure of any international institution. We are fighting the circumstances in our own way and our nation has progressed. So far as the rating is concerned our Financial institutions and Government of India are being ranked respectfully. So far as the question of disinvestment is concerned, India is not being viewed disrespectfully. The financial condition of Indian is being respected at international level. But it is asked again and again as to what we are setting. What I mean to say is that we had not opened our markets. We have been saying from the very beginning that there should be foreign investment in the field of education and in infrastructure but whatever was the situation we could save ourselves. When the Budget was being discussed it was being said that the process of dumping will commence. Indian markets will be flooded with the goods of China, France and of other countries. But today Chinese goods are not seen

[Shri Chinmayanand Swami]

anywhere. It is not proper to level charges on the basis of imagination only. We should also take into account the doors that have been opened.

Till date our economy used to look after the welfare of a handful of people but the doors of the banks have been opened for such rural women also who did not had any resources. They just used to pick the dung and now these women are getting loans from the banks to purchase buffaloes. Now they are starting their own banking system. When we visited the rural area. We were surprised to see the activities of self help Groups and S.N.G. They are managing their own banking system. They are creating the opportunities of employment by collecting rupees 5-5, 10-10. They are developing self reliance. I have seen in the hilly areas that they are growing fruits and flowers beyond the season. We should provide them with good marketing system. But attention have been paid to the villages and their needs.

Just now Alvaji was mentioning about the 'Pradhanmantri Sadak Yojana'. We have been mentioning this for the last 50 years that India is a country of villages but we did not make roads to reach the villages. Not to talk of connecting the villages to Delhi, we have not even connected them to the market or Mandi. In my constituency, still there are 272 villages where there are no roads till date. This is the country of villages but there are very few villages which have been electrified so far. Today we fix targets that all the villages would be electrified after so many years. But certainly there is the need of doing more in the field of power generation. There is the need of investment in that. I believe that the Government wants to electrify all the villages and at the same time it also wants to generate power as per their requirement. Their intention and objective reflects it.

Besides, I want to say one more thing that when the work of construction of roads is taken in hand the cement and Iron industry get lot of work and even the workers and other people get jobs. We should praise our Prime Minister because he has not only assured to construct the rural roads but also propose to connect Kashmir to Kanya Kumari by road. We have connected West to East by an express highway. We are doing this big work by spending 60 crores of rupees. This amount is going to the foreign companies but it is that going in the pockets of poor people of our country. As such they are able to earn their livelihood and employment. We must keep this thing in our minds.

So far as drought situation is concerned. God forbade that such a situation may arise in any country. At least it should not be politicised. It should not be discussed. It

is beyond our control and neither I nor you can do any thing in this regard. But to some extent we are also responsible for it, because we did not try to save the environment, trees and mountains. Had we saved trees on the mountains and made arrangement for storing water at Mountains, planted trees, our Himalayas would have been safe, our Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh would have been safe. I have recently visited that area and I feel pity to see the bare mountains. There used to be Teak and Pine tree but now there are very few trees and we see bare mountains. We did not make arrangement. But this Government should be thanked that initiative is being taken in rural development schemes in this regard. Now we are planting trees on the mountains. Now we would be able to produce Ayurvedic medicines, fruites and vegetables there. This Government would have to increase the productivity. We would have to put efforts to generate money. If we generate money, if we increase the productivity the benefit of it will reach to the public and he would become prosperous. I want to say that presently there seems no such problem with our economy. However it is the moral duty of the opposition that wherever they find any lacuna they should bring it into the notice of the Government. But fault finding should not be for the sake of finding faults only.

I congratulate the Finance Minister and his associate Ministers for showing the sense of responsibility while maintaining the dignity of our economy in adverse circumstances.

There is a mention about the Army. An enquiry has been conducted in this regard. We have seen a number of enquiries during 1991 to 1995. At that time everyday there were scams and enquiries were conducted. You are referring to the enquiry about the scam regarding coffins? Whenever a person dies we do not bargain about coffin but you want to bargain and want to fix its price. It is very shameful thing. If our Army is guarding our borders we should not discuss about it. Every body knows as to why we have posted Army on our borders. Today, Terrorism is challenging us. Most of the big nations of the world are supporting us in this regard and they are with us. But under the situation prevailing it is not proper to enter in to war and it is also not in the interest of country to remove army from the border. We should also imagine of the situations beyond that. Therefore, there should not be any remark in the House about the expenses being incurred on the borders and Army. In order to boost the moral and confidence of the army we should support these expenses whole heartedly. Whatever is happening in Kashmir, the way terrorists are increasing their activities on our borders is a challenge before our nation and if we try to take our nation out of this financial

crisis arisen for facing this challenge, it is also not a subject for criticism.

I support the supplementary demands for grants while respecting our responsible, dynamic and good observer of progress, Finance Minister and his associate Ministers.

[English]

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (Murshidabad): Sir, at the very outset, I must say about the present dismal situation of the national economy. Everybody knows that the picture is very grave throughout the country. In many places farmers are committing suicide; and workers are waiting for the closure notice. The youths have no employment. These people are the assets of our country. But the employment opportunity is nil. These things are happening. This is an undeniable fact. When we are talking about economic situation of the nation, the Government is talking about only foreign exchange reserves. No doubt, it is very important to our country. But other things are also important. We must address these issues. You know, Sir, that the so-called liberalisation period started in 1991. Already eleven years have passed. This Government has ruled for one-third of the period of that so-called liberalised regime. This Government cannot deny the responsibility for the present dismal situation and for the grave picture of the country's economy. In every sector, there is recession. So far as general growth is concerned, it is only 5.4 per cent or so.

15.37 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*]

I would like to ask our new Finance Minister as to where is that dream or magic figure of nine per cent of growth. It is not even six per cent today. So far as industrial growth is concerned, it is dipping sharply. In 2001-02, in the first eleven months, it is only 2.6 per cent. Before liberalisation start it was 8.9 per cent. All the other core sectors, that is, manufacturing sector, mining sector, capital and consumer goods sector have all recorded poor growth in the country. Infrastructure growth has performed the worst in the recent times.

So far as exports are concerned, I firmly believe that the hon. Finance Minister would be in agreement with me when I say that an alarming situation prevails because in 200-01, it was 20.7 per cent; in 2001-02, from April to June, it is only 1.8 per cent. So, the situation is very much alarming. So far as agriculture is concerned, stagnation is going on. Everybody knows about it. So far

as tax collection is concerned, it is 20 per cent short of target in respect of 2001-02. So far as fiscal deficit is concerned, it has increased from 5.3 per cent—which is the GDP targeted—to six to seven per cent. So, this is the dismal and grave picture in the national economy. The hon. Minister has to address it squarely.

On the other side, the attack on the common people is growing everyday. I would give only one simple example. In the last successive three Budgets, this Government gifted concessions to the tune of Rs. 13,500 crore to the corporate sector and big business houses. On the other side, in the last three Budgets, this Government has imposed Rs. 20,000 crore indirect tax burden on the common people. Where is the pro-people face of this Government? I would like to put this question to our new Finance Minister.

Now I come to the public sector. Shrimati Alva has already told about it. There is a relentless attack on important institutions. The Government is selling such important institutions like the BALCO, Maruti and others at a throw away price. After 54 years of Independence, it is amazing to note that our beloved country is facing a Disinvestment Minister whose main duty is to sell out the country's institutions. Even strategic defence production sector is opened to the Indian and foreign capital. It seeks to privatise the coal sector, Railways and it is downsizing Government Departments.

About agriculture, everybody knows that 70 per cent people depend on agriculture in this country. A large share comes to our GDP from agriculture. A crisis is taking place in the agriculture sector. There is a stagnant situation prevailing in the country. It is due to the decline in public investment in agriculture and also because of withdrawal of subsidies. I would appeal that the hon. Minister should address this serious issue.

So far as employment is concerned, we know that there is a promise of creating one crore employment every year. This was the promise made by the NDA Government earlier. But this section suffered a severe setback.

I would like to refer to some points regarding the rate of growth of employment. From 1987 to 1994, it was 2.37 per cent; from 1994 to 2000, it was 1.05 per cent. This is the rate of growth of employment. In a nutshell, if 24 job-seekers are there, one person can get the job.

I can present you another grave picture. So far as employment is concerned, the Government's organised

[Shri Moinul Hassan]

employment has collapsed. In 1995-96, there were 1242 million mandays of work. In 2000-01, it has come down. It is only to the tune of 480 million mandays. You cannot imagine it. In the first ten months of 2001-02, there are only 180 million mandays. There are 4.12 crore registered unemployed youth up to March 2001 in the Employment Exchanges. So, I would say that the Indian economy is heading for an all-round crisis.

Now, I come to the State finances. All the States are suffering from fund crisis. The position of the Exchequer of the State Governments is very bad. They are cutting their developmental works. They have failed to pay the salary in time to their employees. Why is the situation coming off like this? Everybody knows that the responsibility of implementation of the Fifth Pay Commission's recommendations fell on the shoulders of the State Governments and no responsibility has been taken by the Government of India.

Sir, with your permission, I would like to quote a few lines from the statement of the Finance Minister of the Government of Andhra Pradesh Shri Yenamala Ramakrishna Naidu, which has appeared in a newspaper. It says:

"The gradual reduction of grants from the Centre to the States as also the increase of loan component have an adverse impact on the finances of the States. Last year, grants had come down from 54.50 per cent to a mere 2.60 per cent, but loans had gone up from 12.80 per cent to 16.50 per cent. This would result in the States finding themselves in debt trap."

This is the real voice of the States.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. There is one more speaker from your party, but your party's time is over now.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Sir, I will take only two minutes.

This is the real voice of the Finance Ministers from different States. So, this issue should be addressed.

I would like to say a few words about our State, West Bengal now. The State of West Bengal is flood-prone, drought-prone and also erosion-prone. We faced

a severe flood situation in the year 2000-01 in West Bengal. We demanded a relief package for Rs. 1,487 crore, but we received only Rs. 103 crore. So, this had a great impact on the economy of our State. In this situation, how is it possible to run the Government? Then, erosion is taking place in three or four districts, namely Murshidabad, Malda, Nadia etc., but we are not getting any help from the Government of India. In addition to that, there are drought in Purulia, Midnapore and Bankura districts and again there is no additional relief from the Government of India. So far as drought is concerned, this has already been covered by Shrimati Margaret Alva. There are many recommendations of the 11th Finance Commission regarding devolution of more funds to the State, but no action has been taken so far on this aspect. So, I would like to say that the country is facing a very critical economic situation. It should be addressed properly. With these words, I conclude.

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (Eluru): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to participate in the debate on the Supplementary Demands for Grants. It is a normal practice to get the approval of Parliament for Supplementary Grants in view of various demands that come up due to different reasons. This time, the amount is more than Rs. 8,000 crore which is a substantial amount. The major amount is going for payment of financial institutions and again another substantial part of the money is going for rural development. Most probably, this is going for the Delhi Metro Development Project and the amount is Rs. 1,346 crore. In addition to that, there are substantial requirements from the Ministries of Telecommunications, Mines, Heavy Industries, Textiles, Steel and various other sectors. But I am surprised to find that the provision for agriculture has not been much which is the most important sector of our economy. The other important item is the Natural Calamity Contingency Fund. The Government should have made additional provision for these two items.

Today, we are facing a peculiar problem in this country. On the one side we are having our Armed Forces on the border and on the other side there is drought and flood in different parts of the country. Natural Calamity is becoming a regular problem in our country year after year. We had a devastating earthquake last year in Gujarat and this year there is drought all over the country and floods in some States. In the past, we were talking about linking of rivers, but we have not done anything in

that direction. If we had done that it would have taken a long time, but at the same time it would have helped us to reduce the losses caused due to floods and we could have utilised the excess water in the drought-affected States and supplied water to rivers which have dried up and also to those reservoirs which have been affected due to drought. We could have also used the excess water for power generation in hydel projects which are not able to generate power due to lack of rain. Today, the hon. Minister of Finance should be able to plan something like that so that the surplus water, which is causing damage to those places, could be utilised for the places where there are drought conditions. I will give you a lot more additional advantage both for drinking water, agriculture and industry. Today, you find that every State is coming up with some supplementary demands for water resource, rural development and supply of food. In fact, the 'Food for Work' programme is one of the most important items. This is a very useful type of thing that will be able to utilise the surplus cereals that we are now having in the godowns. It would be able to give more employment potentialities and also generate a lot of works in the drought-affected areas.

During the last three years, we find that warehousing has become a problem because of surplus production of rice, wheat and other products. The exports were not able to meet the requirements and standards at the international level. So, the other alternative is to utilise it internally in a very helpful way so that it would not affect the future production. This is one of the items that we have done earlier. But now, under the drought conditions, I think, the hon. Minister of Finance today would have to discuss it with the other Ministries and see that they should be able to release substantial amount of food for work and also release some extra funds immediately. They can always say that the investigation will take a long time. But *ad hoc* grants should be given immediately because the need of this hour is very important. That is why in spite of all the difficulties, our farmers live in the rural areas. They are more than 60 to 70 per cent. They work very hard. They produce enough food to meet the requirements of the country. But because of inflation and drought conditions, we need to give more support for agriculture and also for various other rural development works.

We have always talked about rural development and poverty alleviation. We have to utilise a substantial amount of funds for education in the rural areas, health, housing and various other requirements that they have to take into consideration.

In fact, on the other side, when we are facing these problems, the FCI says that they want to slowly cut down from this. But FCI has to take a lead and see the requirements in different parts of the country. When there is surplus and where there is deficit, they should balance it and see that they should be able to work hard and also see that more godowns and warehousing facilities should be developed.

Probably, the Members of Parliament are doing a lot of work for rural development. But the funds given by you are meagre. A lot of MLAs are getting much more funds. I hope the hon. Minister of Finance would look into this aspect and see that the funds are increased substantially. In fact, the Committees have recommended every time when they had meetings. But unfortunately, I think, nothing comes out of it. I hope this time, the Minister of Finance should be able to take up this issue. We have to do something for the Members of Parliament. They have to go to their constituencies. They should be responsible for the voters. Their responsibility will be for development of the area. Rural development has become one of the most important items. I am sure, that the hon. Minister of Finance would also take this point into consideration.

Today, on one side, our reserves are good and inflation is substantially at a reasonable level. In spite of that, our growth rate has to go up in order that they should require infrastructure. In any country, wherever you see good infrastructure the development goes on faster. There would be industrial development. There would be employment potentialities along with our exports or whatever it is. These things are interlinked. As some of our friends have said just now, the Golden Quadrilateral that the hon. Prime Minister has taken up connects major cities and requires a substantial amount. This is the time when we have to tackle watershed problems. The sub-soil water is going down substantially. When the rainwater comes, it goes as waste into the sea. This must be directed towards increasing the ground water level. That is why a substantial encouragement must be given for the watershed programmes in all the States and see that they should be able to utilise it in a natural way instead of causing more damage and wasting that water into the sea.

A number of rivers, that we find, should be interconnected. This programme is going on for a long time and this is the time for us to see in the present circumstances to take some serious steps and that we should be able to utilise them properly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH: Thank you very much. I conclude now. There are a number of issues which we will be able to take up. There are a number of occasions where we have to speak.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dasmunsiji, I would like to request you that the time allotted to your party is over. Shrimati Alva has taken five extra minutes. If you assist me you can express your views in the minimum time. I am not preventing you. I expect your co-operation only.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will obey your order.

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would also like to say that they have taken a lot of time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Bhavnaji, please sit down. Why are you taking his time? Shri Dasmunsiji.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I am thankful to you for having allowed me to intervene in this debate.

First of all, I wish the new Finance Minister a success to meet the critical challenge of the economy at this hour. I feel for him because he is a good friend of all of us in this House, a noble hearted man, having a very sad moment of his political career in this Thirteenth Lok Sabha by launching his journey with Masood Azhar to Kandhar and finally brought to the North Block in the storm of disaster of the economy where the entire country is tormented with droughts, floods and everything.

Sir, I will not take much time, I will only highlight three basic points before the hon. Finance Minister. The first point is, before and after the submission of Geetha Krishnan Committee's report to curtail expenditure and downsize the entire thing, the Government time and again made it very clear that it will try to see that the deficit Budget is not projected to that dimension as it was brought in the past in all the Finance Ministers' speeches.

I am proud of most of our officials working with devotion in the Finance Ministry. True, a few black sheep might be there, but it is unwise on our part to accuse and question the integrity and *bona fide* of the dedicated officers who are working throughout the length and

breadth of this country in the Department of Customs, Department of Revenue, Taxation, etc. which are strengthening the economic base of the country.

15.58 hrs.

[SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA in the Chair]

Madam, on three matters, I will confine my contribution. First matter is, what according to the Finance Minister a worth making investment and what according to him is not a worth making investment? While in Bombay High, ONGC finds it difficult to make further investments in the oil exploration programme, one of the Ministries of this Government found it worth investing to Shultin Project in Russia, to the tune of Rs. 8,000 crore. It has been rejected by most of the oil giants of the world as a junk one. Is it to please Russia for our diplomatic understanding or is it just a worth investment that the Government thinks it proper?

This is not the issue of political character assassination of an individual, but it is a fundamental issue. When their own public sector is confident to do better investment elsewhere, they compel them to invest not in oil exploration programme of Bombay High, which will give more dividends, but to invest to the tune of Rs. 8,000 crore. So, we would like to know their investment priority. How do they coordinate these matters in the Finance Ministry? These are the matters of concern today for all of us.

Madam, my second point is regarding the so called debate in this House where several Members spoke from this side and from that side too, especially my dear friend, Shri Kirit Somaiya. I may differ with him in political ideology but in many matters of economics when he contributes, I appreciate.

16.00 hrs.

Sir, I, now, come to the role of Mauritius route companies. Well, the Tehelka case was expose. We may have a different view and you may have a different view. We do not like to comment on the merit. It is under the investigation of the Commission.

Before a few days of the Tehelka episode, there was a hue and cry in the House of the K-10 lobbies operation in the stock market and the House had appointed a Joint Parliamentary Committee. It is investigating it. A few days after, I got a paper pertaining to the degree of harassment meted out to a company called First Global, which according to the Government's

opinion, is an offending company, maybe an investor or a partner of Tehelka group I, as a Member of Parliament, addressed a number of issues to the then hon. Finance Minister pertaining to the cause of this company and the harassment meted out to this company. The then Finance Minister replied to me on January 14 saying, "SEBI found something wrong with this company." My letter to the Finance Minister was on January 4, where I said about the stock market scam, First Global and about the Mauritius route companies. I said that the list of companies in Mauritius route should be released in public and a comprehensive investigation is called for, if necessary, by CBI as to how they played foul with the Government of India, SEBI and the law of the land. Sir, the Finance Minister emphasised only on the First Global in his reply and emphasised that SEBI found something wrong with this company. Before that, in October, I wrote to Dr. Mehta, the then Chairman of SEBI and asked him to give the details of the companies who played foul in the stock market operations.

Sir, our distinguished Chairman of the JPC, Shri Tripathi is sitting here. I cannot take the name of the JPC here but for his knowledge, I will place this information. Here is the report of Dr. Mehta. In the long reply of Dr. Mehta and in the revelations which he made, there was no name of First Global. The names of all the companies are there, which played foul in the stock market, in the reply of Dr. Mehta. the Finance Minister communicated to me that SEBI found something wrong with a company called First Global. When I asked the Chairman of SEBI to give me a report, in a signed document, he listed out the names of all the companies, excluding the name of the First Global, which played fraud on the nation and on the stock market. Therefore, Sir, it gives me a feeling that he is placating the First Global. Is it an afterthought of Tehelka or is it on the same lines as of other companies?

My second appeal to the Finance Minister is about the type of treatment given to First Global by the Directorate of Enforcement, to whom I have the highest regard and I treat them in high esteem. Why did you not offer the same treatment to those companies, which are listed here by the Chairman of SEBI? I have got the list of companies. They are: Kensington Investments Ltd.; Wakefield Holdings Company; Greenfield Investments Ltd.; Viceroy Investments Ltd.; Almél Investments Ltd.; Delgrada Ltd; Rafs Corp. Ltd.; European Investments Ltd.; Far East Investments Corp. Ltd.; Symphony Holdings Ltd.; Dossier Stock Inc.; and AOM Investments Ltd.

If you see the report of SEBI, they are buying it at 20,000 dollars and the outflow of foreign exchange is one lakh, two lakh or five lakh dollars. So far as my knowledge goes, excepting the First Global, none of these companies and their counterparts in India has been haunted by the Directorate of Enforcement or the Tax Department. This is very unfortunate. The transparency of the Government, the Finance Ministry and an objective assessment is called for. If you use one stick to one company, then you have to apply the same stick to other companies.

My second points is this. You have one set of principles in so far as detecting, hauling and apprehending those companies who played fraud on the stock market in our country and ruined our national exchequer.

My third observation is about the drought situation on which Shrimati Margaret Alva had already spoken. I am not asking anything in general. I am making a very humble submission to the hon. Finance Minister. Will you please take note of this? What are the announcements in the Finance Minister's Budget for the rural development programme on poverty alleviation when there was no drought? What are the Budgets of those States when they placed their own State Budgets? It is a fact that many States are running in difficult situation there to manage their own economies. You are bringing a Fiscal Responsibility Bill for the Budget management and you are saying you shall assist them in that order.

Now taking stock of the Finance Minister's declaration on poverty alleviation programme and taking stock of the restricted States which are suffering from drought like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, etc., will you please form a Task Force in the Finance Ministry to see how much support, in addition, could be rendered to these people for augmenting additional resources? If necessary, you bring a new proposal in the House to augment resources in this country, either by your tax or any other method, just to protect the drought-affected States at this hour of time? We will support you. Will you consider appointing a Task Force very quickly? Before the 14th of August when the House is going to adjourn sine die, will you come out with a policy plan to support the States?

The National Calamity Fund is there. I do not blame the Government or the Minister. That fund is so meagre by which you cannot respond to the challenge posed by the severest drought. I will tell you, Mr. Finance Minister, that you will have the last laugh. You can tackle the drought. Though I am sitting in the Opposition, I will tell

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

you that the responses of the country's agriculturists, the responses of the country's other industrial workers are so good now. If you can just overcome the crisis of drought, the economy of the country would be booming in the next year. But if you fail to meet, the crisis will lead you to a situation where you will give more hands to the Opposition. We will be too happy to use it but the country will suffer.

Therefore, my third request to you is you please consider this. Talk to the Prime Minister and the Cabinet to appoint an immediate Task Force. Suppose there is a war tomorrow, and the Defence Minister comes and says I need more money, obviously Parliament will support you to give additional fund to meet the challenge in the border. Equally you treat the challenge of drought as a war. If you need additional support to support any State Government, whichever Party may rule that State, we will support you.

I will tell you, Finance Minister, while you come back to present the regular Budget, if you can, if you are not shifted, we will support you. I am saying this because we are not very clear who will continue and how long you will be in your Government and who is the actual authority because you are shocked to hear the statement of one of your allies. She does not know who is heading the Government. Therefore, it is my humble appeal to you to give all the emphasis to appoint this Task Force. Take the representatives of the State Governments who are affected by this drought, take representatives of the concerned Ministries, namely Water Resources, Agriculture, Rural Development, of course, Transport and Railways and plan a programme. If this is the money you need to overcome the work, overcome the challenge, to pave way for smooth operation of country's economy for the next financial year, and to reach the target, in this endeavour, the entire Parliament will support you. Even if it is taxation, we do not mind. If you can come out in that package, I think, the entire nation will be benefited and the country will benefit. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to respond to this matter in a very positive way.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Madam Chairman, first of all I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this matter. This discussion has been initiated by the opposition and I would like to thank to both the speakers of the opposition to express their feelings that

they would work together with the Government to strengthen the economy of the country, particularly to meet the situation of famine in the country.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Then why did you object?

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Madam, I was just flattering so that I may get some more time to speak.

I welcome the feelings expressed by the members of opposition. In fact, this discussion is going on over the supplementary demands. What is the financial position of the country, what is the position of the foreign exchange reserve, how will we meet the situation of famine and what should be the policy regarding Mauritius route? At this time I do not want to go into the details of all these things.

[English]

Now, the new Minister of Finance has taken over and recently the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India has once again announced that this year we would be having an economic growth rate of more than six per cent.

[Translation]

This time agricultural growth is going to be 7 per cent after many years.

[English]

I am talking about 2001-2002.

[Translation]

It is unfortunate that due to lack of rain our country is facing the situation of famine. Before this the economy of our country was coming out of the crisis of recession prevailing all over the world. This was good time for our economy. The foreign reserve of our country is going to be around 6 thousand billion. In such a situation, there may be some hindrance in the growth of the economy of the country due to famine but as some members of the opposition have expressed their desire that they would face this situation unitedly, I welcome that desire. I hope that the economic condition of the country will improve as happened earlier.

Our hon'ble Member Dr. B.B. Ramaiah has raised an important point that this supplementary demand is for thousands of crores of rupees but there are 5-7 such accounts about which I would like to tell.

[English]

There are about five to seven items which account for more than 70 per cent to 80 per cent like loan to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited of Rs. 720 crore: additional compensation for pre-payment, HDFC contra entry and payment to UTI of Rs. 500 crore: Rs. 186 crore for the Indian Iron and Steel Company, Rs. 145 crore for Bharat Refractories: Rs. 1,346 crore for the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation: Rs. 681 crore for writing down Government investment in Central Bank of India: Rs. 1,665 crore for UCO Bank: Rs. 100 crore for Tyre Corporation and Rs. 545 for Hindustan Paper Corporation under help and support to heavy industries.

[Translation]

Madam Chairman, if you see it from the point of view of Economics, you would know as to why the need to contribute so much money to the various agencies, organisations, corporations and institutions of the country has arisen. It is not so that this loss has been incurred only during these two-three years and due to that Government have to provide so much assistance. I think it will be better to hold discussion on supplementary demands rising above politics. If I respond politically to the politically motivated views expressed by my friend Priyaranjan Dasgupta and other colleagues during their speeches, nothing will be left. There is not the question of NPA.

[English]

What is the NPA situation? I will just read out the figures of one company.

[Translation]

I can read out the figures of many companies not to talk of one.

[English]

The total NPA is Rs. 83,000 crore. I would like to read out the figures of one company having NPA of more than Rs. 5000 crore. The financiers of this company are the UTI, the ICICI, the IDBI, the IFCI, the LIC and the GIC and the finance has been extended since 1990-91. What are the NPAs? I will read out one more example. Instances of fresh financing to companies whose earlier loans have already become NPAs is Rs. 35 crore, 97 crore and Rs. 20.7 crore. It looks like to me *Indian Charge Chrome* and *Usha Ispat*, NPA is Rs. 953 crore.

[Translation]

I would not like to go into the details of NPA. There is NPA of rupees 83 thousand crore. From where has it arrived?

[English]

When was the finance extended to these two companies? It is before 1995.

[Translation]

Selected institutions are being given the loan provided and the interest overdue thereon is not called N.P.A.

[English]

What is the meaning of NPAs? Debt is an old debt, doubtful debt, interest is not pre-paid, fresh loans and advances have been extended to repay the interest of the principal amount.

[Translation]

This House should be concerned about the NPA involving rupees 83 thousand crore and should hold discussion on it.

[English]

But then also I will appreciate your concern.

[Translation]

I would not say whose action it is. Who sanctioned loan, why and when? What is its connection. Who appointed Usha Ispat the Director in Financial Institution and Bank and in whose regime it was done? Please ignore these things as I do not want to get involved in political discussions.

[English]

But let us not make it a political issue because this will boomerang on the opposition Party itself; not on the Ruling side.

[Translation]

In fact, there is no need of a lengthy discussion about NPA.

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

[English]

But I will certainly appreciate your concern.

[Translation]

But, I have clarified it because the discussion was going on this issue. The second issue is related to UTI.

[English]

I think after this, we are having the Assets Reconstruction Companies Bill.

[Translation]

I can tell you the figure of UTI.

[English]

UTI's is one of the greatest scams of the Indian history and for this scam knowingly or unknowingly; all of us have contributed. We will not be able to spare a single person, person means a single party knowingly or unknowingly.

[Translation]

It is nothing but a reverse pyramid. New investors are admitted and payment is done to old investors.

[English]

What is UTI? For the last 4-1/2 years, I am shouting on behalf of the Investors Grievance Forum and the small investors of the country. This is Ponsey scheme. What is the meaning of Ponsey? This is the system going on for years together.

[Translation]

Who is benefited by this system? Only some co-operatives and anti-social elements are benefited. We are unable to put a check on them.

[English]

Whether it is 1989, 1991, 1998 and 1999 these people find out the way.

[Translation]

I think a time will come when we shall discuss about the methods how to apprehend those people involved in

this malpractice and how to check the moves of those executives who help them.

[English]

How can we create accountability among the decision-makers of all the financial institutions?

[Translation]

Mutual Fund is the aim of UTI.

[English]

To collect money from the small investors; invest in come safe market.

[Translation]

It has been stopped. UTI has fallen from bad to worst.

[English]

Swapping in the scheme and investment, 1991.

[Translation]

MIC of 1991 matured in 1996. Everyone including Ministry of Finance of the Government of India was informed in writing that a new scheme will be launched in 1996. In that scheme the investors of 1991 will be transferred in the scheme of 1996. All the transfers was done by giving something in writing to the investors.

[English]

This thing is going on for the last 12 years.

[Translation]

To bring new investors at par with the old ones and get the amount reinvested again by the old investors.

[English]

Inter-scheme transfer is going on for years together. I would request the hon. Minister of Finance to let us stop it, at least, now.

[Translation]

At least once you have to listen to me.

[English]

Once for all let us put a full stop. I would like to quote two examples here. The UTI management wants to continue now also the same thing.

[Translation]

I would like to quote one or two examples.

[English]

NPAs of MIP of 1995 have been transferred on 17th May, 2002 to MIP 2000.

[Translation]

What is being done by those people sitting there. They take 500 crores rupees from you and start a fresh business to chief small investors.

[English]

I would like to quote another example. In the similar manner. NPAs of MIP, 1996 have been transferred to MIP 2001, first Rs. 18.28 crore and then Rs. 40.85 crore.

[Translation]

They have cheated those new investors who had invested honestly. In the new NPA it will be seen that MIP is the NPA of 1991. I request that you stop it once for all. Regarding infrastructure, I can tell about the names of the companies and the methodology in UTI. It is our misconception that NPA takes place in only IDBI, ICICI and Bank of India. But, if you are told about the NPA of UTI, you will be confused,

[English]

Development Reserve Fund of Rs. 274 crore investment in debentures has become NPA and they are not informing anybody. That investment had been made as far back as 1992-93.

[Translation]

But, I would say it again that we should not make a political discussion about it.

I thank the Government for bringing an amendment in UTI Act.

[English]

Bring it. Make it independent. Make it accountable.

[Translation]

Please get these kinds of manipulations stopped and protect the small investors. I thank you for the courage shown by you by making a provision of 500 crore rupees and by giving a guarantee to the small investors that the Government will affirm their faith which they have shown by making investment in UTI.

I would conclude by clarifying one or two points.

[English]

At the same time, I would like to draw your attention.

[Translation]

You are providing so much fund to the Central Bank and UCO Bank. It may be because of NPA or restructuring,

[English]

But try to bring accountability.

[Translation]

I Would like to quote an example of Bank of Maharashtra. Its bank book-value is 26 rupees.

[English]

The Chairman of the Bank of Maharashtra just wanted to come out with IPO at Rs. 10. There is no accountability. One must ask them as to what they are doing.

[Translation]

Simultaneously, I may tell you that I would discuss the issue raised by my friend hon'ble Priya Ranjan Dasmuni at the end. Before taking up that issue I would like to tell you that.

[English]

One must have a co-ordination system.

[Translation]

There are so many banks. I have quoted one or two example, but I can quote 50 such examples when a

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

particular company takes equity fund from one place, working capital from the second place, term loan from the third place and for making repayment of those loans after 2-3 years, the same company takes money from a government institution in the name of some other one. It sets up friend company and sister concern company and takes back the money from a different route.

I would conclude by clarifying just one point. My friend hon. Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi was expressing his concerns about the Mauritius route. I have repeatedly told many times.

[English]

That yes, we will have to discuss and decide some time the abuse and misuse of Mauritius route.

[Translation]

We have just brought an amendment in the budget regarding dividend tax.

[English]

I would give you an example that Indian companies have started shifting their promoters holding in the name of Mauritius Shell Companies.

[Translation]

I can tell you the name of a big company. The promoter has 43 percent holding in that company. He transferred 37 percent of promoters holding in Mauritius Shell Company. The dividend tax will be given by the honest investor of this country. But, the big promoter will have to pay only two percent dividend tax in Mauritius. I request that you can discuss the abuse of Mauritius route in the Finance Committee or in the House or in a small group.

[English]

We are just discussing about the abuse.

[Translation]

I would not mind if any reputed company comes here for tax benefit. But I have some limitations, otherwise I could have revealed many misdeeds of the company which was being quoted by my hon'ble friend as an example for Indian companies manoeuvring for their tax saving, manipulation of capital market as well as forgery. Dasmunshiji is a veteran member, He does not know about whom he is talking. That company came from Singapore to Mauritius and from middle East to....(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Kirit Somaiya, I just want to point out one thing to you that we are Members of the JPC. Do not go into too many details.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: No, Madam. I am not going into those details.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You are a Member of that Committee. The Chairman of the Committee is sitting here. I think they can all come in the report. I think we are all bound by some rules. Sir, do not go into too many details. We will discuss it in the JPC and you can bring everything in the report.

[Translation]

Please do not raise any such issue in the House. You are also a member of JPC.

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Madam, I seek your pardon.

[Translation]

I am not leaking any information concerning J.P.C.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: There is no need to drag on it. You can speak about it after the report of JPC is presented in the House.

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I have not spoken about any information concerning J.P.C. Regarding UTI you also expressed your concern.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Do not go into details.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Yes madam.

[Translation]

N.P.A. etc. have no concern with J.P.C. So I told that his issue will be raised sooner or later. We will have to find out this source from where someone mobilise or receive the money. We should stop abuse of Mauritius route. I support these supplementary demands. But once in a while we should discuss about the accountability of the executives of UTI and other Financial Institutions. We must start contemplating on all Mutual Funds and UTI. Public have their trust on L.I.C. This trust should be maintained and all the corrective actions should be taken

by the Government. With these submissions I support these demands.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Madam Chairperson, the discussion on Supplementary Demands for Grants is not a right occasion to discuss the overall policy direction of the Government. But still, I cannot but make one observation and that is directly related to some of the provisions made in the Demands for Grants.

Madam, world over, the countries which had gone for structural adjustment for liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation are having a re-look after the bitter experience in areas of employment generation, industrial growth, export and in areas related to agriculture and all these things. I have, more than once, said that this Government is totally lost in the wilderness of economic reforms. It is directionless. It does not know where to go, what to do. It is all *ad hocism*.

I am coming directly to relate my observations to one situation. The BSNL is being provided a loan of Rs. 720 crore. What for that this is being given? Madam, the hon. Minister of Finance has gone out but the hon. Minister of State for Finance is here.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The Minister of State for Finance, Shri Anant Geethe is here.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I would request him to kindly listen to me. You have lost yourself in the economic reforms. This is directly related to the Supplementary Budget. The BSNL is being given Rs. 720 crore as a loan. What for that this is being given? It is being given as a loan for implementing the village public telephone programme. When the new Telecom Policy was announced the private operators were given licence in service areas. The Bharti Telecom Limited was given the same for Madhya Pradesh. The number of village public telephones committed to them was 16,500. How many have they done? They have done only 340. Take the case of Tata Tele Services. They are rich after a deal with VSNL, by giving Rs. 1,420 crore and taking away Rs. 1,200 crore. This is for providing tele services.

In 1997, they were supposed to fulfil a target of 9,635 village public telephones. How much have they done? They have done 674. In 1997, the number of village public telephones committed by Hughes Telecom, Maharashtra was 25,760. How much have they done? They have done only 285. Reliance is a great name.

Even when Reliance Telecom had indulged in insider trading, when they had access to official secrets, they were still allowed to bid in the disinvestment process saying that it did not concern the national security. Special consideration was given. Now, Reliance Telecom, Gujarat was supposed to provide 8,635 telephones. They have done 176. It is a glorious achievement! The target of Satyam Telecom, Rajasthan was 31,834 and their achievement since 1997 till today is 245. The target of HFCL Infotel, Punjab was 5,442 and their achievement till 22.6.02 is 383. These are the private operators. Out of a target of 97,806—and number of villages to be covered was 60,604—what they fulfilled is 2,111. What is to be done? It is the responsibility of BSNL and it is the responsibility of the public sector. And again, this public sector has been targeted last week. Even in respect of BSNL, the disinvestment will take place. Is it reforms? In whose interest are these reforms? These reforms are to serve whom, to enrich whom and for whose aggrandizement. It is for the aggrandizement and enriching of friends and corporate sector who have done scrupulous defaults, who have looted public money. Now, you are giving Rs. 720 crore as loan to BSNL to fulfil the social obligations assigned to it. The private sector was encouraged in a number of ways through the National Telecom Policy, but they have not fulfilled their targets and nor are they going to fulfil their targets. Then, WLL was given out of the way to a particular company. They are not fulfilling any targets. But the Government is giving a loan of Rs. 720 crore to BSNL.

The Prime Minister says that eight per cent growth is natural for a country like India. The President on that solemn occasion said that a developing country like India's goal should be to get developed as early as possible. How much national savings do you require for achieving eight per cent growth? According to a very conservative estimate by economists, 30 per cent to 32 per cent national savings are required. Our national savings are coming down from 25 per cent to 22 per cent to 20 per cent. Mostly, it consists of household savings. Small saving is contributing a lot to the States. For example, my State—perhaps we are at number one or number two—West Bengal is mobilising about Rs. 4,000 crore from small savings, postal savings. But the interest will be brought down. There have been disincentives. They are being asked to go for the capital market. Small investors are losing money like anything in mutual funds, vanishing companies and non-banking companies. What has this Government done? It is being said in page 11 that for *ex gratia* payment to the employees of National Savings Organisation, who are opting for VRS consequent upon downsizing of the NSO pursuant to the Finance

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

Minister's announcement in the Budget Speech.' NSO is being downsized. What is the number of people? It is 1,100.

What is happening today? The Minister is requested to kindly note this. There are no certificates available in many parts of the country. *Krishi Vikas Patras*, National Saving Certificates, agents' receipt books have not been printed for seven to eight months now. People who should have been encouraged to save, when the national savings need to be at the level of 31 per cent to 32 per cent, what are you doing? You are dismantling everything, be it the insurance sector or be it the banking sector, in the name of encouraging the private mutual funds and all these things. So far as the poor people and middle-class are concerned, the interest rate has been slashed down. Even if they want to put their precious savings in the postal savings, National Saving Certificates or in the *Krishi Vikas Patras*, the receipts books have not been made available to the agents for eight months now. The NSO is being dismantled. It is being said that the Postal Department will take charge, but it has not received any communication till now. Who will print it? What type of Government is it? For eight months, they have not formulated any policy. Who will print the certificates or the agents' receipt book forms? This is the situation. In such a situation, how can the Prime Minister say that there will be eight per cent growth rate requires about 30 per cent to 32 per cent of national savings.

Now, I am coming to UTI. Here, for the UTI, Rs. 500 crore has been provided to meet the gap between the redemption and the NAV price, as per the commitment. I am not going into what is being examined elsewhere by a Committee. But as far as I could understand, UTI is an exceptional Mutual Fund and it was a giant. It is mainly because of the perception among the public that the Government supports it. Till today, when the Government guarantees, people in our country just put their money in it and that is the psyche of the people. There was a suggestion to meet the shortfall, that is, to allow the UTI to float a new type of bond so that it will not cause any outgo of Government money. It will be a simple guarantee. As per the studies made by important people, not by me only, I have also been pursuing that, UTI can again rise like a giant, and as it has helped the Government in the past, it can help the Government in future also. Therefore, I say that it is a welcome move that ultimately the Government has decided to provide Rs. 500 crore. However, this is not the end of the story. UTI is in distress because of the Government. I am not blaming any particular Minister, a

particular Secretary, or a particular group of industries that, through insider trading, withdrew their money. It is not the right occasion, but still, I believe that UTI is an organisation...

MADAM CHAIRMAN: SHRI Rupchand Pal; you must conclude now.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I am concluding after making one or two points.

I conclude with a caution to the Government that there is drought, there is flood and there is a growing unemployment and joblessness in the country. Industrial activity has slowed down, agriculture is in stagnation, and there is a negative growth in exports. There are various wounds throughout the body of the Indian economy. Palliatives here and there, applying balm here and there or giving medicines here and there will not serve any purpose. You have to have a relook at your policy. It is a wrong policy, it is an anti-people policy, which is against the interests of the country.

With these few comments on some of the provisions of the Supplementary Demands for Grants, I once again caution the Government that the way they are working, the direction in which they are going, will prove disastrous and the people will not tolerate it.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Madam Chairman, I rise to support and participate in the discussion regarding supplementary demands of the Finance Ministry. On this occasion I thank new Finance Minister, although he did nothing which requires him to be thanked. Former Finance Minister Shri Yashwant Sinha had been deciding the economic fate of the people of India since 1998. We don't know the degree of economic reforms what he brought about and economic deteriorations suffered by the country. It should be reviewed. The reality as we think, is that they failed to gain the confidence of the villagers. Hon'ble Prime Minister entrusted the charge of Ministry of Finance to Shri Jaswant Singh after this successful performance as a Foreign Minister, so that he may gain the confidence of the people living in villages by his experience and wisdom. I thanked him with the hope that he will fulfill these expectations and he will devise some ways for the benefit of villages and its people.

Madam Chairman, presently rate of Industrial growth is very low and export is also declining. Some hon'ble members have just discussed about flood and drought situation which have effected a large area of country.

There is continuous increase in unemployment. In such a situation new Finance Minister have to show his efficiency. In my view it is the time he is being tested. Let us see how he will face and fight against these problems being faced by the country and how he will give a new turn to rural economy and how the economy will be made strong.

Madam Chairman, small scale industries of the country are in a pitiable condition. It is not only causing loss of capital but also loss of jobs to the people of low middle class employed in this sector. Every year it is announced that one crore employment opportunities will be created, but no such initiative is visible. How you are going to make out your ways in this regard? I request Finance Minister please to tell the country through this House the number of employment opportunities being created by your Government. I think that Finance Minister is determined to do something in this regard He had been a successful Minister in the Ministry of External Affairs, and I wish he may prove himself a good Finance Minister. Madam Chairman, I would like to raise two-three issues. I hail from village. Delhi is overcrowded. There are many reasons for that. The facilities provided

16.45 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*]

in metros like Delhi and Mumbai are not available in rural areas. You may take the case of All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Delhi. It seems to me that 70% of the patients there come from backward areas and stand for hours in queue for cards. For them it takes 6 months and even one year to get checked for something. The reason for it is that proper medical facilities are not available in villages. So I will request the new Finance Minister to pay attention to the villages also. I consider that he is also not city born, he is from the village. So we would like him to pay attention to the villages also. Though the country has faced many crisis during last some time. It can not be said that economic speed has come to a grinding halt due to cyclones in Gujarat and Orissa and Kargil war etc. but it certainly could not pick up the required speed.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, here discussion was going on over UTI scam. I do not want to speak much about it. But I would certainly like to say to the Finance Minister that small investors have suffered a lot in this. Similarly, security scam took place in the country. No body can deny this, but it was not due to a single individual but we believe that perhaps licence has been received from

the Government for scam. Because those who investigate say that they are not empowered to check it. But I do not think so. They do not use the power given to them but they are promoting the scams collectively. You are providing 400 crores rupees to UTI again but there is no guarantee that this amount will be utilized properly? So I expect that the Finance Minister would apprise the House as to how he would ensure the proper utilization of the amount being given to UTI and what new method or way would be adopted for it.

The second thing I would like to say is that so many ways have been explored to strengthen the economy of the country during the last some time. Many big industries were disinvested. I do not know how for it has helped government but disinvestment is not sending the right message.

Chandra Shekhar ji was Prime Minister for a very short period. But gold was mortgaged during his tenure. Suman jee was Minister then. I was also one of the beloved of Chandra Shekhar jee at that time. At that time you were in the Government. Intelligence sources revealed that government could win more than four hundred seats if elections were held then. But when election time came a Poster was brought out in rural area "Char Mahine Banam Chalis Varsha"—the villagers interpreted it as that saying that the plundering which did not took place in forty years was done in just four months and thus the poster boomeranged. First came Chandra Shekharjee, then Deve Gowdajee. ...*(Interruptions)* Please do not do like this. Give me two more minutes. I am not talking unnecessarily. I am saying that they are selling the things of the country. This is painful and pinching for the people of villages. You do not like it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are not discussing whole of the budget, we are discussing only supplementary demands. It will be better if you refer supplementary demands too.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: You are my well wisher, you too talk like this.

MR CHAIRMAN: Time is limited, that's why I am saying so.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I would finish within two or three minutes. I was saying that these things are not sending right message in the country. According to intelligence reports, we could win 400 seats when gold was mortgaged. Today big industries of the country are

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

being sold. You just imagine what the public would do at the time of election. So we want to warn you as your companion friend and well wisher that do not do anything which make the public believe that you are unable to run the country, you can not manage the country and you want to sell every business of the country. Such message should not go. I will make a request to Finance Minister and sit down. He should pay attention to the villages. When the earlier Finance Minister had reduced gas subsidy, a big hue and cry was made but we all were very happy. We were happy because still gas is not being used by lower and lower middle class of consumers. Five Star hotels and rich people use that. The more reduction in subsidy, the better. Tripathi jee hail from village. He knows that today also cow dung and firewoods are used for cooking in villages. If the Minister feels the sufferings of villages, pinching of poor and middle class, some formulae should be derived for providing assistance in case of crowding and firewood. It will have two benefits. If you provide incentive, people will be encouraged for cattle breeding and their morale will be up. If you subsidize wood, people will be encouraged for plantation. This will strengthen their economy and reduce environmental pollution. I would request the Finance Minister that he must reply this point. I shall wait till he answers. I would like to know whether he is interested in the welfare of villages or not. I want to know his mentality today. If he is interested in the welfare of villages he will be highly appreciated otherwise not. I shall support his demands but I would not praise him.

Before concluding I would like to make one more request. Please do not strengthen the economy by increasing the cost of fertilizer and reducing the cost of liquor. Your reverse this i.e. reduce the price of fertilizer and increase the price of liquor. I had many more things to say but I have forgotten them due to interruption.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing supplementary demands for grants for the year 2002-2003. As the demands have been raised for different ministries, it means that our budget estimates were wrong.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, how much money has been demanded for different departments is a separate and important issue. But I would like to humbly request Shri Jaswant Singh Jee that unless we control extravagance,

this country can not progress. We spend three rupees to send rupee one in the name of development. Hon'ble Minister is an ex-serviceman (FAUZI) and we understand that EX-Servicemen are righteous persons. I do not know as to how righteous you are. First priority of your ministry should be to check extravagance. If one rupee is spent as a planned expenditure, four rupees are spent as Non-Plan expenditure. There must be a ratio between the two. Unless you put a check on extravagance, unless you have a total control over administrative structure, as long as you use red Taoism in sending the money in the name of development to the poor man, I do not think you can have any good results.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to draw the kind attention of the Hon'ble Finance Minister to two or three issues. Various ministries have demanded money. This House has just held discussion on drought and flood situation under Rule 193. Sir, through you, I would like to raise a basic issue.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, irrigation projects started from first five year plan in the time of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru to the ninth five year plan including tenth five year plan, which is now in drafting stage, have not been completed so far. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that five irrigation projects of first five year plan, seven irrigation projects of second five year plan and 12 irrigation projects of third five year plan have not been completed so far and a provision has also been made in tenth five year plan for the allotment of money to complete those projects. Approximately 90 thousand crores of rupees are required to complete those projects.

Sir, I would like to make a humble request to the Hon'ble Minister of Finance through you that we can not depend on God for irrigation. Today we depend on nature, on rain for agriculture in our country. There should be permanent arrangement in the country for irrigation. I urge the Finance Minister that there is the need for completion of irrigation projects by making time bound programmes.

Sir, secondly I would like to say that while addressing the nation from the rampart of the Red Fort in 1998, the Prime Minister had said that they would provide employment to 10 crore people in 10 years. In his address to the Parliament, the President spoke of providing employment to one crore people in a year. President's address is almost an expression of the commitment of the Government. Whatever the Government wants to do, is stated in the President's address. But this year, the

then Finance Minister Shri Yashwant Sinha ji did not utter even a single word about providing employment to the unemployed people. The budget in silent on providing employment to unemployed people in the country. There is no mention anywhere of providing employment. I request you that social tension can arise in the country and nobody will be able to stop it if no arrangement is made for providing employment to the unemployed people in the country. People are getting frustrated by your new economic policy because you are not working in a proper manner to provide employment to the people of the country. I would definitely want that the Government must pay attention to the problem of unemployment.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, allocation of some funds for Urban employment and poverty alleviation has also been demanded under supplementary demands for grant. It is good. You must work for Urban development and poverty alleviation in urban areas but it will not be good if you do not allocate funds for the rural areas and if you do not make developmental programmes by keeping those people in view who are living below poverty line and who are included in the BPL list. I want that you must allocate funds for the urban areas but do not forget the rural areas. If it is not done, then I believe, it would not be a good thing.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, just now Prabhunath Singh ji was speaking about health services in the country but he is not present in the House now. I want to bring to your notice that some doctors go to Primary Health Centres in the rural areas only to get their salaries. There is negligible allocation in the budget for medicines. Hardly 12-14 thousand rupees are allocated for medicines in a year for a Health Centre but 2-3 lakh rupees are spent on salaries. The condition of Primary Health Centres is such that even basic services are not available not to talk of better health services. On the other hand, there are hospitals like Batra, Escorts and Apollo in Delhi where availing medical facilities is out of the reach of rural people due to lack of money. Medical facilities at Primary Health Centres in villages are not available to them and due to lack of money they cannot get treatment for themselves or for their family in the city. Where can they go in such a situation? Therefore, through you, I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to provide enough funds to ensure proper availability of medicines and doctors at the Primary Health Centres.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no demand especially for irrigation, upliftment of scheduled castes, employment for the unemployed people and for drought and flood relief under the supplementary demands for grant for different

departments by the hon. Minister. The biggest question is that the country cannot progress until we set our priorities and take timely action. Today, there is flood in three states while the rest of the country is facing drought situation. I do not want to raise this matter again and again in the House.

17.00 hrs.

Drought and flood situation was discussed in this august House. Please, excuse me but the people affected by drought or flood are not willing to listen your speech. They do not want to listen that a task force has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Lal Krishna Advani and that it would work. They are interested only in the results, and the positive attitude of the Government. They are interested in what the Government is doing and what they are getting?

If you do not make efforts on a war footing on the drought problem, tension would be created in the country and the situation would deteriorate further. No power in the world can prevent it. Therefore, the Government should fix its priorities. Different States have asked for five thousand crore rupees to deal with the problem of drought. You can keep on constituting task forces, committee everyday or calling Ministers' Conference but the farmer who is the sufferer and who is selling his animals, who is facing the flood problem is just not willing to see your task force. He wants results. The Government should think seriously on all this. I think it would be better if the money of the country is spent on the basis of the timely and practical priorities.

SHRI SOHAN POTAI (Kanker): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak in favour of Supplementary Budget for the year 2002-2003. This Supplementary Budget is not for the first time. Every Government presents Supplementary Budget in the House. Rather than making this a political issue, the members should give their suggestions in the House as to how this budget can be made more effective.

It is a fact that this Government under the leadership of hon. Atal Behari Vajpayee ji has put the dwindling economic situation of the country back on the track. The whole country knows this. As far as going fast on that track is concerned, it could not materialise in the wake of many crises like war, earthquake, floods, drought, cyclone due to which the progress at the desired speed could not be achieved.

Our country is an agriculture dominated country but the budget allocation needed for being an agriculture dominated country is far from being adequate. On one

[Shri Sohan Potai]

hand, there is drought in 10-11 States while on the other hand there is flood in the North whether it is Bihar or Assam. Flood are playing havoc there. All the big rivers are there in the North and every year destruction is caused there by floods. Some of the remaining States suffer from drought. In such a situation, a pilot project should be formulated wherein water from the big rivers in the North be channelized to the South through canals so that drought situation does not arise there and the farmers do not have to face the water shortage problem. In this way, flood situation would not arise in other States also. Through you, I would like to request the Government to ponder over it.

The Government is trying to bring the whole country in the mainstream, whether through Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana or through Golden Quadrangle Road Scheme. Similarly, agriculture should be considered on the point indicated by me.

The compensation received for the losses incurred due to the natural calamities, such as floods or drought, is not adequate. The amount of compensation being provided to the affected persons was fixed 24 years ago. This should also be considered in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It would be good if you give reference of the demand number under which you are speaking?

SHRI SOHAN POTAI: Very little amount is allocated for Health in this Budget. The acute water problem in this scorching heat may help spread many diseases and therefore, more funds should have been allocated for this. Hon. Member has suggested that foodgrain and funds should be given to famine affected areas. In this regard, I would like to say that Chhattisgarh is also a famine affected area facing drinking water problem, foodgrain problem and scores of many other problems. There should have been provision for this in the Budget. So far as the allegation of the Hon'ble Member that the Government is discriminating is concerned, I don't agree to it. Last time, Chhattisgarh Government received sufficient foodgrains and fund but it could not spend that money or distribute foodgrain due to lack of sufficient schemes till date. Sufficient funds are provided but there should be some policy to see that it is spent on proper schemes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Say your point in a single sentence.

SHRI SOHAN POTAI: I wanted to speak further but I conclude here by supporting this supplementary Budget
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Pandian, kindly cooperate with the Chair. Time is limited.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli): Sir, I went through the Annexure of the Demands for Excess Grants for 2002-03. I have not seen a line of support to States regarding drought conditions and natural calamities. So, I am upset.

Sir, as early as in the first week of July, the Government of Tamil Nadu has asked Rs. 300 crore to tide over the drought conditions. The Chief Minister has asked for Rs. 300 crore. That was also reiterated in the Ministerial Conference held last week. We did not hear a word of reply and that is why, I am taking up this opportunity to get a reply from the hon. Finance Minister.

Then, Sir, about three months back, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had asked for a State package of Rs. 3000 crore. There is no answer for that also. Now, to tide over this drought condition, the Chief Minister has convened a meeting of Collectors of Tamil Nadu yesterday.

Sir, in that meeting she even went to the extent of tapping funds from each MLA, of Rs. 15 lakh from each MLA to be contributed from MLALAD Scheme to generate Rs. 30 crore. I would say that had this Rs. 3,000 crore been allocated or granted to the State of Tamil Nadu, it would have gone ahead in tiding over the drought conditions. Apart from that, hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. *Puratchi Thalaivi* has asked for another Rs. 123 crore for drought relief. It is because some of the Collectors who are the field officers, complained that bore wells have gone dry; water table has gone down; and agriculture has come to a stand still. For the delta area, the Chief Minister has granted about Rs. 55 crore. This is a tragic case of one State. I would say that this is the minimum requirement for a State. For Coconut Crop Damage Scheme, she has asked for Rs. 250 crore. For Food for Work Scheme and Wasteland Development Scheme, the estimate has come to about Rs. 100 crore. I went through this Table of the Excess Grants or the current grant for 2002-03. That is why I said that we are not satisfied. Irrigation and agriculture operations form part of important deliberations in Parliament and elsewhere. We have been asking the Central Government to grant more funds to the State to tide over these problems.

I want to know from the Finance Minister whether there is any monitoring cell to monitor all the States which are suffering from drought scenario and other

natural calamities. Today I saw in the library yesterday's *The Hindu*. The Tamil Nadu Government has formulated a contingency plan. In the same way, the Union Government should also formulate a contingency plan. It is because you know there will be earthquake; you know every year there will be drought conditions; and you know every year there will be problems for farmers. Is there any contingency plan? If not, it is high time that a contingency plan should have been evolved by the hon. Finance Minister. The hon. Finance Minister is a good diplomat. I know that. I was a member of the Committee on External Affairs. He can negotiate with any State and solve the problem. I know he will solve the problem of Tamil Nadu, because he will finance it wholly. He comes there often. He already came there a number of occasions in 1998. I know that. I request the hon. Finance Minister, through you Mr. Chairman, to grant Rs. 3,000 crore which the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Dr. *Puratchi Thaliavi* asked first, and the present Rs. 300 crore, apart from the Rs. 100 crore that we want for wasteland development immediately to tide over the drought conditions. It comes to about Rs. 750 crore totally. If you grant Rs. 3,750 crores, Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan will be happy, Shri Gingee Ramachandran will be happy and all your Members will be happy. ...*(Interruptions)* I will conclude my speech. Last week we deliberated over the drought conditions. We have deliberated that in detail. But last week we were not able to meet the hon. Finance Minister. Now, the hon. Finance Minister is here. It is the only opportunity when we can ask the hon. Finance Minister directly about any such thing. Shri Anant Geete is also here. He is also a great friend of mine. I hope they will be able to shell out money from the Union Treasury. So I would say that the request of the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Dr. *Puratchi Thaliavi* Jayalalitha must be considered and it must be acceded to. They should extend the Union Government's cooperation to the State of Tamil Nadu to tide over the problems faced by the Government. In every sphere, money is needed to run the administration. Here, we are able to earn resources, to some extent. The State has to depend upon the Central Government for its own resources, for any earning programme, for any planning. For any such thing, it has to depend upon the Union Government.

In respect of modernisation of the police force also, I saw that there was no such grant. You have asked for Rs. 150 crore or something like that. So, I would appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to concede to the demands of all the States, especially the States which are facing the drought condition. More particularly, Tamil Nadu is facing this situation. I would request the hon. Minister to offer his purse to the State of Tamil Nadu.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the budget has been passed only a few days back and he has immediately raised the demand for supplementary grants. It is evident from this that he is in an urgent need of supplementary budget. He has brought forward a demand for Rs. 690 million and supplementary demand for Rs. 830 million. We were of the opinion that he has brought forward this supplementary grant of Rs. 690 million to meet the situation arisen due to flood and drought and it should have been passed by the House. They have provided Rs. one lakh for the Department of Agriculture. We don't feel that there is any loss and whether they have been able to get Rs. One lakh, immediately. What kind of loss the Department of Agriculture has suffered. He has been brought in replacing the former Finance Minister hon'ble Yashwant Sinha. It indicates that the condition of the Finance Department of the country is not sustainable. They are expecting that this change would bring some improvement. At that time the People belonging to BJP said that the elections had been badly affected because of it not being favourable, poor-oriented, farmers-oriented as well as village-oriented budget. That is why he was transferred from the Finance Department and sent to the Department of External Affairs. He has ruined the Finance Department and what will he do in the Department of External Affairs we will come to know later. But what is the justification of his joining this Ministry? In one of his statements he said that Rs. 83 thousand crore of NPA is a loot. If it is a loot, who has allowed this loot. You take action against those plunderers, then only we'll accept this fact that the situation is improving.

Hon'ble Prabhu Nath Singhji has left the House. He was talking about villages. So far as villages are concerned, we want to know that for which item they have increased the funds. Just name any one item which indicates any qualitative change in itself, which could justify the fact that there is some improvement after the outgoing of hon'ble Yashwant Sinha and incoming of hon'ble Jaswant Singh. He was an enemy of poor people and a supporter of Multi-nationals and CII. We used to ask him in the House whether the Govt. had any policy or programme for the welfare of the poor people as there is a strong hold of multi-nationals and capitalists. They don't need any protection because they themselves are very strong. People whose capital has increased manifold do not need protection. There is need to give protection to the poor people. The country is facing the problem of

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

unemployment. Attention is not being paid towards the unemployed persons. It was announced that employment will be provided to one crore people every year. But employment is not being provided and instead it is being snatched from the hands of the people. A separate Disinvestment Department has been set-up with the intention of selling out the country. I would speak on this issue separately because a discussion has already been admitted on this subject. This issue is related to the country. The condition of farmers and unemployed youths is very pitiable. There is an urgent need to bring about drastic changes in the Fiscal Policy of the Government otherwise it would lead to a very serious situation. The issue of flood and drought is also before us at present. Affected States also held demonstrations in this regard. Delhi is also among these States. At present, 14-15 States are badly affected by drought.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A detailed discussion has already been held on flood and drought.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I am not discussing that. I am just referring this issue. Two or three States have been ruined by flood and drought but Bihar State is being ruined from three sides viz. by flood, drought and attitude of Government of India. What kind of arrangements will be made in this regard. It was also one of the main reasons to replace Yashwant Sinha. A dishonest, forcible, unjust and unfriendly treatment was meted out to Bihar. This issue was also raised in the House. People say that issues do not leave any impact even if they are discussed in the House. But it is not true. Whatever is said in the House it has a great impact. It carries some meaning. It is not so that we said something and get an answer from the other side and the issue is settled down after it has been passed. These deliberations are heard in the country and throughout the world and thus they leave their impact. Injustice is always done with Bihar. The issue related to package produced no results. Kunwar Sen Committee had mentioned that Bihar is affected by the international rivers and the State Government is not in a position to control the flood. You please go through the report submitted by Kunwar Sen Committee and see its recommendations and then decide as to how some action can be taken up in this regard.

When Bihar was bifurcated and a new State Jharkhand was created. it was said at the time that justice would be done with Bihar as everything viz. schools, colleges etc. had gone in the new State. It was also said in the report of Reorganisation Commission that each of the States will get 50 percent share. Recently, it was

decided that 75 percent will be given to Jharkhand and Bihar will get only 25 percent. Before the bifurcation the 11th Finance Commission had made recommendations with regard to Bihar and Jharkhand treating them as a single State.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already raised the issue regarding bifurcation and 11th Finance Commission a number of times.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The bifurcation was made on the basis of land. It was mentioned by the 10th Finance Commission that Bihar has suffered devastation to a large extent during the last 10 years. About 50 percent devastation had been caused in Bihar by the natural calamities whereas Jharkhand suffered comparatively less. Every year destruction to the tune of Rs. 1000-1200 crore is caused due to natural calamities in Bihar. Four or five districts of Bihar which includes Darbhanga, Sitamarhi, Muzaffarpur have been ruined ...
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please conclude now. You are in the panel of the Chairmen.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman Sir, the 10th and 11th Finance Commission had made certain recommendations. As per these recommendations, funds were released to Bihar only for one year but after that funds for Bihar were with-held. The elections of local bodies in Bihar have already been held but the funds have not been released whereas in Jharkhand, the elections of local bodies have not been held as yet, but the funds have been made available to them. Our amount to the tune of Rs. 600 crore is withheld. As sum of Rs. 28 crore was given to Jharkhand and only Rs. 9 crore were given to Bihar. Bihar was given one fourth amount and Jharkhand was given three fourth of the amount. What kind of formula is this? The population of Bihar is 8 crore 30 lakh whereas the population of Jharkhand is 2 crore 69 lakh. There are 45 thousand villages in Bihar whereas only 22 thousand villages are there in Jharkhand. Is it justified so far as Bihar is concerned? Now, new Finance Minister has taken over the charge, will he do the justice?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you please conclude. Your speech will not go on record. Shri Bhan Singh Bhaura.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Bihar did not get justice in the centrally sponsored schemes envisaged in the 9th five year plan. A sum of Rs. 6500 crore was spent for drinking water in the country. Bihar should have got a sum of atleast Rs. 600 crore but only Rs. 30 crore have been given ...
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Raghuvansh Prasadji, your speech is not being recorded. I have called Shri Bhan Singh Bhaura.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: We are struggling for justice ...*(Interruptions)*. The population of Bihar is 8 crore 30 lakh and this Government is causing hindrance in its development ...*(Interruptions)* The Government has made Bihar too poor...*(Interruptions)* We will not allow its further exploitation. We will fight against injustice and atrocities and will get rid of these people who are covetous of money. Otherwise, these covetous people will completely ruin the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I regret that sometimes the members who are expected to maintain decorum in the House are themselves involved in creating disorder. What can I do in this regard. It is the difficulty of this chair and we should realise this. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA (Bhatinda): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing the supplementary demands. Only two and a half month ago the Budget session was concluded. Our budget was passed two and a half month ago. Such a large number of demands have arisen within a short span of two and a half month. What would happen next time, we are eager to see that how many demands will be raised within the next two months. Who owes the responsibility for this. Whether the officers are responsible or hon'ble Minister is responsible for this. We and the House have to look after this issue. But whatever supplementary demands have been brought up, nothing is there for common people. There is nothing for unemployed poor people, farmers and down trodden people in these demands, how can we extend our support to them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to cite an example with reference to the funds released to the States. Funds for drinking water were released for three districts of Punjab namely Bhatinda, Moga and Muktasar. Mansa was there in Bhatinda district which was later deleted and Muktasar was included in its place as it was the district of former Chief Minister. I am telling you now that how much fund was given to Bhatinda. A sum of Rs. 7,52,19,000 was given to Bhatinda, Rs. 3.44 crore were given to Moga and Rs. 39.92 crore to Muktasar whereas that district is smaller than Moga. Where did this money go in Punjab. You might have been reading in newspapers how that money was spent on Sangat Darshan, the enquiry of which is being conducted and you are well aware of that case. Therefore, I am of the view that Finance Minister should do something better and it would

be appropriate if he would not do the work to sell the country like previous Finance Minister. You have given the charge of the Department of Disinvestment of Shri Arun Shorie. He is not carrying out the welfare activities. There is a need for us to save the country and you please save the country. Similarly it was necessary to save the Finance Ministry from Sinhaaji, therefore, he was given the charge of External Affairs. I would like to say that this should also be saved. I want to say that Manasa region is badly affected by the problem of shortage of water and this should be included in the scheme of supply of drinking water.

I would like to give you a suggestion that Income tax is imposed on common man and it is also imposed on small salaried class. It would be appropriate if you give rebate to them in this. Now a days fraudulent tactics are being used with regard to income Tax. Big industrialists also keep with them large farms and they show their income invested in those farms and in this way they convert their black money into white money. So, why income-tax rebate is given to the holders of large farms. It is not correct. Therefore, I think that income-tax should be imposed on the holders of large farms and rebate be given to low salaried class. The agricultural labourers are largely affected by flood and drought. An agricultural labour works in the field. If there will be no crop in the field how can the agricultural labourers survive? Therefore, special scheme should be prepared for them so that they can be provided all necessary help.

Hon'ble Minister should also ponder over for the implementation of 'food for work' scheme and also to provide employment to the unemployed persons. We had also said this day before yesterday that a large quantity of wheat is lying in your godowns and it is spoiling there. Once it is spoiled you have to throw it out. If it is distributed among the poor people on a cheaper rate, say one rupee per kg., it can be utilized. If the hon'ble Minister of Finance will prepare schemes for the employment of the unemployed people and prepare the schemes for the welfare of poor people, then we will welcome him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Rashtrapal ji, it is not your party's time. But I give you two minutes' time. Please conclude within two minutes if you can, otherwise I will call another Member.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: I do want to speak but I will speak in telegraphic language.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I know that but the hon'ble Minister has to give reply.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: I hail from Gujarat. I have many questions about money. I will take some time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is a paucity of time. If I had sufficient time, I would have allowed you. You please start.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing about the Appropriation Bill Nos. 4 and 5. With reference to Appropriation Bill No. 4, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to article 114A of the Indian Constitution, under which the Appropriation Bill can be presented to this House. Sir, the Finance Minister is new to this Ministry but he is not new to the business of the House. Article 114(1) says:

“As soon as may be after the grants under article 113 have been made by the House of the People, there shall be introduced a Bill to provide for the appropriation out of the Consolidated Fund of India of all moneys required to meet.....”

Then, there are various conditions. I am extremely sorry to bring to your kind notice that the Appropriation Bill No. 4 is for the Financial Year 1999-2000 and today we are in the Financial Year 2002-03. I would like to know as to who made the delay and who is responsible for the delay in approaching this House for the Supplementary Grants? Also I would like to know whether it is covered under article 114 of the Constitution or not.

When the Finance Minister took over, he made three remarks in his first Press Conference. I welcome all those remarks. He worried about the food for the people. It is a very important concern. His second concern was that the purchasing power of the common people should be improved. His third concern was that the income of the Government by way of tax collections should improve. I would like to give two extreme examples. One is from Gujarat. A woman, aged 40, committed suicide in the city of Cambay before one week, as reported in the Press on the 24th July. Her name was Vaishali Ben, aged 40, belonging to Cambay. She had two children. Her husband died four months before. The family was doing business of selling spices. They had taken bank loan and money from other creditors. After her husband died, the bank started recovery proceedings along with the creditors. The widow was not able to face the situation and committed suicide. On the other side, we have NPA to the extent of Rs. 83,000 crore. My friend, Shri Kirit Somaiya was defending that this Government is not responsible for recovery of that. I would like to bring out this contrast.

I also want to give two specific cases to the hon. Finance Minister for detailed investigation. One is, as reported in the Press, the CBI has issued a red corner notice to a particular business group doing business from Delhi and settled in UK about drawback availing of Rs. 150 crore on the basis of false export consignment papers. Let this House know which is that party and what actions are being taken by the Finance Minister. These are very serious issues. ...*(Interruptions)* I would request that I may be allowed some more time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : I am giving only cases. I am concerned about the Income Tax Department because I had worked in the Income Tax Department for 37 years. So, I am giving some details which are in the interest of the entire country. I am not criticising the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no time. Please sit down.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): He has very good points. Please allow him.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I know that well.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Four particular NGOs were granted permission in Gujarat to import clothes for the earthquake victims. Now it is found, as reported in the Press, that instead of clothes, they were bringing other items along with the clothes. Instead of being distributed among the earthquake victims in Gujarat, those items were sold in the markets of Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai. I do not want to give the name of the Trusts or the NGOs which were doing these activities. But I want the Government to investigate and inform this House which are these firms and what actions are being taken.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : I want to give specific details only.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister has to reply. There is no time.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Sir, in the last March-April ethnic cleansing which was carried out in Gujarat with the support of the State Government to annihilate one particular class from the commerce of Gujarat, the loss to the State in the months of March and April was Rs. 10,000 crore. Gujarat is the commerce headquarters of the country. The loss to the production was Rs. 500

crore per day. One wing of the ruling Party carried out the ethnic cleansing. Now another wing of the Government, that is, the Insurance Department, has failed to pay for the loss of properties and business activities which were destroyed in that part of the country. Who is responsible for this? So I am worried about the money which is allocated from the Central Government. I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister whether there is proper monitoring or not.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. This is not fair.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Kindly allow me some more time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are disobeying the Chair.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Let me conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Sir, this very House approved the two per cent increase in the surcharge on income tax for helping the earthquake victims of Gujarat. That amount comes to Rs. 2,600 crore. I just want to know from the hon. Finance Minister whether this amount of Rs. 2,600 crore collected from the surcharge on income tax is given to the Gujarat Government or not. If it is given to the Government of Gujarat, how is it spent? The World Bank has given interest-free loan to the Government of Gujarat amounting to Rs. 4,500 crore for earthquake victims. I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister whether that amount is properly utilised or not. I also want to know what help is being given by the Central Government to the State Government to face the recent riot-created problems in the State of Gujarat. According to me, the Government of Gujarat had spent only Rs. 59 crore. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me time to speak. I would like to state about currency, minting of coins and stamp demand no. 26 that R.B.I. has circulated bank notes (currency notes) made of plastic polymer but the Government is stating it again and again that R.B.I. has not done so. Under the influence of an Australian company, R.B.I. had got printed notes on some rims of plastic products on experiment basis for our

country and consignment was sent to Australia and permission was not taken from the Government for that. This act is unlawful. I would like to know whether the Government is aware of that and if so, what action is being taken against R.B.I. A 'Singhest Mela' is going to be organised in the year 2003 in Nasik district. I would like to thank the Government of India for granting rupees 100 crore for that out of which rupees 50 crore have already been released. I request that the remaining amount of Rs. 50 crore may also be released at the earliest.

The Government of Maharashtra has set up 'Shibari Mahamandal' for aborigines. For that the Government of Maharashtra will pay 50 per cent amount and the remaining 50 per cent amount will be paid by the Central Government. Through you, I would like to request the Government that Rs. 15 crore may be released as early as possible. I would also like to say that a lot of discussion has already been held here over drought situation. Not raising this issue again, I want to say only this much in this regard that the maximum funds may be given for them.

[English]

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buldana): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. I rise to support the Supplementary Demands for Grants.

The hon. Minister of Finance has kept 32 grants which need additional Rs. 7,700.16 crore, out of which the net cash outgo is Rs. 3,913.36 and the remaining Rs. 4,093.56 is the enhancement of the cash receipts.

While going through the Demands, department-wise, I found that our hon. Minister of Finance has demanded Rs. 500 crore for the UTI to meet the shortfall between the assured repurchase price and the net asset value.

17.49 hrs.

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh in the Chair]

I welcome and thank our hon. Minister of Finance who has taken steps to reassure the investors who have invested their money in the UTI because of their faith in the Government. This is a very courageous step that our hon. Minister of Finance has taken. But simultaneously, the officials and office-bearers working in the UTI must be made accountable for the misappropriation that has taken place over there.

[Shri Anandrao Vithoba Adsul]

About Rs. 331 crore are demanded for VRS to the employees of the Indian Iron and Steel Company and the Bharat Refractories Company. This is also a good step taken by our hon. Minister of Finance in the interest of the employees of these companies.

I have seen that in the Department of Heavy Industries, there is an accounting adjustment in respect of transactions relating to revival plan for the Tyre Corporation of India Limited of Rs. 100.20 crore and for the Hindustan Paper Corporation of India of Rs. 445.21 crore. The revival of the companies is definitely essential for these days. For the sake of employment of the workers, it is also a good step taken by our hon. Minister of Finance. But I am unhappy with the provision for Agriculture and Cooperative Department. The total amount is Rs. 9 crore only.

Sir, as we are providing about Rs. 62,000 crore for the NPAs in the nationalised banks, we are providing only Rs. 100 crore in the Budget for the cooperative sector. It is a very meagre amount as compared to nationalised banks' provision.

Sir, there is a very short time to me and ultimately the hon. Minister of Finance has to reply. That is why, I thank the hon. Minister of Finance and also to you for the opportunity given to me.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Sir, I am very grateful to the hon. Members for the contributions that they have made and the suggestions and observations that they have made. As I proceed to respond to the observations made by the hon. Members depending on whether the observation was in English or Hindi, I will attempt to answer the issue in that very language.

Let me first deal with certain specific observations made. Our old friend Shrimati Margaret Alva found everything negative. It is a matter of some disappointment to me, but rather than reverting the issue politically, let me attempt to answer the issues on the basis of statistical data because there is a very little scope in empirically established statistical data to play politics with the issues involved. She, as indeed did Shri Rupchand Pal and some other hon. Members, has said that industrial growth is stagnating. This is factually incorrect because the overall industrial production has actually increased by 3.8 per cent in the first two months of April and May as against 2.1 per cent in the first two months of the corresponding period last year. I am glad she is here. She was good enough to suggest that exports are falling, as indeed did

my old friend, Shri Rupchand Pal and some other speakers have spoken about it. I am sorry that these two things are factually not correct. This is empirically and statistically established data; this is not the Government data, this is given by the Statistical Institute. The exports have grown in dollar terms by 10.5 per cent in April-May, in two months, as against the negative growth of minus 2.1 per cent last year of the same period. This is the data. She also suggested that revenue collection. ...*(Interruptions)* I can only talk. ...*(Interruptions)* If they croan by this figure in the first two months of current year, I am only one month, not even one month old in the Ministry and I can only answer that. ...*(Interruptions)* I did not find it necessary to interrupt my friend, Shrimati Margaret Alva when she spoke. ...*(Interruptions)* I am very flattered and I am very gratified that you are with me. Let me also share with you about our revenue collection. I am really very happy on these two aspects. Firstly, there has been an increase of nearly 21 per cent in gross revenue collection and 16.76 per cent in non-tax collection this year up to May—I have not got the June and July figures here—as compared to the corresponding figures last year. Though I will be coming back to it in a moment, I am also very glad that because of the response that we have got about Permanent Account Numbers and the long queues that got established, yesterday, I think for the first time ever, we took a decision to extend the period in which the citizens could complete the formality. I am very happy to say this. This is not a response to something that is declining. I would, therefore, appeal to hon. Members that, by all means, make the political points that you wish to find fault with us politically. There are certain aspects that really do not address themselves to the politics of it.

I have mentioned about revenue collection. Revenue collection is not my personal revenue that is being collected, it is the revenue of the country. So much of it goes to the States. If the total revenue collection goes up, the entire country is benefited. It is not necessary to decry what is a universal fact.

She suggested that interest payments have increased in absolute terms. Yes, they have increased. But the rate of increase in interest payments has declined. On FDI and drought, let me share—I am not saying this to score a debating point, but I am saying this really to establish the facts of the matter—with my friend, the hon. Shrimati Margaret Alva, and I shall faithfully respond to what she said. She said that nothing has been given to Karnataka in the month of April to the end of July. From April to the end of July, the total releases of Rs. 1,775.67 crore

have been given to Karnataka under various heads, not just for drought relief. It is not that nothing has been given.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : I am raising a specific question. I would be grateful if you would give me the figures of how much has been given for drought relief for 2000-01 and for 2001-02. I am asking this only. Not even a single rupee has been given asked for it, we did not get a pie.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): All the Congress Governments do the same thing. Rajasthan Government also do the same. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Same thing is happening in Maharashtra also. Maharashtra Government also has not given anything.

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I shall address myself to the totality of the drought and what my old friend, hon. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi said just now. He has asked whether specifically for drought, anything has been released just now. Under calamity relief, about Rs. 30 crore has been released but he wanted to know specifically for drought, what has been released just now. Let me say that there is already a provision of Rs. 1,600 crore for assistance to States from Natural Calamity Contingency Fund for 2002-03. This is what all of you collectively, this House and that, cleared. Secondly, in the Budget for 2002-03, there is already a provision of Rs. 600 crore for 'Food-for-Work' Programme and Rs. 1,998 crore for the *Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana*. These sums of money are already available.

18.00 hrs.

These themselves address the totality of the drought situation. Let me come to drought in a minute. I do find it necessary to respond to just one or two aspects that have been mentioned. One is about investment in Sakhalin.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): It is now six o' clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If House agrees the time may be extended till the Minister completes his reply.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Time may be extended not only till the Minister completed his reply but for Appropriation Bill also because I have also to speak on it.

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS : We agree to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is alright.

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, then broadly, essentially my distinguished friend and colleague of several years standing, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi made essentially three points. One is about investment in energy security by investing in an established and producing field in Sakhalin in Siberia in Russia. He has questioned the validity of this suggestion that whereas you have invested and, therefore, you deprived ONGC of funds for domestic—not production but certainly—exploration. I would request him that this is really best answered and I have dealt with this issue as the Minister of External Affairs. But this is really best answered, not in this forum but in another forum.

Second, he referred to some correspondence that he has had with my distinguished predecessor Finance Minister and said that there is a variance between what the then Finance Minister said and what other information he received from SEBI. I am sure that there is no discrepancy in the intent behind this purpose. But I will address myself afresh to this matter and attempt to resolve the issue through you.

18.02 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

On, drought there was a suggestion not only from here but from various other quarters. I might assure the hon. Members that actually on drought we started working much earlier. Though from the part of the world where I come, we do not work on anything which suggests a bad omen, but having got the responsibility of finance, I do wish to share with the hon. Members that in the Finance Ministry we started working on this possibility of drought. It was because I was apprehensive of the possibility of a drought almost from the second day of my taking over the responsibility of this Ministry. I wish to share with the hon. Members that because of that and the hon. Prime Minister's initiative some action has been taken. The hon. Prime Minister has, in fact, already announced the establishment of a Task Force on drought and the decision was taken well into last week and the

[Shri Jaswant Singh]

formalities have been completed and so there was some mention made in the other House. The other day I have referred to it in the other House already that there exists a Task Force under the Chairmanship of hon. Deputy Prime Minister and I will be coming to it in a moment.

There was a point made by hon. Member Shri Pravin Rashtrapal as to why the Excess Demands for the year 1999-2000 are now coming and are it part of article 14 and are they covered in that etc. and who is to account for them. I do not think anybody is to account for them really. It is very much part of the totality of the budgetary provisions and procedural making. What is completed in 1999-2000 from the Budget Estimates and through the Revised Estimates and through the Actuals and then they go to the C&AG and the C&AG makes some observations and then it goes to the Public Accounts Committee. The procedures of democratic parliamentary working, particularly, in matters of finance are very finely tuned and they continue to go on and quite often you have corrections being made some years after. So, that is really about 1999-2000.

Sir, while I have expressed my gratitude to the hon. Members, I must share with hon. Members that it is neither an interim Budget nor is it an alternative to the annual budgetary exercise, but I wish to take this opportunity, Sir, to answer the question raised by Shri Prabhunath Singh though I have answered that.

[Translation]

Hon. Prabhunath Singh ji had told that we would be recognised by our deeds. If we do not do any thing, then no body will recognise us. Therefore, I suggest that please do not allow to create such situation. In brief, I would like to tell you what is being done in this regard specially.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: What is the role of the Government in this regard?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Since you have asked a question, I may tell you that there is an ordinance before the House which is required to be converted into a Bill and perhaps it is listed in today's business. You pass this Bill. If this Bill is passed by both the Houses then it will become an Act.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: It should be referred to the Standing Committee. So many loopholes are there.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, we cannot refer an Ordinance to a Standing Committee. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I cannot discuss this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No running commentary please.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, I am truly astonished to see my old friends from CPI(M) are suggesting that we do not go in for collection of Non-Performing Assets.
...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We are in favour of that. Your action is belated action. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : We are not against it. ...*(Interruptions)* That is the opinion of the Chief of IBA. That is not going to serve any purpose*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, that is clear. He is mistaking you. Your position is not like that.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Let me very briefly encapsulate. I am trying and will make it as brief as I can. I will, while addressing the issues of Supplementary Demands, also address myself to some immediate problems that have arisen and to some of the correctives that need to be applied immediately.

These Supplementary Demands are for Rs. 8,007.16 crore. I must explain it. A number of Members have asked why it has come two months after the Budget. Please understand that the budgetary process does not start when Budget is presented in February, and eventually even though you finally give it your approval in the month of May, it is really based on the estimates of January. It is on the estimates of the Ministries and various Departments etc. of January that the February Budget gets finalised and gets approved by May. So, when I am coming to you in the month of July, towards the end of 7th month, I am not coming because it is only a two month period that has elapsed; it is really almost six to seven months period that has elapsed, and in-between, a number of developments could have taken place which are then listed in the Supplementary Budget. It is not anything unusual and it is certainly not denotative of any kind of laxity on the part of the Government.

The cash outgo aggregate of this amount of Rs. 8,007.16 crore is about Rs. 3,913.36 crore and the remaining amount will be maximum savings within the approved Demands or by enhanced recoveries for the period. Of the total outgo of Rs. 3,913 crore, a sum of Rs. 2,409.60 crore is proposed for Plan schemes, Rs. 1,000 crore for financial restructuring of public sector undertakings and Rs. 500 crore for Unit Trust of India. I will come to all these in a minute.

So far as the economic situation or economic prospects are concerned, let me share with the hon. Members, if you permit, Sir, it will take me just a minute or two, in the year 2001, we saw a downturn in the global economic activity with compression in global output and demand. This is reinforced by hike in security concerns, which I need not go into just now—the September 11 attacks etc. Industrialised economies, therefore, demonstrated low growth, rising unemployment and low demand. This global trend had begun to show signs of reversal. Then, systemic deficiencies surfaced in the West, particularly leading to a loss of investor confidence and a decline in global capital markets. We are not insulated Sir, our economy is not insulated, but it is resilient and it continues to display the energy of recovery.

As I just share with you, as of June, 2002 the overall real GDP growth is currently forecast at 5.5 per cent for 2002-2003. I am not satisfied with it. I do agree that for achieving an eight per cent growth rate, we need much higher savings ratio, of course, but at 5.5 per cent, we remain still, despite all these difficulties, amongst the seven or eight leading growth nations of the world. For the size of the economy, the size of the country, this is not a small thing.

Services are projected to grow at around 6.9 per cent. Industrial output is growing at 5.9 per cent, though the agricultural growth is forecast to grow at 3.5 per cent. I have put a question-mark on it because this projection of 3.5 per cent predates the monsoon hiccups that we have been witnessing, particularly in the last two-week period. It is not possible to have statistical projections on a weekly basis or to keep up-to-date with events. I am informed that there has been some monsoon activity in the plains of Uttar Pradesh etc., today. I do not want to forecast as to whether this is a real revival.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL (Phulpur): Hon. Minister is requested that he should speak about drought only.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I am speaking about drought only. I do not want to make it a parochial. When hon. Margaret Alva says that I am politicizing the issue of drought, it pains to me. She is our old colleague. It is not possible that we should not take birth. It is also not possible that in the State where I was born and grew up, which is my home-town and also my mother's paternal home and where I got everything there should not be at all any rainfall and it is also not fair to tell me that there was no rain in Rajasthan. I know about it and I wish that no State should face such kind of drought in future.

[English]

But I do wish to share with the hon. Members that we have abundant foodstuffs. I will come to it, when I come to drought management. Briefly, there is a Task Force established, and the Government, I say this with humility, is committed to ensuring that there is not and shall not be any scarcity of foodgrains in any part of the country in this period.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The foodgrains stock is 65 million tons.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I know it.

[English]

I would be able to share that with you in a minute. That is why I said that the hon. Prime Minister has constituted a Task Force on drought management. It would be chaired by the hon. Deputy Prime Minister and the tasks that have been given to this Task Force are, provision of greater employment opportunities, better nutrition, water conservation and water distribution, namely, provision for potable water and creation of durable assets.

[Translation]

I would like to tell you that we have a bitter experience about the famine relief work that have taken place in Rajasthan. Generally, it is seen that in the name of famine we dig around and remove dust and after sometime cover these pits. Is this a relief work? This is not a famine relief work.

[Shri Jaswant Singh]

[English]

Sir, I wish to assure the hon. Members, particularly distinguished Shrimati Margaret Alva that resources for managing these testing circumstances will be made available through a judicious re-allocation and redeployment of assets. It is not possible for me to give individual State allocation what they will be and also an assurance. Shri Pandian just told me that the State of Tamil Nadu would require a sum of Rs. 3,750 crore. The State of Maharashtra would require at least a sum of Rs. 1600 crore to manage drought. The State of Karnataka says that it would require a sum of Rs. 900 crore. But you would understand that it is not possible for the Union Government to manage resources on this basis.

Sir, I am a Member of the Task Force. It is not as if we have remained inattentive to this matter. We would attend to it. Judiciously, the funds shall be reallocated. After all, there are other Members also in the Task Force. The Minister of Agriculture, the Minister of Rural Development, the Minister of Civil Supplies and Minister of Finance are the members of the Task Force. We would attend to all these aspects.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : Sir, the State of Tamil Nadu would require Rs. 750 crore to manage the drought conditions. But the State treasury was empty when the present Chief Minister came to power.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I follow that. But we are not playing politics with drought at all.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : Sir, Rs. 750 crore would be required for managing the drought situation and Rs. 3000 crore would be required to tide over the precarious economic condition as prevailing in the State after the completion of the elections.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Now you will get.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : There is a suggestion here that we are somehow playing politics with drought in the country.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : Some Governments think that they would not come back to power again.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If you want to seek clarifications after his reply is over, then you can do so.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, I want to share another important aspect with the House.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : There are severe drought conditions in the districts of Bankura and Purulia in the State of West Bengal.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Sir, there is a flood havoc in North Bengal.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, I said it is not possible for me to go into the allocation of individual States.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Senior Members here are sitting and asking questions.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, I do assure the hon. Members that the Central Government will be entirely judicious. There is no politics in combating calamity or in the management of drought that afflicts certain parts of the country today. I do wish to also assure the hon. Members that we will not permit the existing infrastructure projects which are in hand, to suffer from want of resources. It is my assurance to the House. In fact, I wish to again say that whichever Ministry is dealing with the infrastructure projects, I wish to say it here now that we will switch from financial allocation system to physical completion system.

If, for example, the project is to complete 1500 kilometres of roads, once the 1500 kilometres of road nears completion, and upon completion of say 1300 kilometres, if the Ministry or concerned authority were to come to me and say: "Now, what do we do?", we will give them money for additional 200 kilometres. We will not let infrastructure projects suffer on this account. We will move from simply financial allocation method to physical completion of a project in this period. This, we will request the States also to observe.

[Translation]

In this context I would like to inform the hon. Members that a scheme has been chalked out to deal with the situation pertaining to drought and the House will be informed before it is sent to the States. This scheme is "Anna Antyodaya Yojna".

[English]

It will be separate and distinct from simply 'Food for work'.

[Translation]

For 'Food for work' scheme 700 crore rupees have been sanctioned. This scheme will be meant for the poor

people of villages. This scheme has been launched especially in Rajasthan with the name of 'Antyodaya Yojna'. For the villages, now, it will be 'Anna Antyodaya Yojna'. It is meant for poor. In this scheme, it will be the responsibility of people of the village to whom this 'Anna Antyodaya Yojna' should be entrusted. The Government will not interfere in this regard. This scheme will be explained in details. This scheme will be launched especially for the drought-affected villages.

[English]

I also assure the hon. Members that despite these difficulties, we are resolved in the Government not to dilute our commitment to ensuring fiscal rectitude, responsible financial management, and continuing to manage development growth. We will, as there was some mention here, rein in fiscal deficit by curbing inessential and non-productive expenditure and further enhancing the current buoyancy of the tax revenues which remain high priority of the Government.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : What about downsizing the Government?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Downsizing the Government. I will just come to it.

[Translation]

Much has been discussed about Agriculture. This is a very important issue. The government is determined about it. We have already discussed about 'Kisan Credit Card Scheme'. Besides, National Agriculture Insurance Scheme was launched last year.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : One definite question was raised today. Will you kindly answer it? On the drought issue, you said that the Task Force will deal with it. We will find the outcome. The fact is that FCI is not buying paddy even in the drought-affected States. Even the Minimum Support Price is not available to the farmer for his stock. FCI is not there in the market. Will you work out some mechanism in consultation with the Food Ministry at least to ensure price to the grower who has stocks of paddy now? They cannot sell paddy. There is wheat in Bihar, wheat in Uttar Pradesh. It is a big problem now.

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN KUMAR (Jahanabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of great concern that the

farmers are not getting money for the paddy sold by them to the cooperatives. It is a serious matter. The District Administration has given directions that they should be given their money and this expenditure will be met by the F.C.I. This money has been taken in the name of F.C.I. and the farmers are not getting it.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Though it does not pertain to the subject scheduled for today yet, if it is regarding a particular district, full attention will be given towards it.

SHRI ARUN KUMAR : It is the incident of Arwal in Jahanabad. In my opinion this condition persists in many districts of Bihar.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : You can get the statistics as to how much has been purchased in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa and Chhattisgarh. Within a minute you can get that information.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Individual cases need not be responded to.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : It is not an individual case. It is a matter relating to States. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I have heard your problem, now it is my responsibility. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

Sir, it will be very difficult, if it goes on like this. Let me complete. ... (Interruptions) You may please let me complete. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : After he completes his reply, in case there is any necessity, you can put questions.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : So far as other aspects of encouraging agriculture are concerned, they are well enough known.

I wish to go to other substantial areas.

[Translation]

Prabhunath Singhji, I would like to inform you that government have implemented a special one Time

[Shri Jaswant Singh]

Settlement Scheme for marginal and small farmers and under this scheme instructions has been given to Reserve Bank to cover the loans up to fifty thousand. By this way small farmers will again be benefited. If they have taken a loan up to fifty thousand this will squared up and they will become entitled for fresh loan.

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL : Whether loan will be waived-off.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I am not using the term waive-off of loans. Reserve Bank will cover it and we intends. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL : Hon'ble Minister is requested to get the interest on loans upto fifty thousand waived-off.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : As I have told you, loans upto fifty thousand is being covered by the Reserve Bank. In principle as a Finance Minister it is not possible for me to bring an ordinance on Non-Performing Assets on one hand and make a commitment to waive off interest on the other. Reserve Bank will stand surety to small farmers for a loan up to fifty thousand rupees consequently this loan becomes almost non-existent. After that when Reserve Bank is standing surety they because entitled for a fresh loan.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I congratulate Hon'ble Minister for his recent announcement made for small farmers. But I would like to bring a fact in his notice and I hope he will agree with me. During my speech I raised a question that people living in villages cook their meals using dung cake and firewood. Please tell us whether government is going to take any steps to encourage them so as to promote this activity in the villages so that this may benefit the life of the common people. Foodgrains produced by using fertilizers give rise to various diseases. It will promote cattle rearing and foodgrains produced by using the cattle dung manure will save the human lives from various diseases. Therefore, we would like to know whether hon'ble minister have some proposals for the promotion of cattle rearing.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I understand what the hon'ble member said. He means that fertilizer is not a natural manure and its use leaves many ill-effects on human life. We should use dung and desi manure in agriculture as sheep dung is used in western Rajasthan. I am in favour of promoting it. We must promote it, it is beneficial and hygienic also. But the formulation of plan is out of my purview. I assure you, we shall promote it.

[English]

I expect and I wish to work for an agricultural credit limit, in the year 2002-2003, of Rs. 75,000 crore. I wish to compare that amount of Rs. 75,000 crore with the amount of Rs. 31,956 crore, of 1997-98. If I am able to—as against the figures of Rs. 31,000 crore or Rs. 32,000 crore in 1997-98—achieved a target of Rs. 75,000 crore, it will be a satisfactory achievement.

I wish to share a few thoughts and these are important to revenue collection and taxation. The goals that I have in taxation are :

1. improving the tax-GDP ratio;
2. providing a certain stability in the tax structure;
3. focussing much more on tax administration and compliance; and
4. reversing the direct and indirect tax ratio so that tax administration increasingly becomes more progressive. •

Direct taxes are progressive. Indirect taxes, because they hit the poor, are regressive. The country must move increasingly towards raising the contribution of direct taxes and lowering the ratio of indirect taxes, which is what I meant by reversing the taxes.

The second thing which I am doing and I am committed to, I want to share it with the House, is computerisation. There are benefits of computerisation which I wish the Members to understand. Some hon. Members have asked as to what is the point in having the Permanent Account Number. Some *karorpati* may come, give a few rupees and get cleared by paying the taxes. That is not the intent. We are going to computerise the Permanent Account Number. I have set a target date of completion, that is by October this year we should have total computerisation and God willing, if I am able to achieve that computerisation then it should be possible for me to create a data bank and connect these Permanent Account Numbers.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar): Sir, the entire nation is facing the drought situation. Farmers are not in a position to get even the drinking water. Could you waive their interests due to the cooperatives and also to the nationalised banks? Will you be able to get from the respective States the figures of the credit which they have taken and then waive the interest? IT is a very important thing.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I have just answered this question on waiver of interest. As the Finance Minister of the country, it is not possible for me to agree to this proposal.

I was talking about computerisation. It will be completed by October this year. We expect the assessed taxpayers to pay taxes on time. I believe exactly the same principle must apply to the tax collection agencies when it comes to refund and they must with similar stringency pay the refund due to the assesseees. This is an area which needs improvement and we are committed to achieving it.

I have just spoken about the Permanent Account Number. We have speeded it up. In the first quarter of this year about 400,000 Permanent Account Numbers have been allotted. Up to 30th June, 2002 which is the last date for which I have the figures, almost 24 lakh applications have been received and about 97 per cent of them have received the Permanent Account Number. I share with the hon. Members that it is because of long snaking queues wanting this Permanent Account Number that we have extended the date will the 9th August.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (Murshidabad): For more than two years many people are waiting to get their PAN numbers.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Therefore, it is a much more satisfactory progress this year and I do hope that we are committed to achieving this very quickly.

I also wish to say that the currently taxation law provides for four appellate levels before a tax assessment is finalised; commissioner, tribunal, High Courts and Supreme Court and there is the lateral provision of Settlement Commissions. It is cumbersome, time-consuming and it is a part of the multiple litigation and results in delay in realisation of revenue along with causing hardships to the assesseees.

This has to improve. We need to reduce the levels of appeal, simplify the procedure, and have an in-built and time-bound mechanism for disposal. We will do this by March 2003 and we will reduce, at least, one level of appeal before that period.

Similarly, the Income Tax Act is so complicated that leave alone an ordinary taxpayer, other than tax lawyers, few can understand it including the present speaker and complying with the provisions of it is altogether a different matter. There are too many exemptions. A variety of complex deductions leading to endless complicating

interpretations and harassment of taxpayers. The Income Tax Act must be direct, comprehensive and yet simple.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Sir, we, the Members of Parliament, have to submit income tax returns. Our salary is Rs. 12,000 per month. But is it not treated as salary by the Income Tax Department. So, we are not getting the benefit of Standard Deduction. It is treated as income from other sources. But Lok Sabha Secretariat gives us a certificate which says that it is a salary. So, why is it happening like this?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I must share with the hon. Member that there is an unstated convention of the House about conflict of interest. If the Members of Parliament are interested personally in any issue or any business or any industry—if they run an industry—then, when that matter comes up for discussion, it is expected that the hon. Member of Parliament shall withdraw from that discussion. I do believe that when it comes to personal income tax matter, whatever may be the personal difficulties of Members of Parliament, the Parliament—whether it is this House or that House—with all due respect to you, is not the correct forum for Members of Parliament to raise their taxation problems. You could write to me. But we are tending to forget the convention of conflict of interest. I have often noticed—I do not wish to take names—that Members of Parliament, who are prominent industrialists, in fact, raise queries and lobby for their own industry. It is astonishing. But I would not get deviated by that. We really need to just jog our own memory about conventions that we have made for ourselves.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi): Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Sir I would like to ask just one small question. In the last budget session, senior citizen. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I am coming to that thing, please listen me first.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has just now mentioned something for maintaining the decorum of the House. He has also mentioned that some Members of Parliament purposely lobby to protect certain fraudulent industrial houses or industries as such. I can say on my behalf that you should not hesitate to disclose their names to the nation and Parliament. There is nothing wrong in it. We will

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

support it. Whatever party they may belong to, we want to cleanse the process.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, the Income Tax Act should be direct, comprehensive yet simple and the Act, as far as possible, should be free from exemptions so that compliance and administration of it becomes so much easier. I, therefore, propose to set up a Task Force which would recommend Members for simplification. This Task Force shall submit its Report within 90 days of being established and I hope to incorporate accepted recommendations at the earliest but not later than the next five years.

I accept that small investors need relief. It is only a part of it. Section 80L of the Income Tax Act provides for a deduction of Rs. 9000 from income derived from specified investments plus an additional deduction of Rs. 3000 being allowed on interest on Government securities. This Rs. 9000 plus Rs. 3000 will now be raised to Rs. 12,000 plus Rs. 3000. In other words, the total deduction is raised from Rs. 12,000 to Rs. 15,000. Dividend income from shares of Indian companies and income from mutual funds have been made taxable in the hands of the unit share holders by the Finance Act of 2002. For small investors investing in equity, a threshold limit of Rs. 1000 was provided for the purpose of TDS for senior citizens. For investors, the threshold has been raised to Rs. 2500 and no tax shall be deducted in respect of dividends upto Rs. 2500 received from each company on mutual fund. With computerisation of the Income Tax Department, the data on tax deducted at source will be synchronised with tax returned by the assesseees for better tax administration and compliance.

I am unable to be convinced about the rationale for service tax on life insurance premium. My predecessor had informed the House that this levy would be restricted to the risk element in premium. To simplify and to provide relief, I intend to totally exempt this item of levy on premium.

In the Budget speech for 2002-03, my predecessor had announced that customs duty rates would be further rationalised so as to achieve a structure with just two basic rates at 10 and 20 per cent by the year 2004-05. There is far too much secrecy about it. There is completely unnecessary secrecy. Therefore, I wish to have an open discussion with industry and trade in this regard and will be doing so in the coming months. Further, export subsidies need to be directed in the form of focussed manner so as to prevent misuse. I am receiving far too many complaints about export subsidies being directed

not for promotion of exports but for other purposes. I intend to address that issue in consultation with my distinguished colleague, the Minister for Commerce.

As for direct taxes, so also with indirect taxes, the Government is committed greatly to simplifying the tax procedures also. Tax administration is a service. It used to be provided efficiently to the tax payers to encourage voluntary compliance. Therefore, a Task Force comprising of experts would be constituted hereto on different aspects of indirect tax laws in administration with the same time stipulation of 90 days.

I intend to set up another Task Force on reduction of paper work. This Task Force is to recommend reduction of paper work in tax administration with a view to reducing and simplifying the avalanche of paper that the tax payers encounter. I expect that this Task Force will give their recommendations within 45 days and we will, thereafter, implement them.

The finances of the State are under severe strain. The Empowered Committee of the State Finance Ministers have requested me to give serious consideration to this issue. I am not finding fault. But this is factually correct. The situation has arisen principally on account of phenomenal increase on the salary account, combined with the increase in the debt service obligation of the States. The salary bills have gone up principally on account of the last Pay Commission. We need not go into the history of that Pay Commission and what it has done to the finances of the State and of the country. That is given. I am adult enough to recognise that I have to live in the world as it is and not in the world as it ought to be. Therefore, if the world is as it is, then that is given. We have to collectively address ourselves to what is given and not what it should be. I am honoured, therefore, when State Finance Ministers and my distinguished and learned friend, Shri Ashim Dasgupta, Finance Minister of West Bengal earlier suggested that I, as a Finance Minister, Chair the Committee, comprising of State Finance Ministers, to jointly and collectively arrive at answers for State finances. I have agreed with some trepidation. We intend to play no politics in this. It originally was scheduled to meet on 2nd August. We are now putting it off by just another week. I have no doubt that with the combined efforts of the Centre and the States, we will endeavour to bring some stability to State finance.

The Unit Trust of India merited and invited a lot of comments from a lot of hon. Members. Protection of investors' interest and maintaining the integrity of the market are absolutely vital for revival of our capital market.

The Unit Trust of India has an iconic status and it has played a pioneering role in the development of Mutual Fund industry in the country. It has served millions of small investors extremely well in the past. Unfortunately, on account of certain shortcomings, it has been passing through a difficult phase. I would like to assure the House that all measures to protect the interests of investors shall be taken by the Government. The Unit Trust of India shall be nursed back to health so that it can serve the investor community in a sustainable and viable manner. The Government will stand behind the Unit Trust of India in providing a minimum redemption price to US-64 holders despite the present erosion in its Net Asset Value. A sum of Rs. 300 crore was provided to the Unit Trust of India last year to meet the shortfall under US-64. A sum of Rs. 700 crore is proposed to be provided through this Supplementary Demand for meeting likely shortfall against the assured redemption price under US-644. Further, in order to enable Unit Trust of India to honour its commitment to investors in the MIP Scheme, the Government have extended a guarantee to Unit Trust for Rs. 1,000 crore to enable to get the fund.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I appreciate the Minister for the support that he is extending from the Government to the UTI. According to him, it is a shortcoming. But according to us, it is a scam. I would only like to ask the Minister whether he will assure the House that after the findings of JPC which would be tabled, appropriate administrative action will be taken on the recommendations of the Report. That is the only request that I want to make. We are giving money from Parliament which is people's money. He should also assure us that appropriate steps will be taken after the report is tabled.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Let me finish. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not very good at arithmetic. I have a horde of officers to help me with the fund required. We will find the fund. I assure you about that. We have extended a guarantee of Rs. 1000 crore to enable it to raise funds to meet the liquidity requirements. I am committed to long-term solution to the ailments presently afflicting the Unit Trust. We will find the correct remedy.

In addition to this, so far as the JPC Report is concerned, I would submit that even before the JPC Report is presented, the hon. Prime Minister has already announced the establishment of a Group of Ministers which comprises the Finance Minister, the Deputy-Chairman of the Planning Commission and the Disinvestment Minister to address themselves to the problems of Unit Trust and the IFCI and to suggest fool-proof measures. ...*(Interruptions)* So far as the JPC Report is concerned, let the JPC Report be presented. I see no reason why the hon. Members should think that the JPC Report or its recommendations shall not be acted upon.

I want to speak about the Relief Bonds. The ceiling of Rs. 2 lakh per annum on the purchase of Relief Bonds has been reviewed by the Ministry in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India. I am glad to inform and announce that in addition to the existing Relief Bond Scheme, the Government shall shortly offer a new scheme enabling the citizens to invest their savings in a tax-free bond with a considerably enhanced monetary ceiling. The ceiling will not be limited to Rs. 2 lakh as it is here. These bonds will carry an annual interest of 7 per cent, have a maturity of six years and they will be tax-free. The other details shall be announced shortly after consultation with the Reserve Bank of India. I have no doubt that this would satisfy some of the needs of the investing community.

About SEBI, Government shall strengthen the SEBI so that it can take effective action against the erring market intermediaries and companies so as to improve the integrity of the market as also to develop it. Further, market risk management becomes far more efficacious at shorter settlement cycle. There is need, therefore, to move to T + 1 rolling system from the existing T + 3 by tuning up the funds and securities processing cycle. SEBI is being advised to take necessary action in this regard in consultation with the RBI.

I have also the distinction and honour of handling the Company Affairs and I felt the need in Company Affairs of establishing an organisation that can deal with this issue. This is the organisation that I call the Serious Frauds Office. In the recent past, the country has experienced certain unhealthy practices whereby, for example, the small investors have lost their life's savings. This is the phenomenon which the hon. Members have earlier called as vanishing companies. Hon. Members are also aware that misleading accounting practices adopted by a number of companies abroad have led to major bankruptcy. The Government is committed to protecting the small investors and bringing to justice the perpetrators of such frauds. I, therefore, propose to set up a Serious Frauds Office in the Department of Company Affairs to investigate professionally and comprehensively the frauds that occur or are likely to occur and do so with despatch and efficiency.

Simultaneously, we are considering a host of other measures to ensure transparency and full disclosure in corporate accounts as also to strengthen statutory audit provisions.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am raising this particular issue for the last four years. The Securities and Exchange Board of India and the

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

Department of Company Affairs define a 'vanishing company' as a company which is not available to the Government. They take into account only those companies, but they do not take into account those companies which are not available to small investors. So, I would urge upon the hon. Finance Minister that the definition of 'vanishing companies' should be expanded to those companies which do not respond to small investors or to those companies which are not available or not traceable or which have siphoned off money. In Bombay Stock Exchange, the number of this category of companies is 997. Therefore, I would urge upon the Minister to expand the scope of the definition.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : We are only making a new beginning. I do not say that the new beginning is complete in itself, but it is a new beginning and I do hope the hon. Member will welcome such a beginning of establishing a Serious Frauds Office. Otherwise, the investigation is spread over various agencies. Some cases go to the Central Bureau of Investigation, some go to SEBI, some go to the Department of Company Affairs and so, it becomes a complicated affair.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is no dearth of laws in this country, but still things are going on like this.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, I can only try and improve things. If my friend feels that it is not good enough, we will benefit by his great experience and he can advise us in this regard.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the investors should get back their money. Some provision should also be made in this regard.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, the hon. Members are free to make such recommendations.

As far as the issue of Indian Depository Receipts is concerned, companies and corporates outside India can offer to Indian investors an attractive opportunity for investment in major overseas corporates as well as in NRI ventures abroad. I propose soon to issue rules for operationalising the concept of Indian Depository Receipts.

The Companies Act was enacted in 1956 and though it has been amended from time to time, it has not kept pace with the fast changing corporate realities. We will persist with the process of liberalisation in the Act, but on a parallel basis, the regulatory powers within the Act need to be strengthened to enable effective action in instances where corporate wrong-doings come to light.

Sir, I have taken a great deal of the hon. Members' time. I do believe that the path of opening up the economy, decentralising and liberalising is irreversible, but I also believe simultaneously that more liberal the regime the stronger there is the need for effective regulatory mechanism. I am quite clear in my mind that 'free market'—and I have said this earlier—is not an euphemism for a 'free for all'. We wish to have an effective and productive liberal regime as indeed we must have. Then, simultaneously we have to have a very effective and answerable regulatory mechanism. That is what I intend to do; that is what I am committed to.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : I would like to know about the rate of interest for senior citizens from the Hon'ble Finance Minister. Former Minister of Finance has given assurance in this very House that the rate of interest for senior citizen would be increased. ...*(Interruptions)* But this rate of interest is decreasing day by day. I was assured that they will be given 1% more than the normal rate of interest. Banks were instructed accordingly in this matter. ...*(Interruptions)* But Banks are reducing the rate of interest for Senior citizens too and this reduction ranges from .05% to .25% for different banks.

19.00 hrs.

I want an assurance from the Hon'ble Minister of Finance in the House that senior citizens must be paid 1% more than the normal rate of interest keeping in view the cut that is being made in the G.P.F. interest rate of employee and senior citizens. I want an assurance in this regard from the Hon'ble Minister of Finance.

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for half a minute, I crave the indulgence of the hon. Minister of Finance. This is the year of the Commonwealth Games and the Asian Games. Our sports persons are winning medals. But this year's Budget has taken away the exemption meant for water sports, that is, rowing, canoeing, yatching and kayaking which were category-I sports. The Services Sports Control Board does not have the benefit of the Customs' exemption order for importing equipment. The Services' contribution to the Indian Sports Contingent and the medal winners is substantial.

I do not want an answer now. I am just submitting to him. I have also written to him and also the Minister

of Sports. Could he kindly help the services Sports Control Board and the Water Sports who have been winning medals.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I had raised an issue related to savings. The National Savings Organisation is being dismantled. The provision is there for all these things. But what has happened during the last seven or eight months is this. Who would print the stationery items, like the *Kisan Vikas Patras*, the National Savings Certificates, the agents' receipt book. These are not available in many parts of the country. As a result of that, the small savings are suffering immensely. I want an assurance. What steps does the Government propose? The Postal Department disowns it. The NSO is being dismantled. No stationery, no certificates and no receipt books are available in many parts of the country. So, the small savings, which benefit the States, are at a disadvantage. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): This should be addressed.

[Translation]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): I want an assurance from Hon'ble Minister of Finance. Minimum support price has been fixed for paddy procurement throughout the country. Andaman and Nicobar Islands have minimum 3000 m.m. rain in a year and have small farmers with no irrigation facilities. Government does not procure paddy there. Government has launched some very good schemes as Antyodaya scheme, Annapurna scheme etc. Due to increasing in the quota of rice and wheat for those who live below poverty line, paddy procurement of small farmers is not being done. I want an assurance from Hon'ble Minister of Finance for the paddy procurement of small farmers at minimum support price in the islands.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: I would like to make a request to the Hon'ble Minister. Banks charge 14% interest on Kisan Credit Cards from those farmer who are issued with credit cards and take loan thereon. NABARD charges 9% interest from banks. If rate of interest on Kisan Credit Cards is lowered for farmers, they will feel relieved because right now they are facing drought and flood situations.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Being influenced with Australian company. R.B.I. had printed plastic currency notes of our own country and had sent it to Australia. Whether the Government is aware of it and if so, whether they were permitted to do so?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I shall try to give answer to the question of all Hon'ble members. You want an assurance regarding senior citizens and employees. I can't do that. You want an assurance regarding paddy procurement in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. I would like to tell you that the Ministry of Agriculture deals with this matter. You should have spoken to them but you did not do that. It is your privilege but I shall convey your message.

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : Former Minister of Finance had said in this very House that rate of interest for senior citizens will be raised by 1%. Banks are not increasing the rate by 1% but they are increasing by .5%, .25% etc. Some of the banks have raised it 1% too. I request the Finance Minister to give assurance that the rate of interest for the senior citizens would be increased by 1 percent.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Former Minister of Finance had not given any such assurance. I have read it. No such assurance has been given.

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : You please have your knowledge updated. On the basis of the same assurance senior citizens are getting .25%, .50% or .75% more than normal rate of interest. Some banks are even giving 1% more than the normal rate of interest. Once assurance was given for one percent in this House. I want the assurance to be fulfilled.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I am grateful to the hon. Member as he has expressed his desire to enrich his knowledge. Let others do whatever they wish to but I am certainly in favour of enriching my knowledge and if former Minister has given any such assurance, then we will definitely implement it. But I apologise that we will not be able to implement it if such assurance has not been given.

[English]

I will examine it.

[Translation]

Hon. Mahale ji spoke about importing plastic paper from Australia. We will take necessary action about it. An hon. Member spoke about Kisan Credit Card. It is not satisfactory if there is a difference in the rates of interest. If the Banks say that providing service involves a lot of expenditure, then they should reduce it. All are aware that this year country is facing drought situation. I request the farmers to repay the loan taken from the Banks. But this service element of Banks should be reduced.

[Shri Jaswant Singh]

[English]

Hon. Shri Rupchand Pal talked about some deficiency in printing. This is unacceptable that there should be any deficiency or shortcoming in regard to essential forms that the citizens are required to have.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : There is no printing for quite a long time.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I do not know why there is no printing. But I accept what he is saying and I find it unacceptable that the citizens should not have access to the forms that are required to be filled under law. What an absurdity? We, all of us collectively here, make the laws and we require the citizens to fill forms and then we do not provide them with those forms. ...*(Interruptions)* I accept all this. How can you have a situation in which the essential paper work that a citizen is required to do is unable to do simply because there is some confusion in the bureaucratic management of simply form printing. This is unacceptable. I will address myself to this issue.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : I have one final question. Sir, the day you took over as the Finance Minister, you have said: "I will see that the house wives in the country have more money in the kitty to spend". In all your assurances, there is not one hope that you will help the women to get more money in their pockets. I want to know what is your answer to that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : My submission is that inequality should be removed. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are a senior member. You should know everything.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I agree that there should be equality.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is one more clarification from the lady Member.

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram) : Sir, the Cancer Institute, Adyar, Chennai has requested and written to the Finance Minister for the exemption of the customs duty on the consumables for diagnostic kits imported. Will the Minister consider this in the larger interest of the

patients?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I will consider it certainly. What I will do after consideration, I cannot say just now.

After all that I have said, for my hon. Friend, Shrimati Margaret Alva to say that I have not done nothing for the housewives is really ungracious. If you go through all the statements that have been made and the concessions that have been given, and the deductions on service tax, on 80L, which directly or indirectly influence and benefit the housewives. You have said about the poorer section of the people. For example, I talked about *Anna Antyodaya Yojana*. What is *Anna Antyodaya Yojana*? It is in one form or another money in the kitty of the poorest housewife, in the poorest household of the smallest village in the country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I hope, your reply is over now.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : My reply is over now but there should not be any more questions.

[Translation]

SHRI BHERULAL MEENA (Salumber): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has given an assurance that foodgrains will be sent to the drought affected areas as early as possible. The Hon. Minister will not discriminate against Rajasthan because he hails from Rajasthan. He knows that the drought in Rajasthan is so severe that the Central Government should give assistance to it as soon as possible. My experience is that the Central Government would say that though the Central Government kept asking but the State Government did not make any demand. Time will be lost in saying such things. Whatever funds are to be sent there, you should send it as early as possible. Sooner your assistance is received the better it will be.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : We started giving assistance to them three weeks ago. We do not wait for receiving demands from them to release funds. There is an official procedure of doing things. We will speed it up and we are already doing something about it. Rest assured that there will be no discrimination against my State.

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : What about those without housewife? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I must answer, not about those without housewife, but about the benefits to the Services Selection Board and about the withdrawal of benefits to the water sports. I do not have to wait. I will respond straightaway. Firstly, the daily allowance that should be given to athletes or participants in games abroad, particularly Commonwealth was 35 dollars a day. For some strange reason, it was reduced to 20 dollars a day.

I received a representation from the Minister of Sports who led the contingent. We immediately, over a weekend, raised it back to 35 dollars so that our athletes there need not suffer.

Secondly, the Services Selection Board will have the same status and facility. If you were to write to me, I will confirm this in writing.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : I have already written to you.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : We will include water sports. There is a very peculiar tendency that unless you excel in a sport, you cannot get facilities for it. I wish to go away from this. Unless you have facility, how can you even begin to accept? So the theory that we seem to be pursuing in this. How is the citizen to excel unless he or she has the facility? So, the first requirement is the provision of facilities. Only thereafter, you can say whatever else is to be said. I assure you that I have a very different approach to this.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I congratulate you on behalf of my Federation.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Also congratulation from Rowing Federation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall now put the Demand for Excess Grants (General) for 1999-2000 to the vote of the House.

The question is :

"That the respective excess sum not exceeding the amount shown in the second column of the Order Paper be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to make good the excess on the respective grant during the year ended on 31st March, 2000, in respect of the Demand entered in the first column thereof—Demand no. 100."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall now put the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2002-2003 to the vote of the House.

The question is :

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on the Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2003, in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereon—Demand nos. 1, 9 to 14, 23 to 26, 28, 38 to 40, 42, 48, 54, 56, 58, 61, 66, 71, 75, 78, 81 to 83, 85, 88 and 102."

The motion was adopted.

19.18 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (NO. 4) BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the authorization of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 2000, in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the authorization of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 2000, in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, the Minister may move the Bill for consideration.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 31.7.2002.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the authorization of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 2000, in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the authorization of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 2000, in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long title were added to the Bill.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

19.21 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (NO. 5) BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2002-2003.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2002-2003."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The hon. Minister may now move for consideration of the Bill.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2002-2003, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2002-2003, be taken into consideration."

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, there has been a demand for the revival of the Indian Iron and Steel Company, a premier steel manufacturing company of West Bengal. A revival package was prepared by Mecon and submitted to the Steel Authority of India Limited. The Steel Authority of India Limited submitted its proposal to the Ministry of Steel for its approval. As per the package prepared by Mecon, Rs. 1,032 crore are to be provided by the Government of India, not in one go but in phased manner.

The BIFR, in its last meeting directed the Government of India to submit a revival package by 1st July, 2002. The Cabinet approved a revival package but not what Mecon prepared and submitted to the Steel Authority of India Limited, which, in turn, the Steel Authority of India Limited submitted to the Government of India. The Government of India is not providing any budgetary support. What the Government of India is providing is, as has been stated here, Rs. 186 crore not for the revival but grant-in-aid to the Indian Iron and Steel Company for implementation of the voluntary retirement scheme. The Government of India is spending Rs. 186 crore for VRS but what the Government of India is to spend for revival is not provided for. What has been stated by the hon. Minister of Steel is that the Government of India has approved a revival package for the Indian Iron and Steel Company. It *inter-alia* includes grant for financing the Voluntary Retirement Scheme in Kulti Works, which is to be closed down. In order to close down the Kulti Works, the Government of India is providing Rs. 186 crore, and

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 31.7.2002.

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

not for the revival of Indian Iron and Steel Company. In addition it has been decided to provide Government guarantee to raise money for financing Voluntary Retirement Scheme. The Government of India has decided to guarantee to raise money for financing Voluntary Retirement Scheme in Bumpur works, and not for the revival of Bumpur works. IISCO is a nationalised company. Today, more than 3000 workers are still working in it. It has its own coal mines and iron ore lines. It is located in a very advantageous place. It is a very important industry. Nearly two lakh people are depending on IISCO. I would like to know whether the Government of India will consider the revival proposal prepared by Mecon where Rs. 182 crore, not in one go, but in a phased manner, will be provided so that the Indian Iron and Steel Company, a premier steel manufacturing company, is revived.

My second point is about the along pending issue about the parity in wages between audit and accounts staff with the staff of Central Secretariat. There was parity up to the Third Pay Commission, but it was disturbed from the Fourth Pay Commission.

Sir, there are judgments from three Central Administrative Tribunals. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you have given a notice and that is why I have given you permission. Please do not take too much time.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, all the three Benches of Central Administrative Tribunals have ordered to have parity in wages between audit and accounts staff with the staff of Central Secretariat. When there was a judgement, then why is this parity not being maintained? My request is that the parity, which was disturbed by the Fourth Pay Commission, should be restored. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you have already made your points. Please conclude now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, please allow me for two minutes. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, I wanted to put it on record. You have to give a notice.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I have given a notice. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia has given a notice. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, as a special case, I am permitting you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I only request the hon. Minister of Finance one thing. He may not assure now. He may consider the matter. I am not saying that he has to commit now.

The Ministry of Finance allots cent per cent money to the Border Area Development Programme, which is routed through the Ministry of Home Affairs. Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, when he was the hon. Minister of Rural Development, made a unique thing. He said, the entire *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna* scheme before implementing should involve the local Lok Sabha MPs for their understanding of the project. I have been arguing on this point. Hardly in the entire House, there are 30 to 40 MPs from the border area, be it the border with China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan or Nepal. In the Border Area Development Programme, in the Border Area constituencies, if you give a direction that those representatives of the people should be involved while selecting the programme, then it will go a long way. This is one of my suggestions.

Secondly, the National Instruments Company, headed by the Ministry of Heavy Industries; National Jute Manufacturing Corporation, headed by the Ministry of Textiles; Burn Standards, headed by the Ministry of Heavy Industries; and Hooghly Dock, headed by the Ministry of Shipping are in greater difficulties now to establish these units. The struggle is going on. Several *bandhs* have taken place. My request to the hon. Minister is that if he discusses all these problems with the nodal Ministry and the trade union representatives to find out whether he can assure some stability package and viability package for this unit.

Lastly, I would say that the hon. Minister is very enthusiastic to increase the exports of this country, and I thank him for the same. The Indo-Bangladesh trade through road is gaining ground more and more. The volume of trade has increased by seven times. In the backward area of North Bengal, people in the place called Kaliaganj to Radhikapur, which is the main export zone of the Indo-Bangladesh trade, are suffering for want of infrastructural support, which will require only Rs. 15 crore to Rs. 17 crore. Many a time I had been there and I found a big jam. So, if you just consider this Kaliaganj to Radhikapur Indo-Bangladesh border trade project, I shall be grateful to you. It will go a long way to increase the volume of our export.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Hon. Shri Basu Deb Acharia, I think, has set an example of diligence when it

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

comes to raising issues of his commitment. He raised principally two issues, one relating to IISCO's revival and the other relating to parity in wages of audit personnel of the Central Government. Hon. Shri Acharia and I have worked together for many decades now. May I request him to do write to me on this issue so that I am better able to respond to him in detail, rather than giving him an assurance here, because it then becomes an assurance and goes to the Assurances Committee.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Even the assurances given on the floor of the House are not implemented because I was the Chairman of the Assurances Committee and I have seen this. This is my experience.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Many times they give an assurance that they will make a small speech. This does not go to the Assurances Committee, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Are you terming his speech as a small speech!

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : The assurances given by the Opposition Members to make small speeches should also go to the Assurances Committee.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, will the hon. Minister give an assurance with regard to IISCO?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : No, I cannot give, Sir, because it only adds to the paper work.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I gave the notice at 11 o'clock.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : At 11.45.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : But, Sir, if the hon. Member were to write to me, then I shall be able to respond to him in detail.

Hon. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi raised two issues. One issue is relating to involving Members of Parliament in the application of Border Area Development Fund. I do not deal with the application of the Fund; it is a different Ministry that deals with it. It should really be taken up with that particular Ministry.

The second issue is about the enhancement of road trade between India and Bangladesh. This is certainly fully worthy of support and I am personally very much concerned at the bottlenecks. I am informed that part of these bottlenecks, both on the Calcutta-Dhaka road as

also the North Bengal road, are deliberate. These are deliberate because they generate extra-constitutional resources. This has to be corrected. I assure the hon. Member that if it were a limitation only of infrastructural development, which is in terms of better road provisioning, widening of the roads, turn around of trucking facilities, etc., I am aware of this. If it were only this, then it will be very easily remedied. But it is not. Believe me, it is not. There is a deeper malaise in this. Would Shri Dasmunsi be so good as to write to me so that I can then respond to him in greater detail?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is very generous today.

Now, the question is :

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2002-03, be taken into consideration".

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill. The question is :

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shall we take up the next item?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): No, Sir. We can take it up tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet at 11 o' clock on 1st August, 2002.

19.36 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, August 1, 2002/Sravana 10, 1924 (Saka)

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