

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Ninth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, March 20, 2002/Phalgun 29, 1923 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, fresh violence has erupted in the State of Gujarat. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: After the Question Hour, we are going to have the 'Zero Hour'.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have given notice for Adjournment Motion ...*(Interruptions)* Rashtriya Swam Sevak Sangh has created terror among the Muslims ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please raise this matter during Zero Hour after Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the hon. Member from that place wants to make a submission. ...*(Interruptions)* Several people have died in the violence. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give a chance to speak later. Please ask the hon. Members of your party to take their seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are now going to take up the Question Hour. I have told you that you would get the chance during 'Zero Hour'.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Sir, it is a very serious matter ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Muslims are being threatened. It is the act of a traitor which cannot be tolerated at any cost ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give you a chance to speak during Zero Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Sir, we are not able to hear anything because of noise ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, he should be allowed to speak. He is coming from that place ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have told you that I would give you the chance during 'Zero Hour'.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramjilal Suman, I would not give you a chance even during 'Zero Hour'.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Sir, peace is not going to be restored in Gujarat ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please keep quiet during Question Hour, I shall give you a chance during Zero Hour ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You daily behave in this manner. I do not understand how the House will run in this manner. I have told you that I shall give you a chance during Zero Hour ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, blood-shed has not come to a half in Gujarat ...*(Interruptions)*

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (Jalore): Sir, Muslims are being picked up and killed in Gujarat ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, you must advise the Government to call the hon. Home Minister to this House ...*(Interruptions)* He should make a statement

in this House. You should ask him to come before this House and make a statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already told you that you would get your chance during 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD (Darbhanga): Sir, you should at least ask hon. Members not to spoil the Question Hour. Every day, we are having this kind of a problem. You must take some action on such Members who disturb the Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, Sangh Parivar wants to spread hatred throughout the country. It seems to me that the Sangh Parivar will again divide the country. Therefore, it is a serious issue ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji, you may raise this issue during Zero Hour.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sir, RSS wants to disintegrate the country ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may speak during Zero Hour after Question Hour.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Sir, they are taking this incident as a joke ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Jaiswal, please take your seat. Let us have the Question Hour now.

...*(Interruptions)*

ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

E-Mail in Rural Post Offices

*241. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices in rural areas of the country having E-mail, Internet and Computer facilities at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide the above facilities to all important post offices in rural areas within a fixed time frame;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any time bound programme for providing computer facility in the remaining rural post offices of the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

[English]

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

Statement

(a) E-mail or Internet and Computer facilities are not available in rural post offices.

(b) At present the Department have no such programme.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

(f) Keeping in view the resources available and the need for optimal utilization of the computers, it is not possible to have such programme at present.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wanted to know from the Minister the number of post offices in rural areas in the country having E-mail, Internet and Computer facilities ...*(Interruptions)*

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: Sir, the people are asking me as to what I am doing ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Buta Singh ji, let the Question hour continue, please speak during Zero hour. I shall give you a chance to speak during Zero hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMSHAKAL: I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to which type of post offices have

these facilities and what are the reasons for not providing these facilities in villages?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, we should try to understand as to why post offices need E-Mail facilities. The job of the post offices is to deliver written message from one place to the other. If we adopt E-Mail, it saves us time. This letter will not reach so, in this case, written messages like money order or telegram will reach the other and now, we have introduced a pilot project in five States of the country wherein 200 district-level post offices are provided E-Mail facility. Now, people having their computer can contact these 200 post offices directly from any place in the world. It has been our effort to provide E-Mail facilities to all district head post offices by December, 2002 whereby anyone from any where in the world would be able to contact these post offices through E-Mail.

We have a plan, if the Planning Commission supports it, we will provide E-Mail and Internet facilities within five years in 15000 district level post offices. We should understand that in every rural post-office provision of this facility is not possible since E-Mail operation needs telephone or Internet connection. It is not that the Rural Department will not get any benefit from it. I would like to give an example—suppose, there is a Head Post Office in Midnapur district, so upto there, message can be sent through E-Mail but for further transmission old post office methods would have to be adopted. But, by December end, entire district area would be covered under it. Today, mail from Delhi has to be transported there, whereas with introduction of E-Mail, the mail can reach directly upto district level where it can be down-loaded and printed message can be delivered in the villages. Thus this E-Mail facility will be available in the villages. This is E-Mail service. For delivery of post card and envelope, old method would be adopted. We are arranging E-Mail facility for the people who want to use E-Mail in villages. But E-Mail service is not possible in each and every section of the society.

SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to know the time by which office facility and supdt. would be provided in newly created districts where these facilities are not there now.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, earlier there used to be Head Post Offices at ordinary district levels. Now certain new districts have been created by reorganisation. Let the district be new, but we are trying to provide this facility in all district main post-offices by end of December, 2002. In principle, the Government have decided to open

Head Post Office in each district and provide this facility in all such post offices within next 6-8 months. There will be no two districts under one Head Post Office. Every district will have its own separate Head Office.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as the hon'ble Minister has just said, the Government want to provide E-Mail facilities in district headquarters but there are certain districts larger than a district itself. Would you like to include such districts in your project and if so, by when?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: My department wants that if Planning Commission provides us funds during Tenth Five Year Plan, we would provide E-Post facility in 15000 tehsils. It means, each tehsil in each district in India would have this facility. In today's, information technology era, old post-offices are called snail-post because they work at snail-speed. We want this snail post to be converted into E-Post. As, the hon'ble Member has said, we would extend it not only in big villages but in each tehsil.

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Sir, the hon. Minister has mentioned that he will reach up to the *Tehsils*. This was the dream of the dynamic Rajiv Gandhi who started to introduce computers and speed up the telecommunication. I think the hon. Minister is also as dynamic. May I know from the hon. Minister when will the dream of Rajiv Gandhi and Gandhiji reach the *Panchayat* headquarters, not only the *Tehsils*. Is there any time-bound programme for computer, FAX and E-Mail facilities to reach the *Panchayat* headquarters? If so, when will it be completed and how much time does the hon. Minister need?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, at the outset, I do appreciate and admit late Shri Rajiv Gandhi's contribution to the revolution of information technology in the country. One must appreciate that when he started talking about computers, normally the society either criticised it or made fun of it. But sixteen years after that, now we realise that everybody is talking about information technology. Specially, the PCO revolution is also his contribution to the telecom revolution, which I admit candidly and so I cannot deny that. Similarly, as you rightly said, it was the dream of Mahatma Gandhi that the lowest person in every village should be benefited. But as I said, I would not mind going even beyond 15,000. But one must understand that to create one E-Post office, you need at least one computer and a telephone connectivity or a V-SAT connectivity which requires at least Rs. 2 to Rs. 3

lakh of infrastructure expenditure, and added to it, recurring expenditure on a couple of persons dealing with it. As I said, I do not want to dream of all villages in the next five years, but if the Planning Commission agrees and I think if we can reach 15,000 E-Post offices in the country by the end of the Tenth Plan, I think Rajiv Gandhi's dream, Mahatma Gandhi's dream and the revolution will be taken to the last person.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has stated in his reply that at present Internet and E-Mail facility is not required in post offices and the Government are providing Internet and E-Mail facility in Head Post Office at district level. Sir, I would like to tell you the ground reality and I do not agree with him. Today, rural sector is in more need of E-mail and Internet than district level post offices. I would like to quote an example of my village. I hail from orange belt. In my village, a farmer, though I am also one, sells an orange for just 5 paise whereas in Delhi it sells for Rs. 5. He can compare between 5 paise and 5 rupees. If E-mail and Internet facility existed at Taluka and village level, the farmers could know the rate prevailing in Delhi, Chennai and Bangalore and could sell it accordingly. Therefore, I feel that these facilities are equally needed in rural as well as urban areas. Hardware and software have been provided sufficient concessions in the Budget 2002-03 and Budget allocation for this sector has also been enhanced. My question is: what is the Government's IT perspective for expansion of this system in rural areas and whether the Government propose to provide any concession to rural area in comparison to urban area?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far as I remember, I have never, either orally or in writing stated in the House that this facility is not needed in villages. I never used this word. Hon. Member may go through the question wherein the total number of post offices in rural areas equipped with E-mail and Internet facility was asked. I cannot say a wrong thing in this regard. I will have to tell exact number of such post offices. That's why I said that it does not exist in rural area. I do agree with all the Members, especially Shri Mohite ji, who has asked the question. I do agree that the people in rural areas are in more need of Information Technology than the educated lot in urban areas because it is information revolution and it should reach the rural populace. This revolution will turn futile if it does not reach them. But information revolution cannot reach them without telephonic connectivity. Internet is not a computer box. Hon'ble Member himself knows that means of

communication are essential for world wide connectivity and resources are required for providing these means. Therefore, I reiterate that, if we are able to extend it to 15 thousand villages during Tenth Five Year Plan, our farmers would be able to make use of all the markets in India.

[English]

SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister through you whether the E-mail centres will have some facility to know that the E-mail sent has already been received by the person to whom it is intended to be sent, like for example the registered Post Acknowledgement Due that is existing now. I want to know whether there is any methodology by which a person who has sent a mail will be knowing within a short-time—these messages go within a short time—that his mail has reached the proper place or not.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, what I explained earlier was that the Department of Posts is using the E-mail system to send the messages to the people in rural areas. But our concept of e-post is frankly different. There are two types. The e-post will have an E-mail address. We are planning for a proper registration and even the citizens can register their names with the e-post. So, they will have an E-mail address. Even those people who do not have their own computer and so do not have their own E-mail address—like the Post Office Box system that we have now—can avail of this benefit. You can have an E-mail box for post offices and if you register yourself and pay a nominal fee, then in that E-mail box your E-mails will go and keep collecting. You can either come to the post office, download and get your E-mail or you pay me a little more so that I can download your E-mail and send it to your home. What I want is that at least the kids in the next generation should try to learn the E-mail addresses instead of their State and home addresses.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this question relates to provision of computer and E-mail facilities in our rural based post offices. But, the fact is that there are certain Panchayats particularly in hilly areas where there are no post offices.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as hon'ble Minister has stated, in fact it is not snail post facility which is not

available. Through you, I would like to ask hon'ble Minister that whenever we request the department for opening new post offices, the pet-reply comes that as per departmental norms, it is not possible to open a post office there. Whether the Government propose to relax the norms so that a post office can be opened where there is no post-office with the Panchayat. Perhaps, hon'ble Minister may say that it is not possible because of resources crunch. I would like to know whether the Government would endeavour to mobilise resources. Simultaneously, electricity and telephone bills should be deposited in rural areas, so that the income as commission is accrued. Secondly, advertisement of various companies be displayed on letter box, so that some fee can be collected. Whether the Government propose to take this step or any other step so that the department earns some income?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir hon'ble Member has asked three supplementary question in one question and I would like to reply all of these.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you have reply of all the three questions?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, postal service is subsidised service throughout the world. The Government sell a post card for paise 50 whereas it costs it Rs. 6-7. So, it becomes naturally subsidised service. It should earn revenue in some areas and become self-sufficient. That's why the Government are considering use of advertisements. Post-Officers, Post Boxes and postal vans can be used for displaying ads ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Can post cards also.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have a plan like this. As I have said, an ad like 'Chota Parivar' 'Sukhi Parivar' is printed on post card which earns us some revenue. If the Finance Ministry permits us, we can reduce the price of post-card by half from 50 paise to 25 paise by giving ad on one side of the card, where address is written. This way, new post card can be made available in 25 paise. We find that 30 percent people write only on one side and the space adjacent to address remain unutilised. This way people would get it cheaper, that is for 25 paise in place of 50 paise. The Government are considering this aspect.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon'ble Member has asked whether the Government propose to open post offices where it does not exist?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am coming to that question. Even today, electricity and telephone bills are accepted in many post offices. We want to extend it further so that billing of public utility services is available in post office. This suggestion is under consideration.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with regard to the number of post offices hon' Member, has urged to open a post office in Panchayat Headquarter where it does not exist. In this regard, I would like to tell that as on today, there are 847 Head Post Offices, 25 thousand sub-divisional post offices, 26 thousand and six other post offices. In addition, about one lakh 28 thousand post offices are run by rural dak-sevaks and not by the Government. We desire that the post office remain opened for 8 hours. But there are post-offices, especially opened on the request of Member, where neither any one comes to buy card or post a letter for months together. Other post offices have to bear their financial burden. As far as demand for opening of a post office in each Panchayat is concerned, the department would consider it.

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the basis of the reply given, I would like to know as to how the post offices set up in villages will be able to get information at the earliest. Due to paucity of funds E-mail system cannot be provided. There are 1 lakh 28 thousand post offices in India. A survey should be conducted therein and P.C.O. should be installed in those offices which are working efficiently. It will also benefit the Government. Through this Government PCO, people will be able to get information immediately. People engaged in trade of oranges and onion will also be able to get the required information from Delhi or Kolkata. Through you I would like to know as to whether the Government propose to formulate any such scheme and if so, by when it is likely to be implemented?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, post offices have no objection if there is any automatic PCO in post offices. But we all know that running PCO is a 24 hour business. We have to depute at least five employees for installing and running a PCO, who have to do eight hours job. We have to make arrangements for their salary, TA and DA and other facilities. In total it comes to a large amount. It is better that PCOs are basically run in the Private Sector. Millions of PCOs are working in the country I am ready to provide PCO facility if someone demands that. But there is no scheme to run PCO for 24 hours by post offices.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the reply given by the hon'ble Minister

it has been stated that the scheme of E-post offices is being implemented in five regions as pilot project. Through you I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister that which are these five regions and the date when this pilot project was initiated and the outcome thereof?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, under these five regions this scheme is being implemented at 50 places in Andhra Pradesh, at 51 places in Kerala, at 43 places in Gujarat, one place in Goa and at 56 places in Maharashtra. These are the five regions where this Scheme is being implemented. This is the position upto March and by December the remaining 640 districts will also be covered under this scheme. Alongwith this I would like to say that people do not like to receive E-mail letters because it does not have signature of the person writing letter. It is a typed paper and only this system is available at present. The position in this regard is not that large number of people are availing this facility. One reason for it may be that Postal Department has not made much advertisement in this regard. I have a list with me that millions of people are approaching our website. At least people from 50-60 countries, are availing this facility. But people do not have much information about this facility and that's why I was telling about it in detail. Perhaps more people will avail this facility as and when they will get information about that.

[English]

Mother Port on East Coast

*242. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the lack of a Mother Port is slowing down the growth of trade and shipping traffic in the country;

(b) whether the Government have any plans to develop a Mother Port on the East Coast of the country;

(c) if so, whether any port on the East Coast has been selected for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the criteria adopted for the selection of the port for development as a Mother Port?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI VED PRAKASH GOYAL): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The term mother port is usually applied to a port where container cargo for export is aggregate for uplifting by large container vessels for direct delivery to its ultimate destination, or where container import cargo is received in bulk for onward dispatch to smaller ports by feeder vessels. A mother port must, by definition, be ideal to handle large vessels at berth. The container traffic at Indian major ports has grown at about 12% annual compound rate during the last 3 years. The growth of trade is influenced by a number of factors, such as status of world economy and competitiveness of the domestic industry and trade. Ports and Shipping facilitate transportation of cargo across the seas, but have hardly any role in generation of the cargo. The lack of a mother port has not resulted in slowing down of growth of the trade.

About two-third of the containers originating from or destined for India are transhipped at neighbouring foreign ports, such as Dubai, Colombo, Singapore etc. This situation leads to increased transportation cost. To facilitate direct sailing of containers carrying Indian export cargo to the destinations or to receive import containers destined for India directly at Indian port without transshipment at any foreign port, efforts have been made by the Ministry to facilitate development of one mother port/hub port on the west coast and the east coast of the country respectively.

Keeping in view the totality of the factors, especially concentration of traffic, geographical location vis-a-vis international shipping routes, proximity to existing and potential markets for import and export cargoes etc., Chennai on the east coast is being encouraged to develop facilities required for a mother port/hub port.

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is well known that industry and foreign trade are being hindered in India due to lack of modern and well-developed ports. It is also a fact that we do not have deep water ports and big ships cannot berth at our harbours.

It is because our ports are small and underdeveloped when compared to foreign ports. Moreover, in order to export agricultural products and other domestic goods, we must have deep water and well-developed ports. There is no deep water port on the East Coast. There are two deep water ports on the West Coast.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the plans of our Government for the development of

mother ports or artificial ports on the East Coast, especially at Visakhapatnam, and how much amount has been allocated for the development of Visakhapatnam Port as a mother port.

SHRI VED PRAKASH GOYAL: Sir, in my reply, I have tried to explain what is a mother port. In fact, there is nothing like a mother port or mother and daughter port concept. This is only a common parlance. There is also no father and son port. There is nothing like that. The port really is a hub and spoke port. There is a centre hub, and by spokes, it reaches everywhere.

On the East Coast, there are six major ports at which a lot of work has been done, a lot of work is going on. Visakhapatnam is only one of them. If we start from Kolkata, Kolkata Port is one, there are Paradeep, Visakhapatnam, Chennai, Ennore Ports and, coming further down South, we have the Tuticorin Port. Out of these ports, the question raised was whether any one has been selected as a mother port. Yes, Sir, we have selected one, which is Chennai, as the mother port.

To improve Visakhapatnam Port's efficiency, we have privatised one Container Terminal because we have found that wherever Container Terminals have been privatised, efficiency of operations has gone up drastically. In that sense, our eyes are very much on the Visakhapatnam Port. So, this is one step going in the direction of its becoming a mother port some time in the future. At present, it does not qualify to become a mother port.

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Sir, my second supplementary is this. At present, medium size ships can only come to our ports, and big ships cannot come to our ports. Therefore, we have to unload our cargo at Singapore, which is an expensive issue. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether our Government has made any effort for the construction of jetties or berths so that large ships can directly come to India. Is there any proposal to build a big harbour on the East Coast?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have almost answered this question.

SHRI VED PRAKASH GOYAL: In fact, while giving the answer, unlike E-port I had answered like port. Instead of saying 'No, Sir' or 'Yes, Sir', I have tried to give most of the information.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, it was positive.

SHRI VED PRAKASH GOYAL: I can give the reasons as to why the Chennai Port has been selected. There is

a very cogent reason for that. Jetties are being constructed for the coastal traffic. Your question seems to be directed at the coastal traffic. The Central Government is charged with the duty of looking after 12 major ports in the country.

As I have said, on every port, particularly on the Eastern Coast, efforts are being made. I will give you another example. For instance, take the Kolkata Port. Just two months back, we have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 350 crore for capital dredging and river regulatory system because this port was gradually dying. Whether you call it a mother port or not, this is an important port. This is one of the most important ports in the country. We have sanctioned so much of money for this port and the work would start in a few months time.

Then you have got the Haldia Dock System. It is another important port, a recently made new port. It is doing very good work. It is a container port. The whole concept of mother port really relates to containerisation. In India containerisation has lagged behind. It has lagged behind because there has been a vacuum for four to five years. Continuous investments have not taken place. We are trying to make it up.

Jetties are being made wherever the State Governments are approaching us. Coastal traffic is a State subject. But wherever the State Governments approach us, we lend our helping hand to them. So, jetties are being made.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Sir, as I understand from the written answer of the hon. Minister, mother or hub port could only be there where there is modern container facilities. It has also been stated by the hon. Minister that at present India's main export and import is taking place through Dubai, Colombo and Singapore.

Sir, we are happy to note that Chennai is being selected as one of the most important ports of the country. But the hon. Minister has said that the Calcutta Port is dying.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Panja, it is not 'Calcutta', it is 'Kolkata'!

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Sir, you are right.

Sir, I would only like to ask the hon. Minister as to why there has been so much of a delay in sanctioning this sum of Rs. 350 crore for the revival of the Kolkata port. If putting in place a container system would make

this all right then why not the Kolkata port is being selected for this purpose? In the answer it has been mentioned that only two ports would be selected—one in the Eastern region and another in the Western region. Australia has gone much ahead in setting up such container facilities in their ports. Singapore also has done it. So, if there are resource constraints for setting up container facilities in the ports, then we could either tie up with these countries or ask the private enterprises to set up container system in the ports so that development takes place.

Sir, so far as the Hoogly Dock Port is concerned, newspaper reports have it that some of the dry docks are being closed there. Some of the facilities in the Kolkata port are being withdrawn. Is that correct? What are the new things, except dredging, that are being done there? The entire stretch of Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Bengal, Assam and the North-Eastern Region would be benefited by this. Otherwise there would be the same kind of problems if it were to come through Dubai, China and other places in the Western Coast. It would involve a lot of cost.

I would like to request the Hon. Minister to kindly explain these points.

SHRI VED PRAKASH GOYAL: As I said earlier and let me tell you again the criteria for selecting a mother port. This is not done by any off the cuff thinking. One of the most important things for selection of a mother port and a hub and a spoke port is the geographical location of the port. The other factors are proximity to industry, business, markets, production and consumption centres and closeness to international shipping route.

Sir, when I am talking of the JNPT at Nava Sheva, this is close to the international traffic route, as has been mentioned just now, to Colombo, to Singapore and to Hong Kong. It is the nearest to this route. It is a well-developed port. It was already working efficiently. One terminal of that port has now been privatised and so there is a competition between the two. That is the criteria. Though Kolkata does satisfy the other requirements like proximity to industry, business, market etc., yet it is not very close to the international shipping route. Unfortunately, industry, not only in Kolkata but in the whole of West Bengal has come to grief for various reasons over a long period of time.

So, they are not generating enough traffic. There is the question of some dry-docks being closed. I know what the hon. Member has in mind, it is the "Hoogly

Dock & Port Engineers". I had been there personally to see what the climate is like. I am happy to say that even the workmen there did not ask me for wages or anything. They asked me to get them work so that they can use their skills. But, what do I do? Even the public sector units shy away from giving work to them. The history is that one of the jobs given to them by Andaman and Nicobar Island Authority in 1987 has not been delivered for various reasons. How long would a client wait? There has been cost overrun and there has been time overrun. But, we are now practically forcing the other public sector units and the ports to give them work on nomination basis. On competition basis they are not able to get work.

The next parameter is—sufficient waterfront. Kolkata is a riverine port. It always get filled with sand flowing from the rivers. It needs annual dredging which is a very costly affair. To reduce that, we have taken up a major task, which I told you, with Rs. 350 crore. Once that is completed, I think that is an about 18 month programme, it will become a more successful port.

Another parameter is—availability of state-of-the-art equipment. Kolkata has one of the oldest equipment. Some cranes of Jessop, etc., are 40 years old. Nowadays in all modern ports life of the equipment is taken as 25 years. We are trying but what can we do? You cannot overhaul; you cannot change all the equipment. It is a very costly affair. A single crane costs Rs. 25 crore.

The next parameter is a large backup area. That is no problem. The other parameter is deep draught. In a riverine port, you cannot have deep draught. That is why Haldia came. Now we are trying for some more draft. We are trying to deepen the Channel further. Another point is adequate railroad connection and Kolkata has got that. But Kolkata has not got all the basic requirements.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we have been persuading the Minister for Shipping, Shri Rajnath Singh right from 1999 in this regard. Now the hon. Minister for Shipping, Shri Ved Prakash Goyal has visited Tuticorin and also sent the officials to study the situation on the spot at Tuticorin, about 15 days back and heeded to the request that we have placed before the Ministry on behalf of Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu is surrounded by three seas—Bay of Bengal, Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea. We built a case even in the Law of the Sea Conference in 1982. Tamil Nadu played a role in the Law of the Sea Conference held in the United Nations. Now seeing the East India Companies route,

they have followed that procedure and they have selected Chennai as a mother port, and rightly so. I think, on behalf of Tamil Nadu, the Minister of Shipping for selecting the Chennai port as a mother port.

At the same time, I would say that large vessels are being dealt with at Tuticorin. So, let it be either a daughter port or a son port for this mother port of Chennai. For the encouragement of this Chennai mother port, will you allocate funds this year for upgradation of Tuticorin port as a son port or a daughter port? It is in my constituency.

SHRI VED PRAKASH GOYAL: In Chennai, several terminals are now being privatised and the results are very good. But, the assurance that the hon. Member wants from me is already there. We are giving them one of the best ports.

As for Tuticorin, it is so located that the operating rates are very high. The rate there is Rs. 42 *vis-a-vis* Rs. 7 on the western coast at Gujarat. We have reduced that as a special case by 20 per cent. We have also introduced the volume discount, if they handle more traffic.

It is operated by PSAs, by a Singapore Company. To add to the value of Tuticorin, we have also taken up the Sethusamudram Project which will enhance the value of Tuticorin.

SHRI VAIKO: Hon. Shipping Minister has given the clarification now and we are all very happy about it. The Tuticorin Port would play a pivotal role in the whole of South East Asia in view of the fact that the Government has decided and also in view of the fact that the hon. Shipping Minister has committed himself to implement the Sethusamudram Canal Project. The Tuticorin Port has twin projects, which is inter-related to the Sethusamudram Canal Project.

In view of this, may I know from the hon. Minister whether he would consider expediting the dredging operations in the Tuticorin Port so as to encourage the container traffic and clear the congestion in which the Minister is also very much interested? He has also sent a delegation to this effect. I would like to get a categorical reply from the hon. Minister.

SHRI VED PRAKASH GOYAL: The tenders for dredging have already been issued. It will not take very long to finalise them. I am sure that this will take off.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Thank you very much for this opportunity. In the Statement laid on the Table of

the House, in response to the main Question, the hon. Minister has said that efforts have been made by the Ministry to facilitate development of one mother port/hub port on the West Coast and the East Coast of the country respectively. He has also stated that things are decided on the basis of the international shipping routes. I may submit that Cochin port is a very significant one and is of great importance. This is the answer given by the Minister.

My question is that Vallarpadam Container Project is pending with the Government for quite a long time. I had myself given several reminders to find out the position of this Project. I would like to know through you, Sir, from the hon. Minister, what are the plans for development of Cochin and how long it will take for the Vallarpadam Container Project to get materialised.

SHRI VED PRAKASH GOYAL: When we talk of international hub port, we are really trying to divert our traffic which today has to go to Colombo and Singapore. For that, the ideal location is Cochin. It has been accepted; and it has been provided by various studies that Vallarpadam is the ideal place for making an international transshipment hub port. This project is going on for very long. I have picked it up. New expressions of interests have been shown. Earlier, tenders had been invited and there was no good response. We have gone about in the world, marketing the project because today we cannot sit at home and expect the entrepreneurs to come to us. They have to spend about Rs. 2,000 crore because it is a project of Rs. 2,000 crore. We went to Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong. They have got good interests; the parties want to come and put their money here and operate on BOT basis. I am expecting that before the end of this calendar year, we should be able to have *Bhoomi Pujan* at Vallarpadam.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, fifty minutes have been spent in replying to this question. Now next question will be taken up. Not more than two questions are replied in one hour. The distribution of time should be in such a manner that other questions could be accommodated.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS: The workers working at different ports of India had assembled last year in Delhi and protested against privatisation. Many ports, as the hon. Minister has just mentioned, are running on profit,

especially the Cochin Port, and the Bombay Port. A lot of money is in reserve, especially in the Cochin Port. The Minister has been kind enough to state that geographically Vallarpadam is the most ideal place for transshipment terminal project. This project has been pending for a long time; I think, it is pending for more than a decade.

My humble question to the hon. Minister is this. May I know whether international bidders are coming and whether marketeers are coming or not. Using the reserve money, will the Government launch the project without losing any more time at Vallarpadam?

SHRI VED PRAKASH GOYAL: If you take the political content away from this question, today, the running of terminals all over the world is done by private operators, even in China if that is in your mind. This has been the practice everywhere. We have found that wherever two terminals are being operated side-by-side, one by a private operator and the other departmentally, there is a great difference in the operation. I do not say anything against the skill of the people. They are all very good engineers, skilled people. But this is a different ball game. This is not the game of putting up a small workshop or a factory. It involves Rs. 2000 crore worth of investment. It is not only in terms of Rupee but a lot of foreign direct investment is required and a lot of conceptualisation is required, which even after 50 years of Independence we have not developed in our country. We are trying to make up for the time lost.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Next question, Q. No. 243, Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Sir, I represent Visakhapatnam constituency. You have not allowed me to ask supplementary ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have already called the next question.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Sir, I have to straighten the record ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Next question has already been taken up.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Sir, someone has talked about Visakhapatnam. Please allow me to speak only for a second ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already called the next question.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Sir, I was trying to catch your eyes from the very beginning. I have to straighten the record ...(Interruptions) I appreciate that you have selected Chennai. Chennai is the right city. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are a senior Member. I have called the next question. The Member has already moved the question and the Minister has also given the reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Kindly allow Half-an-hour discussion on this ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We could complete only the second question on the list. Every day, ten to fifteen minutes of the Question Hour are being taken away as 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Sir, kindly allow Half-an-hour discussion on this ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not have any objection if the Minister agrees to it.

SHRI VED PRAKASH GOYAL: I welcome that.

[Translation]

Hepatitis-B Cases

*243. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned '4.5 crore patients afflicted with Hapatitis-B and C', appearing in the 'Dainik Jagaran' dated December 4, 2001;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide immediate and free medical treatment to the patients afflicted with Hapatitis-B and C; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

[*English*]

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

Statement

Viral Hepatitis can be caused by many viruses including Hepatitis B virus and Hepatitis C virus. As per information received from the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence, the total reported cases of Viral Hepatitis in the last 3 years were 113,527 in 1998, 131,798 in 1999 and 148,754 in the year 2000. However, studies based on institutional data indicate that a significant proportion of the population may be carriers of Hepatitis B and C viruses, though only a small number would manifest the disease and require treatment.

The high risk groups for infection of Hepatitis B and C are infants, children, health care workers and those who are vulnerable to HIV/AIDS infection as the disease spreads through unsafe sex, unsafe blood transfusion, injection etc. and also from mother to child. These types of viral hepatitis do not usually cause outbreaks but cause chronicity leading in some cases to cirrhosis and even liver cancer.

Treatment of Hepatitis B and C is prohibitively expensive and involves the use of anti-viral therapy using drugs such as Interferon and Lamivudine over a long period of time. It is far more cost effective to take steps to prevent the infection with Hepatitis B or C rather than go for curative therapy.

The following measures have been taken to prevent infection of viral hepatitis:

- * 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 is advocated.
- * Health awareness campaigns regarding the danger of using unsterile syringes and needles under National AIDS Control Programme are held.

- * Guidelines have been issued to State Health authorities for use of separate sterile syringes and needles for each injection.
- * A pilot project to introduce Hepatitis B vaccine in 15 selected cities and 32 districts in 17 States of the country, which are high-risk areas, in order to study the impact of administration, is likely to be launched shortly. The pilot project is estimated to cost Rs. 27.19 crores out of which vaccines and AD syringes cost Rs. 23.89 crores, which will be funded by the Global Alliance on Vaccine and Immunization (GAVI). No vaccine is available yet for Hepatitis-C infection.
- * As data presently available about prevalence of Hepatitis B and C is not wholly representative, Sentinel sites are being set up all over the country, in association with the National AIDS Control Programme, in order to arrive at an accurate estimate of the number of persons in the country infected with Hepatitis B and C viruses.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as per the information received from various parts of the country it has been noticed that Hepatitis B and C has spread rapidly in the last few years. It has spread rapidly not only in cities but in colonies of poor and middle class people. The hon'ble Minister has admitted in his reply that figures of last few years reveals that the menace of infection of Hepatitis B and C has risen continuously. The hon'ble Minister has also admitted that reliable figures regarding this disease have not received from the surveys conducted so far. I would like to know whether any fresh survey has been conducted to collect reliable figures in this regard to find out the States, regions, villages and cities which comes under the high risk zone regarding this disease. What is the outcome of measures taken as per the information given in the reply to control this disease as we all know that on papers orders are issued to take preventive measures but the arrangements have not been made to monitor that what actually is being done, the impact of such preventive measures is not received to the desired extent. Please give information in this regard.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so far the figures given in this regard is concerned, the research has been conducted in hospital base and high risk areas. He is concerned and I am also concerned that how correct figures could be obtained and how these could

be checked and proved. The survey for AIDS is done on many sites by testing blood. This disease can also be checked in the same manner. From this year while conducting sentinel survey for AIDS, it will be linked with Hepatitis B and C then only the correct figures in this regard will come before the country.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Since when these preventive measures have been initiated and what is the progress in this regard?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: We are going to start a pilot project this year. This project will cost more than Rs. 50 crore. It will be started in 15 cities and 17 States. It will be extended to other districts after getting result of the pilot project.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Sir, in the reply given by the hon'ble Minister, it has been stated that efforts are being made to control this disease through vaccine and injection. The hon'ble Minister may be aware about the facts, as this was reported to his Department, vaccine for this disease is being produced by some companies within the country and Bharat Biotech company of Hyderabad is one of them which produce vaccine of Hepatitis B. Complaints have been made that inferior quality of vaccine has been produced therein and it has also been proved. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister that what action has been taken against this company? Whether it has been blacklisted, so that other companies may not produce inferior quality vaccine. You have admitted that treatment of this disease is quite costly and its prevention is cheaper. What action is being taken by the Government to maintain quality of the vaccine produced by various companies?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: In our country, five companies are producing this vaccine, Bharat Biotech Company of Hyderabad, Santa Biotech of Aurangabad, Panacea Biotech Company of Delhi and Cadila Health Care of Gujarat. As the hon'ble Member has correctly said that some complaints were received regarding Bharat Biotech Company but they explained that their competitors are doing so to lower their dignity. An inquiry was set up for this purpose. Apart from it, the other companies are producing World Level Vaccine and it is also being exported. In total good quality vaccine is being produced in the country and inquiry is being conducted regarding the complaints made.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: What is the outcome of this inquiry?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: The vaccine was alright but still inquiry is going on.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my allegation is that Bharat Biotech produced inferior quality vaccine which affected the health of people. Due to connivance of these people this case is not being investigated properly. I would like to say that proper inquiry should be conducted regarding the quality of the vaccine and action should be taken in this regard.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Regarding this inquiry will be conducted again.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I know the time is very limited. I would ask a very pointed question. The liver diseases in India are spreading. We do not have the medicine and we do not have the expertise to treat them here in India. In Western world, this kind of medicine has not developed but in Eastern world, it has developed. Is there any plan with the Government of India to establish a very big and mega-institution or laboratory to study liver diseases for providing medical facilities and the medicines to the patients in India on its own? Or if some scientists or doctors are trying to do such a study, would the Government help them?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Sir, certainly I agree with the Member that no exclusive centre for research for liver diseases is there. At some of the centres like All India Institute of Medical Sciences and other places, there are excellent doctors in India and they are doing very good research work. If the resources are available, certainly I will try to establish a separate centre for liver diseases. That is the need of the hour. But due to resource constraint, we are not doing it. We are thinking of establishing a separate liver disease centre.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, HIV is also connected with liver diseases. Several Members want to ask questions. Therefore, I would request you to kindly allow Half-an-Hour-Discussion on this issue.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right. I will admit Half-an-Hour-Discussion on this.

WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS

Leukaemia Treatment

[English]

*244. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

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

(a) whether a break-through in Leukaemia treatment with a silver based Ayurvedic compound was achieved over two years back;

(b) if so, the details of the result of further studies made in this treatment and its evaluation, under the aegis of the Central Council for Research for Ayurveda and Siddha;

(c) whether the treatment has since been recommended for general treatment of Leukaemia patients in hospitals;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (e) The Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare engaged in conducting research in Ayurveda and Siddha, had sanctioned a Research Project to evaluate the "Effect of Metal based Ayurvedic formulations on Acute Pro-myelocytic Leukemia (APML)" in October, 1997. In a clinical study conducted on 15 patients of APML, 4 patients died. It has been reported that out of 11 patients who completed 90 days treatment, all were found free from leukemia on the assessment of the bone marrow and 10 out of 11 patients were stated to be alive. However, the complete report was not received from the principal investigator and the formulation was under preliminary clinical trial, due to possible toxic effect of metallic formulations.

A Drug Development Committee was constituted on 23.01.2001 by the Council comprising Ayurvedic experts and modern pharmacologists to oversee the development of the drug used in the treatment of APML cases. It was observed that various requirements, which are essential under scientific guidelines for development of new drugs, are yet to be fulfilled in order to standardise the formulation as a drug. These guidelines also need to be

followed strictly as the formulation uses various metals and minerals as ingredients, which may have toxic effect.

The Principal Investigator has now been advised to submit time schedule for various actions to be taken for drug development including preparation of a monograph incorporating all the details of the preparation of drugs-'Navjivan'. They have also been advised to identify a Laboratory which can undertake an in vitro study of the mode of action and make arrangement for the treatment of effluent etc., of the drug.

Treatment of Burn, Dog Bite Infectious Diseases

*245. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that AIIMS has no facilities to treat burn, dog bite and infectious diseases;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide treatment of these cases in the AIIMS;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which such treatment is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (e)

Burn Cases: All India Institute of Medical Sciences does not have an exclusive Burn Unit. The Safdarjung Hospital which is only 100 metres away from the AIIMS, has all the standard facilities available in its Burn and Plastic Surgery Unit. Usually when an individual with burn injuries reports at the AIIMS, he/she is referred to Safdarjung Hospital after giving First-Aid. However, in a Disaster situation where a large number of persons are involved, the patients are admitted to the Emergency Ward in the AIIMS and the requisite treatment is provided.

Dog Bite Cases : Normally dog-bite cases are referred to Safdarjung Hospital. However, if the condition of the patient is such that surgical care is required immediately, he/she is referred to Safdarjung Hospital only after the requisite treatment.

Infectious Diseases: Normally such cases are referred to the Infectious Disease hospital at Kingsway Camp, Delhi. However, in cases of Epidemic which have assumed national importance or in cases where the patient is not in a condition to be shifted, the patient(s) are admitted in the Isolation Ward in AIIMS for necessary treatment.

[Translation]

Promotion of Cottage Industries in Rural Areas

*246. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to draw up any scheme to promote cottage industries in rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the State-wise details of the funds allocated by the Government during 2001-2002 for the promotion of cottage industries?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) and (b) The Government is already implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) for the promotion and development of Khadi and Village Industries including cottage industries in rural areas. Under this programme the KVIC provides margin money assistance at the rate of 25% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs and for the project above Rs. 10 lakhs and upto Rs. 25 rate of margin money is 25% of Rs. 10 lakhs plus 10% on remaining cost of the project. In the case of weaker sections viz. SC/ST/OBC/Women/Physically Handicapped/ Ex-Servicemen and Minority Community beneficiary/ institution and for hill border and tribal areas, North Eastern Region, Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Island, Lakshadweep, the margin money grant is 30% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs. Under the Scheme, the beneficiary is required to contribute 10% of the project cost. In case of SC/ST and other weaker section, beneficiary's contribution is 5% of the project cost. The KVIC also provides assistance to KVI sector including cottage industries in the form of skill upgradation, training, entrepreneurship development training, technological and marketing support. As a result, these industries have been registering growth in production and employment. During the last three years the production of Khadi and Village Industries has increased from Rs. 4519.31 crore in 1997-98 to Rs. 6923.26 crore in 2000-2001 and employment has increased from 56.50 lakh to 60.07 lakh during the same period.

In order to further strengthen the KVI Sector, the Government has recently announced a package on 14.5.2001. The package consists of Rebate Policy for five years, option of Rebate and Market Development

Assistance (MDA), Insurance cover to Khadi artisans, emphasis on improvement of Khadi products, creation of packaging and design facilities, measures to promote marketing, brand building, cluster development.

(c) The State-wise funds disbursed by the KVIC as grant and loan during 2000-2001 is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

*Statewise disbursement of grant and loan
by the KVIC during 2000-2001*

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	States/Union Territories	Grant	Loan
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	520.66	46.70
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	33.18	0.26
3.	Assam	59.09	46.12
4.	Bihar	326.28	112.72
5.	Goa	58.49	0.00
6.	Gujarat	1167.46	19.71
7.	Haryana	652.15	1.10
8.	Himachal Pradesh	217.32	17.24
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	219.54	28.92
10.	Karnataka	703.25	43.01
11.	Kerala	810.85	57.65
12.	Madhya Pradesh	302.22	74.50
13.	Maharashtra	378.95	16.40
14.	Manipur	420.77	4.59
15.	Meghalaya	61.23	5.22
16.	Mizoram	0.61	14.82
17.	Nagaland	198.57	130.09

1	2	3	4
18.	Orissa	67.98	53.97
19.	Punjab	473.03	0.36
20.	Rajasthan	708.25	7.22
21.	Sikkim	3.20	1.83
22.	Tamil Nadu	2091.54	31.10
23.	Tripura	3.73	3.60
24.	Uttar Pradesh	4723.14	184.84
25.	West Bengal	225.30	101.81
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.50	0.00
27.	Chandigarh	0.23	0.00
28.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00
29.	Delhi	266.76	25.96
30.	Pondicherry	25.23	0.00
31.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00
32.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00
33.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00
34.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00
35.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00
Total		14719.43	912.74

Tooth Problem among Children

*247. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "about 80% of the children facing tooth problems" appearing in the 'Dainik Jagaran' dated February 13, 2002;

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

(c) whether the Government have taken any effective steps to increase the number of dentists and to ensure the dental care of children; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Though no nationwide survey has been conducted to assess the prevalence of Dental caries in Children, some published studies indicate the prevalence amongst children to be 60-80%.

A National Oral Health Care Programme has been launched as a part of the National Health Policy for prevention of Oro-dental Problems. This programme is a primary preventive programme and the main motto is to generate awareness about Oral Health amongst masses including children. All India Institute of Medical Sciences is currently undertaking this programme on a pilot basis in Delhi, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab and North-Eastern States. The programme involves training of Dental Surgeons at district level, who in turn train health workers, school teachers and the community. To make available more dentists, during the last three years, 35 Dental colleges have been permitted in the private sector with a total intake capacity of 2500 B.D.S. students.

[English]

Promotion of Ayurvedic, Unani and Homoeopathy Hospitals

*248. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage systems of medicines other than allopathy in Government and Government aided hospitals in the country;

(b) if so, the number of trained doctors and para medical personnel in Ayurvedic, Unani and Homoeopathic system of medicines available at present; and

(c) the number of medical colleges in Ayurvedic, Unani and Homoeopathic system likely to be opened during 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) The Government proposes to draw up schemes for assistance for setting up of Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy (ISM&H) wing in district hospitals, speciality clinics of ISM&H in 10 Government hospitals and speciality treatment facilities in the next plan period.

There are 4,88,501 institutionally trained physicians of ISM&H. There is no separate statutory council to

regulate education and practice of ISM&H paramedical personnel.

Medical colleges are established by the State Governments and registered societies/trusts depending upon the felt need and their financial resources. This Ministry has taken steps to operationalise National Institute of Unani Medicine for Postgraduate teaching and research at Bangalore and construct the building of National Institute of Siddha for Postgraduate teaching and research at Chennai.

Biological Welfare

*249. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the hazards of biological warfare; and

(b) if so, the steps the Government have taken to meet the threat of anthrax and other biological agents which may be used by the enemies of the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has taken following actions in the context of the present international scenario:

1. A detailed list of biological agents used as weapons prepared by the Indian Council of Medical Research along with signs and symptoms, likely method of dissemination, incubation period, lethality and the availability of vaccines, anti-microbial therapy and treatment has been circulated to Health Secretary and Director of Health Services of all States/UTs., and Central Government hospitals advising them to take following precautionary steps:

- * Earmarking of maximum number of beds for emergency contingency.
- * Stocking of vaccines/sera/drugs to the extent possible.
- * Setting up a special team of doctors for coordinated action. They should be sensitized on the impact of such weapons and treatment measures.

2. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, 22, Sham Nath Marg, Delhi-110054, an Institute under Directorate General of Health Services, has been designated as the nodal agency for carrying out the tests of suspected Anthrax samples. Facilities for testing Anthrax Bacillus are also available in National Institute of Cholera & Enteric Diseases, Kolkata, Department of Microbiology, AIIMS, National Institute of Virology, Pune, Enterovirus Research Centre, Mumbai, Vector Control Research Centre, Pondicherry, Centre for Research in Medical Entomology, Madurai, Institute of Pathology, Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad and Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izzat Nagar, Uttar Pradesh.

3. Do's & Don't have already been published in the leading National Dailies regarding Anthrax.

4. Two expert group meetings were held (1st & 17th October) in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, to review the management (diagnosis, treatment, IEC activities etc.) of recently emerging diseases of public health importance like Dengue, Anthrax etc. Eminent experts in the field of medical science from different organizations in the country, senior officials of Ministry of Health & F.W., and chiefs of different Government and private hospitals in Delhi, participated in the meeting and deliberated on various aspects of the bio-terrorism in the backdrop of current global situation.

5. Two expert group meetings (18th and 21st October, 2001) were held to finalise guidelines to be issued in CD Alert.

6. CD Alert, a monthly Newsletter of National Institute of Communicable Diseases titled "Bioterrorism-Public Health System to Remain Alert" exclusively on Anthrax has been widely circulated. It has also been put in the Website of MOHFW (<http://mohfw.nic.in>) for information of general public.

7. A meeting-cum workshop on Biological & Chemical Terrorism was convened by the Department of Health on 29th October, 2001, in New Delhi, wherein Health Secretary, Home Secretary and Director of Health Services from various States/UTs., eminent experts in the field of medical science from different organizations in the country and heads of different hospitals in Government and private sector in Delhi participated and deliberated on various aspects. The objectives of the meeting were to discuss the preparedness at all levels by way of sensitization of doctors, health personnel and general public. The representatives from the States informed the Central

Government about the preparatory measures taken by them and assured availability of drugs in adequate quantity to tackle any situation.

[*Translation*]

Eradication of Blindness

*250. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU:
SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "number of blind would be double in 20 years" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated January 21, 2002;

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

(c) whether despite major advancements in eye care more people in the country suffer from complete loss of sight, brought on largely by treatable condition, now, than a decade ago;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any worldwide campaign was launched by the World Health Organisation for elimination of avoidable blindness; and

(f) if so, the details regarding the medical assistance extended in favour of India by the WHO?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The estimates published in the 'Times of India' dated 21.01.02 are based on a study limited to Andhra Pradesh only and therefore cannot be extrapolated to the entire country. Estimated blind persons in the year 2001 would be about 15 million projected on the basis of National Survey (1986-89). The number of cataract operations carried out annually are in excess of the estimated new cases every year. In view of this, there is no reason to believe that the pool of blind persons is increasing over the years.

(c) and (d) Nearly 80% of blind persons can be treated for restoration of their vision through Cataract Surgery, provision of glasses and management of other eye problems. Performance of Cataract Surgery has been steadily increasing from 16 lakhs in 1992-93 to 37 lakhs during 2000-2001.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. A "VISION 2020 : The Right To Sight" global initiative has been launched by WHO. A comprehensive plan of action is being prepared by a working group constituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on "Vision 2020: The Right to Sight" initiative in India. The plan includes controlling blindness due to cataract, glaucoma, diabetes, refractive errors and corneal blindness with special focus on prevention and control of blindness in children. The Vision 2020 initiative aims at reducing avoidable blindness by the year 2020. This initiative is being assisted by WHO for which US\$ 2 lakhs have been sanctioned for biennium 2001-2002. However, the programme in the field will not be eligible for any funding from WHO.

[*English*]

Iodine Deficiency Disorders

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

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

(a) whether as per the report of Indian Coalition for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (ICCIDD), eight persons out of every hundred, suffer from goitre in the country;

(b) if so, whether according to the ICCIDD statistics, out of 29 million babies born every year in the country, more than a lakh are likely to suffer from some form of IDD;

(c) whether the Government have examined this report; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (d) The Indian Coalition for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (ICCIDD) do not have any report or published statistics in this regard. However, as per surveys conducted by the Directorate General of Health Services, Indian Council of Medical Research and other Health Institutions, out of 305 districts surveyed at different times in 28 States and 5 Union Territories, 252 districts are endemic where the prevalence of Iodine Deficiency Disorders is more than 10%.

In order to control the problem of Iodine Deficiency Disorders among all sections of the population in the

country, the Government of India is implementing the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme. So far, all the States/UTs, except the State of Kerala and Gujarat, have banned the sale of salt other than iodated salt in their entire State/UT. However, there is partial ban in the State of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. The use of iodated salt is being promoted in all the States/UTs through intensive Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities in association with Doordarshan, All India Radio, Song and Drama Division, Directorate of Field Publicity and the Directorate of Advertisement and Visual Publicity (DAVP). Beside this, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is also providing financial assistance to the States/UTs to take up health education activities at their own level depending upon the local needs.

MTNL Measures to Improve Public Utility Services

*252. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether M.T.N.L. have taken various measures to improve public utility services in Delhi and Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith formalities required for availing of each service city-wise;

(c) whether these services include issue of duplicate bills by any office of customer service in each city;

(d) the time-limit prescribed to redress the grievances registered on telephone complaint service;

(e) whether automatic rent rebate is provided to subscribers, whose telephone connection remains non-functional for more than 7 days continuously;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the time-limit fixed for repair of faulty connections?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The following measures have been taken by MTNL to improve public utility services in Delhi and Mumbai:

* Call Center Concept for 197 and other level 1 services has been introduced in Delhi. To begin

with, main call center for 197 at Kidwai Bhawan with 52 positions is ready and under trial.

* Departmental as well as private PCOs (Public Call Offices) have been opened at all prominent places like hospitals, railway platforms, airports, bus stops, schools, colleges, cinemas, main markets etc.

* 3/4 digit toll free numbers have been opened for various public utility services, like ambulance, fire, police, accident and trauma, eye donation, child help line, blood donations, AIDS awareness, various inquiries (railway, airport, roadways, water, electric etc.).

* To have close interaction with public, MTNL has opened Customer Service Centres and Sanchar Haats where facilities like registration of new telephones with choice of telephone No. and instrument, issue of duplicate bills and bill payment, sale of prepaid cards etc. are being provided.

The procedures for availing various facilities including PCOs have been simplified and made customer friendly.

(c) Duplicate bills are also issued at Customer Service Centres.

(d) Normally, the telephones are rectified within 48 hours. Only few cases get delayed due to underground cable faults.

(e) to (g) The automatic rent rebate is provided to all those customers whose telephones remain non-functional for 7 days or more.

Medical Council of India

*253. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

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

(a) the functions of Medical Council of India;

(b) the total members of the Council as on date, both nominated and elected, separately;

(c) the number of vacancies of members in MCI as on date;

(d) the reasons therefor and the steps taken to fill up the same;

(e) whether the Government propose to wind up the council to economise Government expenditure and take the functions of MCI directly under their own hand; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (f)

1. *Functions of the Medical Council of India:*

- * Maintenance of uniform standards of medical education—both at the Undergraduate and Postgraduate levels.

- * Conducting inspections/visits of medical colleges for sending recommendations to the Central Government for grant of permission under the provisions of section 10A of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, to start medical colleges for MBBS course; starting of new postgraduate courses; and increase of seats.
- * Sending recommendations to the Central Government for recognition or de-recognition of the medical qualifications offered by the medical institutions within and outside the country.
- * Maintenance of Indian Medical Register and grant of provisional/permanent registration to persons who have obtained recognized medical qualifications.
- * Issue of good standing certificates to registered medical graduates.

2. *Membership and Vacancies in the Medical Council of India as on date:*

Category of Members	Total Membership	Members in position	Vacant
State Government nominees	28	26	02
Central Government nominees	08	08	Nil
Registered Medical Graduates in the States (elected)	17	06	11
University Representatives (elected)	59	32	27
Representatives of persons with Licentiate medical qualification (elected)	07	Nil	07
Total	119	72	47

3. *Reasons for the vacancies and the action taken to fill up the same:* The Central Government in consultation with the State Governments, appoints the Returning Officers to conduct election of the representative of the Registered Medical Graduates in the States. The Central Government also appoints the Returning Officer to conduct the election to the seven seats in the Council for persons with licentiate medical qualifications. The Registrars of the Universities are requested by the Central Government to conduct the election of the representatives of the Universities.

4. For nominating the State Government representatives, the Central Government requests each State Government to forward the names of their nominees.

5. These authorities are being repeatedly requested by the Central Government and the Medical Council of India to expedite the election and to forward the names of their representatives. On its own, the Central Government is not in a position to fill up the vacancies unless it receives the names of the persons elected for the membership of the Council/the State Governments forward the names of their nominees.

6. The vacancies in the Council are remaining unfilled mainly on account of the following reasons:

- The vacancies of the nominees of the State Governments in the Council persist because the State Government concerned have not forwarded the names of their nominees to the Central Government.
- The representatives of the Universities have to be elected from amongst the members of the medical faculty of the University by the Senate or Court of the University in its meeting. Some of the Universities have not been able to elect their representatives for years due to inordinate delay in reconstituting the Senate. In some cases, the Senate has not met for a long time.
- In the case of election of representatives of the Registered Medical Graduates in the States, some of the Returning Officers have not conducted the election for a long time due to non-availability of up-to-date voters list and election disputes.
- The Returning Officer appointed to conduct election for the seven seats in the Council for persons with licentiate medical qualifications have not been able to conduct the election for a long time mainly because some of the State Medical Councils have not been able to provide the up-to-date list of voters.

7. The Medical Council of India has been set up by an Act of the Parliament and performs various statutory functions as per the provisions of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956. There is no proposal with the Central Government to wind up the Medical Council of India and take over its functions.

[Translation]

Capitation Fees in Medical Colleges

*254. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Medical Colleges in the country are charging exorbitant capitation fees from the students;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the deserving students, who cannot afford the capitation fees, are not getting admission in medical colleges; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (d) With a view to prevent the commercialisation of medical colleges, and also to prevent private medical colleges from charging capitation fees, the Supreme Court of India in the case of Unnikrishnan J.P. Versus State, evolved a scheme for regulating admissions in private medical colleges. As per the scheme, 50% of the total seats are to be merit seats, 35% are payment seats and the remaining 15% are seats earmarked for NRI/Foreign students in all the private medical colleges, except for minority colleges. The admission to the first two categories i.e. merit and payment seats is to be made by the competent authority in the respective States, on the basis of merit to be determined either on the basis of a competitive entrance test or on the basis of the merit determined in the qualifying examination. In minority medical colleges, 50% seats are filled through the competent authority of the respective State Government and remaining 50% are filled by the management on the basis of merit amongst the candidates belonging to the concerned minority. Since merit is the sole criteria for obtaining admissions, hard-working and meritorious students have benefitted by the scheme evolved by the Supreme Court. As regards the fee structure, this had been fixed by the Supreme Court for the period 1993-94 to 1996-97. Subsequently, the Central Government has been fixing the upper ceiling of fee for merit and payment seats in private medical colleges and within this upper ceiling, the fees in each medical college is being fixed by the respective State Government. No fee has, however, been prescribed by the Central Government for 15% seats earmarked for NRI/Foreign students.

[English]

Road Network with Ports

*255. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of action plans to link road network with the major ports;

(b) whether their feasibility studies have been completed; and

(c) if so, the details of the ports in Gujarat to be linked with road network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) The details of the action

plan for the projects to link road network with major ports in the country are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The only major port in Gujarat is Kandla and improvement of road connectivity to it is under implementation by four-laning of Samkhiali-Gandhidham section of National Highway-8A, which will connect with East-West Corridor.

Statement

Port Connectivity Projects

S.No.	Port	Stretches for Development	Length in Km.	Likely date of completion
1.	Paradip	National Highway-5A (From Km. 0 to Km. 74)	74	September, 2005
2.	Haldia	National Highway-41 (From Kolaghat on NH-6 to Haldia)	53	April, 2005
3.	Visakhapatnam	State Road	12	April, 2005
4.	Chennai & Ennore	Chennai-Ennore Expressway	6	December, 2005
5.	Tuticorin	National Highway-7A (Tuticorin-Tirunelveli section)	51	September, 2005
6.	Cochin	National Highway-47 (From Km. 348/382 to Km. 358/300 including 5 bridges)	10	June, 2005
7.	New Mangalore	National Highway-17 (Kasargodu-Mangalore-Udupi section) and National Highway-48 (Mangalore-Bantwal section)	37	September, 2005
8.	Mormugao	National Highway-17B (From Port to Verna Junction on NH-17)	18	September, 2003
9.	Jawaharal Nehru Port	National Highway-4B + National Highway-4, State Highway-54 + Amra Marg + Panvel Creek bridge	30 10 6	April, 2005
10.	Kandla	National Highway-8A (Samkhiali-Gandhidham)	56	June, 2002

National Centre for Policy Research

*256. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the programmes drawn up for the establishment of National Centre for Policy Research for Small Scale and Agro and Rural Industries;

(b) the details of research projects undertaken by these centres, so far; and

(c) the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) There is no

proposal under consideration of the Government to set up any such Centre.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Small Family Norms

*257. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

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

(a) whether there is no uniform policy to give incentives/disincentives for adopting Small Family Norms;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to enact a legislation to encourage the people for adopting Small Family Norms;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the assistance provided to each State for the purpose of encouraging people to adopt Small Family Norms during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) Government has adopted National Population Policy, 2000, on 15th February 2000. The Policy affirms the commitment of the Government to the voluntary and informed choice and consent of citizens, while availing of reproductive health services and continuation of target free approach in administering family planning services.

The Policy, however, enumerates following promotional/motivational measures to support the strategic themes listed in the Policy for early population stabilisation in the country:

- (1) The Balika Samridhi Yojana run by the Department of Women and Child Development, to promote survival and care of the girl child will continue. A cash incentive of Rs. 500 is awarded at the birth of the girl child of birth order 1 or 2.
- (2) Maternity Benefit Scheme run by the Department of Rural Development will continue. A cash incentive of Rs. 500 is awarded to mothers who have their first child after 19 years of age, for birth of the first or second child only.

Disbursement of the cash award will in future be linked to compliance with antenatal check up, institutional delivery by trained birth attendant and registration of birth and BCG immunisation.

- (3) A Family Welfare-linked Health Insurance Plan will be established. Couples below the poverty line, who undergo sterilisation with not more than two living children, would become eligible (along with children) for health insurance (for hospitalisation) not exceeding Rs. 5000, and a personal accident insurance cover for the spouse undergoing sterilisation.
- (4) Couples below the poverty line, who marry after the legal age of marriage, register the marriage, have their first child after the mother reaches the age of 21, accept the small family norm, and adopt a terminal method after birth of the second child, will be rewarded.
- (5) Creches and childcare centres will be opened in rural areas and urban slums. This will facilitate and promote participation of women in paid employment.
- (6) A wider, affordable choice of contraceptives will be made accessible at diverse delivery points, with counselling services to enable acceptors to exercise voluntary and informed consent.
- (7) Facilities for safe abortion will be strengthened and expanded.
- (8) Local entrepreneurs at village levels will be provided soft loans and encouraged to run ambulance services to supplement the existing arrangements for referral transportation.
- (9) Increased vocational training schemes for girls, leading to self-employment will be encouraged.
- (10) Strict enforcement of Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1976.
- (11) Strict enforcement of the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994.
- (12) Soft loans to ensure mobility of the ANMs will be increased.

(c) and (d) In view of the Comprehensive National Population Policy having been adopted in 2000 only, there is no proposal of bringing any fresh legislation.

(e) A Statement showing the assistance during the last 3 years provided by the Government of India to each State for the purpose of encouraging people to adopt Small Family Norms is enclosed.

Statement

Assistance Provided to each State for Encouraging to adopt small family norms during the last Three Years

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.N.	Name of State	1998-99			1999-2000			2000-2001		
		In Cash	In Kind	Total	In Cash	In Kind	Total	In Cash	In Kind	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11652.79	2961.41	14614.20	16609.39	3023.31	19632.70	17363.99	3458.96	20822.95
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	144.06	75.75	219.18	231.20	103.35	334.55	256.18	130.72	386.90
3.	Assam	3260.45	1177.35	4437.80	7071.23	1421.68	8492.91	6466.42	1817.62	8284.04
4.	Bihar	8792.62	4025.28	12817.90	28435.89	4868.39	33304.28	13087.72	5957.71	19045.43
5.	Goa	184.83	58.94	243.77	243.44	82.50	325.94	269.68	125.61	395.29
6.	Gujarat	10503.85	2108.13	12611.98	14612.87	2600.21	17213.08	7201.05	3335.35	10536.40
7.	Haryana	2746.01	906.66	3652.67	3388.16	1019.59	4407.75	3878.80	1420.10	5298.90
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1973.97	399.57	2373.54	2069.01	338.33	2407.34	2778.77	470.20	3248.97
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1600.73	455.77	2056.50	1803.64	458.21	2261.85	1913.98	539.43	2453.41
10.	Karnataka	7681.02	2111.95	9792.97	16978.35	2107.70	19086.05	13002.34	2640.17	15642.51
11.	Kerala	4190.43	1313.51	5503.94	5487.87	1376.24	6864.11	5478.14	1575.88	7054.02
12.	Madhya Pradesh	8566.08	4587.46	13153.54	11373.95	4988.02	16361.97	10820.86	5477.07	16297.93
13.	Maharashtra	11164.04	3872.20	15036.24	11971.24	3924.85	15896.09	13758.03	4423.30	18181.33
14.	Manipur	622.26	108.80	731.06	907.39	147.96	1055.35	978.87	118.94	1097.81
15.	Meghalaya	328.75	140.78	469.53	598.21	152.50	750.71	641.79	139.93	781.72
16.	Mizoram	239.11	68.77	307.88	368.47	75.80	444.27	456.13	70.32	526.45
17.	Nagaland	247.96	90.31	338.27	402.78	97.73	500.51	457.72	90.13	547.85
18.	Orissa	4710.89	1773.73	6484.62	6053.65	1765.56	7819.21	6742.34	1630.78	8373.12
19.	Punjab	2558.65	1125.51	3684.16	2941.14	1246.95	4188.09	3122.93	1284.46	4407.39
20.	Rajasthan	8492.29	2688.55	11180.84	14307.20	3238.37	17545.57	14506.55	4039.05	18545.60

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
21.	Sikdom	307.72	41.68	349.40	416.73	68.33	485.06	653.55	38.73	692.28
22.	Tamil Nadu	9197.30	2582.39	11779.69	21270.03	1833.16	23103.19	21195.98	1708.95	22904.93
23.	Tripura	1781.61	193.98	1975.59	823.48	177.00	1000.48	1683.73	211.06	1894.79
24.	Uttar Pradesh	42482.52	8773.56	51256.08	26295.63	10356.72	36652.35	22669.33	11338.42	34007.75
25.	West Bengal	11122.85	3172.95	14295.80	9003.46	2944.78	11948.24	10813.82	3140.07	13953.89
Total (States)		154552.79	44814.99	199367.78	203664.41	48417.24	252081.65	180198.70	55182.96	235381.66

*[Translation]***Water Borne Diseases**

*258. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to launch a National Programme to prevent the water borne diseases; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) A proposal for a comprehensive National Programme for Control of Water Born Diseases under the 10th Five Year Plan has been forwarded to the Planning Commission for consideration. The proposed programme includes the following elements:

1. Identification of areas with heavy burden of water-borne diseases.
2. Water quality monitoring and surveillance.
3. Collaborating mechanism with Department of Drinking Water Supply.
4. Administration of Anti-helminthic drugs.
5. Standardised treatment protocol for water-borne diseases.
6. Distribution of halogen tablets.
7. IEC and Community participation.
8. Capacity building.
9. Monitoring and Evaluation.

*[English]***Three-Tier Satellite Communications**

*259. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to provide a three-tier satellite telecommunication system to connect all the seven North-Eastern States with the rest of the world; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by which date the proposed system is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) All the State Capitals in the North East have connectivity by microwave systems. In addition, Guwahati, Shillong and Itanagar are having optical fibre connectivity also. Guwahati, Agartala and Gangtok have been provided with satellite connectivity. So far as connectivity for other exchanges in North Eastern States is concerned, this is provided by satellite or microwave or optical fibre system depending upon technical feasibility and economic viability.

A plan for three tier telecommunication system for the State Capitals has been drawn up in which it has been proposed that as far as possible, the State Capitals will have a connectivity with three media, viz. microwave, optical fibre and satellite subject to availability of adequate resources. In line with this overall approach, work is in progress to connect the remaining State Capitals by optical fibre cable progressively during 2002-2003 depending upon the working environment. Likewise, satellite connectivity will also be provided subject to availability of resources.

Impact of Mobile Phones on Health

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

(a) whether the WHO have conducted any study on the use of mobile phones as a risk to the human brain;

(b) if so, the detail thereof;

(c) whether it has been found that electromagnetic fields in mobile phones are causing brain cancer;

(d) if so, whether the Government have conducted any research on the use of mobile phones causing adverse health consequences; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (e) According to published literature of WHO and other agencies to date, there is no conclusive evidence of adverse health effects of use of mobile phones on human beings. An epidemiological case control study conducted in USA has not established the increase in risk of brain tumors from use of cell phones. The papers published in Lancet on 25th November, 2000, have reviewed studies carried out on the effect of mobile telephones. There is no clear evidence of any association of mobile phones with brain tumors and other malignancies.

Extradition Treaty with Pakistan

2569. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any extradition treaty with Pakistan;

(b) if not, whether the Government propose to have any such treaty with Pakistan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) There is no extradition treaty between India and Pakistan.

During the visit to India of Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, in July 2001, Home Minister, Shri L.K. Advani, had specifically proposed to the latter the conclusion of an Extradition Treaty between the two countries. The

President of Pakistan turned down the suggestion arguing that such a Treaty was possible only after the normalization of relations between the two countries. Recently however media reports have stated that the Foreign Minister of Pakistan has suggested that the conclusion of such a treaty could be explored when dialogue between India and Pakistan resumes, and the question of 20 fugitives from law sought by India from Pakistan could be considered in that context.

It is quite obvious that Pakistan is attempting to use the issue of an Extradition Treaty purely for purposes of propaganda and as a delaying tactic to divert attention from the fact that Pakistan continues to provide safe haven to terrorists and other fugitives from law.

Vacant Posts

2570. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the category-wise names of posts lying vacant in his Ministry/Departments and subordinate offices under his Ministry as on March 31, 2002, alongwith the date since when these are lying vacant and reasons therefor; and

(b) the time by which these posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Condensed Courses for Doctors

2571. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a regular condensed course in Homoeopathy for the doctors of Allopathic disciplines;

(b) whether there are any demands for such a course;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) The Government of India have requested the Medical Council of India to consider the inclusion of the

basic principles and concepts of Ayurveda, Homoeopathy and Unani in the curriculum of MBBS students. The Council have constituted a Sub-Committee to consider the matter.

[Translation]

Electronic Exchanges

2572. SHRIMATI SENGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

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

(a) the number of telephone exchanges in Orissa, West Bengal and Maharashtra which have not been converted into electronic exchanges so far, State-wise and Location-wise;

(b) the time by which these exchanges are likely to be converted into electronic exchanges, State-wise;

(c) the number of the telephone exchanges in each of the above State decided to be converted into electronic exchanges during the last two years in these States; and

(d) the target set for conversion of telephone exchanges into electronic ones in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. All the telephone exchanges in Orissa, West Bengal and Maharashtra are electronic exchanges.

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

[English]

Terrorist Affected Areas

2573. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 677 dated November 21, 2001 regarding Scheme for terrorist affected areas and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to give a special package to Gaya to counter terrorist insurgency;

(d) if so, the detail thereof; and

(e) 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 (e) Sir, the information is still awaited from the Government of Bihar.

[Translation]

Release of Balance amount for Family Welfare Programme

2574. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the names of the States to which the Union Government have yet to release the remaining funds under the National Family Welfare Programmes for the year 2001-2002 alongwith the amount thereof, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): All the States/UTs have been released funds by Central Government for various schemes under the National Family Welfare Programme depending on the budgetary allocation in 2001-02. However, the excess expenditure incurred by the States over and above the grants released by Government of India during the previous years, also known as Arrears, amounting to Rs. 27937.19 lakhs is pending for release to the following States for want of necessary funds:

S.No.	States	(Rs. in Lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Assam	501.77
2.	Tripura	1667.23
3.	Bihar	6041.96
4.	Tamil Nadu	2856.82
5.	Kerala	3094.34

1	2	3
6.	Rajasthan	1717.73
7.	Uttar Pradesh	6759.62
8.	Karnataka	2399.77
9.	Haryana	448.05
10.	Maharashtra	2449.90
Total		27937.16

Telephone Adalats in West Bengal

2575. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY by pleased to state:

(a) the dates on which the Telephone Adalats were organised in each district of the West Bengal during the last two years;

(b) the number of cases referred to these Adalats and disposed of during the above period, districts wise; and

(c) the details of the incentives provided to the telephone subscribers alongwith the rules laid down for organising Telephone Adalats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The dates on which the Telephone Adalats were organised in each district of the West Bengal during the last two years is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The number of cases referred to these Adalats and disposed of during the above period, districts wise is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The details of the incentives provided to the Telephone subscribers is given in the enclosed Statement. Telephone Adalat is organized once in three month at Telecom Circle level and once in two months at Secondary Switching Area (Telecom District) level.

Statement

Telephone Adalats held in West Bengal State during 2000-01 & 2001-02

S.N.	Name of Telecom District	Name of Revenue District	2000-2001					2001-2002				
			No. of Adalats Organised	Dates	No. of cases Referred	No. of cases Disposed Off	Incentives Provided (Rs.)	No. of Adalats Organised	Dates	No. of Cases Referred	No. of Cases Disposed Off	Incentives Provided (Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Asansol	Burdwan	1	20.09.2000	18	18	66133	3	23.05.2001 19.12.2001 12.03.2002	47	47	0
2.	Bankura	Bankura	2	26.09.2000 24.01.2001	11	10	16028	3	22.05.2001 24.08.2001 01.09.2001	20	19	0
3.	Berhampore	Murshidabad	4	13.06.2000 20.09.2000 16.01.2001 15.03.2001	210	210	278816	5	30.05.2001 26.07.2001 26.09.2001 28.11.2001 24.01.2002	128	128	152479

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
4.	Calcutta	24-Parganas (North) 24-Parganas (South) Howrah Hooghly	2	29.11.2000 08.12.2000	11	11	20960	2	11.05.2001 22.02.2002	49	49	18905
5.	Coochbehar	Coochbehar	1	22.12.2000	41	41	0	1	12.09.2001	6	6	4290
6.	Jalpaiguri	Jalpaiguri	4	19.05.2000 13.09.2000 27.12.2000 13.03.2001	17	10	33305	2	29.06.2001 21.09.2001	21	7	0
7.	Kharagpur	Midnapur	1	24.01.2001	0	0	0	1	24.08.2001	62	45	0
8.	Krishnagar	Nadia	1	28.11.2000	28	11	0	1	28.9.2001	20	20	98000
9.	Makda	Malda	1	22.12.2000	0	0	0	2	26.11.2001 12.02.2002	0	0	0
10.	Purulia	Purulia	0	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
11.	Raiganj	Uttar Dinajpur Dakshin Dinajpur	2	19.12.2000 11.07.2000	2	2	1696	1	23.05.2001	20	20	0
12.	Siliguri	Darjeeling	2	23.02.2001 24.02.2001	56	41	0	4	13.07.2001 14.07.2001 12.11.2001 13.11.2001	77	46	0
13.	Suri	Birbhum	1	27.12.2000	1	1	0	5	24.07.2001 24.08.2001 08.11.2001 24.12.2001 27.02.2002	26	26	886

[English]

Bye Pass Road on National Highway 208

2576. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for construction of bye pass road on National Highway 208;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any preliminary survey has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Popularization of Homoeopathy

2577. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute a committee to study the level of integration in the practice

of Homoeopathy Medicine in various countries and to introduce an effective utilization of this system in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of posts of Homeopaths have been created since the inception of the Department of ISM & Homoeopathy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal to study the level of integration in other countries.

There are 297 Homoeopathy Hospitals and 7437 dispensaries in the country. The State Governments have been advised to post ISM & H physicians in Primary Health Centres and make available drugs in the hospitals and dispensaries. An Essential Drugs List has been prepared and sent to State Governments.

(c) Presently, there are 77 posts of Homoeopathy physicians at various levels under the Department of ISM & Homoeopathy.

(i)	ET&T Limited; and	Department of Information Technology
(ii)	Semiconductor Complex Limited (SCL)	
(iii)	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) &	Department of Telecommunications
(iv)	Indian Telephone Industries (ITI)	

(i) ET&T Ltd. : ET & T is under winding up and as such is not involved in any production.

(ii) SCL Ltd. : The details of installed capacity and utilisation are as follows:

(Qty. in thousands)

	Installed Capacity	Utilisation (approx.)
(i) VLSI Wafer (6") Fabrication	20	10%
(ii) System/Board Level Assembly	100	90%

(iii) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL): The BSNL is mainly a service provider. However, it has under its control some telecom factories producing items for captive

consumption. The details of the production capacity of major products vis-a-vis present utilisation are as under:

Product	Production capacity	%utilisation of capacity
1	2	3
Buttinski Telephone	42000	95
CBT-95	23000	143

Utilisation of Capacity

2578. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the installed capacity of each Public Sector Undertaking under his Ministry and utilization thereof at present;

(b) the reasons for low utilization of capacity if any, in each such undertaking; and

(c) the steps are being taken to increase the capacity utilization in each such undertaking?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Following are the Public Sector Undertaking (PSUs) under the administrative control of the Ministry of Communications & Information Technology viz.

1	2	3
CD Cabinets	22000	109
CT Boxes 100 pair	24000	104
D.P. Boxes	800000	100
Line Jack Unit	4300000	107
MDFs	7250	100
Modems	3000	100
MW Towers (in MT)	10000	73
Tube of sorts	825000	81

(iv) Indian Telephone Industries (ITI) Limited: The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) The facility at SCL was created keeping in view the needs of strategic sector in mind. The major reason for low capacity utilisation of VLSI Wafer Fab is due to the fact that these products have limited and fragmented domestic IC market. Further, SCL is presently

equipped to process Wafers in 1.2 micron/8 micron (pilot) technology which is far below the international standards. Till such time, the technology is upgraded, it is not feasible to fully utilise the installed capacity in VLSI Wafer Fab.

The utilization level in respect of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Indian Telephone Industries (ITI) is satisfactory.

Statement

The details of installed capacity and utilisation of Indian Telephone Industries (ITI)

Product	Acctg. Unit	Installed Capacity (2000-2001)	Actual Prodn. An capacity utilisation percentage
1	2	3	4
Switching products	M Lines	4.83	4.78
OCB 283-Local	KL	1000.0	99%
OCB Tax/Tandem	KC	330.0	126%
E10B Local	KL	900.0	183.5%
CDOT Exchanges	KL	2600.00	56%
SMPS	Rs. Crs.	90.0	270.3%
			30.0%
			2818.7
			108%
			89.78
			100%

1	2	3	4
Transmission Products			
DIG. Radio TX/RX	NOS	2500	1604 64%
(2/6/7/11/13 GHz)			
Optic Fibre PDH	NOS	4000	6971 174%
Optic Fibre SDH	NOS	3000	4226 141%
MCPC VSAT	NOS	75	25 33%
Terminal Equipment			
Telephones	M NOS	1.20	1.195 100%
Solar Panel	NOS	30000	325 1%

SCs/STs and OBCs in PSUs*[Translation]*

2579. SHRI RAMESH C. JIGAJINAGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of "posts" in Class-I (Group A) Category and Class-II (Group B) and equivalents thereof under and public Sector Undertakings/Enterprises, Statutory Organizations/Corporations, Autonomous Organizations, attached and subordinate office under his Ministry; and

(b) the number of persons belonging to General, SCs, STs and OBCs working against such posts and their respective percentages to such total posts as identified as per instructions under para 5 of DoPT OM No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated July 2, 1997?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Immunisation Programme

2580. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI ARUN KUMAR:

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

(a) the percentage of children immunised against all the preventive diseases in the country;

(b) the date on which Polio drops to children was started under mass exercise of the Pulse Polio Programme and the result thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any programme to start mass level vaccination for Hepatitis-A, B & C (Jaundice) to children in the country free of cost; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA):

(a) An evaluation is conducted by independent agencies through UNICEF of coverage reported by the States of children up to one year of age. According to the evaluation report for the year 2000-2001, 53.6% of children in the age group were fully covered by all required doses of all vaccines provided under the Universal immunization Programme.

(b) The Pulse Polio Immunization Programme was started in December 1995. The number of reported polio cases has declined from about 3200 during 1995 to 268 during 2001.

(c) and (d) The Government have decided to introduce Hepatitis-B Vaccine under the Universal Immunization Programme on pilot basis. This programme will be implemented in slum areas of 15 metropolitan cities during 2002-03 and 32 districts during 2003-04.

Development of Adivasi, Backward, Rural and Hilly Areas

2581. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from Bihar to allocate more funds for the development of adivasi/backward/rural and hilly areas of the State during the last three years.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have enhanced the annual plan outlay of Bihar for the year 2001-2002 as compared to the previous year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) 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 (e) Sir,

the information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Rate of Pension

2582. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have increased the rates of pension recently;

(b) if so, the increase made since the year 1995 till date, year-wise;

(c) the basis on which pension rates have been increased; and

(d) the criteria adopted and the rates followed to increase pension rates?

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 (d) The pensionary benefits are revised based on the recommendations of Pay Commissions or any other authority set up by the Government for the purpose. The last revision in pension was made while implementing the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission. The Fifth Pay Commission recommended certain specific criteria for purposes of consolidation of pension and parity which were accepted by the Government and implemented from 1st January, 1996. For the purposes of consolidation the criteria recommended by Pay Commission and accepted by the Government was to add to basic pension, Dearness Relief, Interim Relief I, Interim Relief II and a Fitment Weightage of 40% of basic pension. Pension revisions are not made on an annual basis. The quantum of pension gets enhanced on account of neutralization being made with respect to rise in cost of living. This is done twice in a year by way of dearness relief at par with the serving employees.

The changes effected in pension as a result of implementation of Vth Pay Commission recommendations is as given below:

Sl.No.	Pension as applicable prior to 1.1.96	Pension as applicable on or after 1.1.96
1	2	3
1.	Ceiling on pension: Rs. 4500 p.m.	Ceiling raised to Rs. 15,000 p.m. (50% of the highest pay)
2.	Commutation: 1/3rd of pension	Commutation increased to 40% of pension

1	2	3
3.	Dearness Relief Neutralisation Pension 100%—Upto Rs. 1750/- 75%—Rs. 1751-3000/- 65%—Above Rs. 3000/-	100% neutralisation against inflation. Complete relief to pensioners/family pensioners on par with serving employees.
4.	Family Pension rates were in slabs of 30%, 20% and 15%	Uniform rate of 30% of pay for all categories subject to a minimum of Rs. 1,275/-.
5.	Family Pension ceiling: Rs. 1250	Ceiling raised to 30% of pay for all categories subject to a maximum of Rs. 9,000/-

[English]

Work Undertaken by National Medicinal Plants Board

2583. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the details of the work undertaken by the Medicinal Plants Board either directly or through the State Government's during the last year, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): The following works have been undertaken by the Board:

- (i) The Board has identified 31 valuable and important species of medicinal plants, on the basis of their demand and importance in Indian Systems of Medicine.
- (ii) 14 State Medicinal Plants Boards have been set-up. Funds are being released for strengthening of nucleus centers of the Board in the States.
- (iii) Operational guidelines for financial assistance through the Board have been finalized and circulated to the State Governments, concerned Central Government Institutes, Universities and reputed Pharmaceuticals companies.

Hierarchy of Pay Scale

2584. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the hierarchy of pay scales for Occupational therapist and Physiotherapist in relation to ACP Scheme as recommended by 5th Pay Commission;

(b) whether the same has been implemented in Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. RML Hospital and Kalawati Saran Children Hospital in respect of Occupational therapist, Sr. Occupational therapist, Physiotherapist and Sr. Physiotherapist and Lect. in Physiotherapy and Occupational therapy;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

[Translation]

Conversion of National Highways in Rajasthan

2585. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the length of two and four lane National Highways in the country;

(b) whether the Rajasthan Government have submitted any proposal with regard to construction of new National Highways, declaring State Highways as National Highways, converting them into two and four lane highways, construction of bye passes and reconstruction or bridges etc;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the names of National Highways under construction in Rajasthan and the budgetary allocation made for them during 2001-2002; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Out of total National Highways length of 58,112 kms. in the country, 33186 kms. are two lane and 1850 kms. are four lane respectively.

(b) to (e) In the Ninth Plan Period Rajasthan Government had submitted 31 proposals for declaration of new National Highways out of which 6 routes with approximate length of 1666 km. have been declared as new National Highways. During the year 2001-02, Rajasthan Government has submitted 71 number of proposals for widening to 2/4 lane, construction of bye passes and reconstruction of bridges etc. Out of these 48 proposals have already been returned to the State Govt. of Rajasthan seeking clarifications. The total budgetary allocation for Rajasthan for 2001-2002 is Rs. 96.85 crore for development works on National Highways Nos. 11, 11A, 12, 14, 15, 76, 89 & 90. All these works are likely to be completed by December, 2003.

Naturopathy

2586. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate scheme to encourage Naturopathy;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme; and

(c) the provision made with regard to the expenditure to be incurred on implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The development and promotion of Naturopathy is already being encouraged by the Government through the Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy (CCRYN), New Delhi and National Institute of Naturopathy (NIN), Pune. Naturopathy institutions are being assisted by CCRYN & NIN for propagation and development of Naturopathy. Provisions made for CCRYN & NIN under Plan during 2001-2002 & 2002-2003 are as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

	2001-2002	2002-2003
CCRYN	175.00	200.00
NIN	80.00	90.00

WLL In Rajasthan

2587. SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) where there is any scheme to provide telephone services in the rural areas through WLL system;

(b) if so, the places in Rajasthan where centres of WLL system are likely to be set up; and

(c) the number of villages and the number of subscribers proposed to be provided telephone service in Rajasthan through WLL system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As informed by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) and the private Basic Telephone Service Operator in Rajasthan Service Area, the centers of WLL systems are likely to be set up at places are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) As per available information, 8400 subscribers of BSNL and 4000 subscribers of M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd. in 1500 villages are proposed to be provided telephone services through WLL systems in rural areas of Rajasthan.

Statement

List of rural places where centres of WLL System are likely to be set up in Rajasthan by BSNL and Shyam Telelink Ltd.

BY BSNL:

Ajmer, Beawar, Kishangarh, Barmer, Banswara, Lakhanpur, Bassi, Sikrai, Dudu, Chomu, Jaisalmer, Pokhran, Jodhpur, Mathania, Bilara, Sriganganagar, Anupgarh, Hanumangarh, Suratgarh, Bhadra, Nohar, Chittorgarh, Udaipur, Rajsamand.

BY SHYAM TELELINK:

Neemrana, Pali, Bhilwara, Bagru, Hanumangarh, Rajsamand, Shahpura, Sardarshahar, Ajmer, Dudu, Jhunjhunu, Sojat, Udaipur, Shahjahanpur, Sriganganagar, Nathdwara, Kotputli, Sujangarh, Sikar, Behror, Churu, Pushkar, Gangapur, Chomu.

*[English]***Conversion into National Highway**

2588. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request for conversion of State Highway No. 10 Manmad-Shirdi-Ahmednagar-Daund-Vita-Sangli in Maharashtra into National Highway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Telephone Disconnection for Non-Payment of Bills

2589. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephones of BSNL which have been disconnected for non-payment of bills in 2001-2002 in Hyderabad city;

(b) the total amount due to Hyderabad Exchange from such defaulters as on date;

(c) whether any efforts are being made to collect such arrears; and

(d) the steps proposed in this regard by Hyderabad Exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) About 56,000.

(b) Rs. 70.48 Crores.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The steps proposed and being taken by Hyderabad Telephones are as follows:

(i) Deputation of Telephone Revenue Inspectors and field staffs for recovery.

(ii) Constitution of Outstanding Revenue Pursuit Cells to specifically address Liquidation of revenue arrears.

(iii) Disconnection of other telephones working for the defaulters.

(iv) Denial of new telephone connections to the defaulters and their near relatives living in the same premises.

(v) Monitoring of progress by the Andhra Pradesh Telephone Circle office.

*[Translation]***Remote Sensing Satellite Programme**

2590. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have increased the application of Remote Sensing Application for various purposes;

(b) if so, the areas in which Remote Sensing Application are being used at present;

(c) the progress made on natural resources management through the Remote Sensing Application during the last three years; and

(d) the details thereof?

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

(b) The major areas in which remote sensing applications are being used at present are: agriculture and soils, forestry and environment, water resources, geology, coastal and ocean resources, rural development, urban and infrastructure development, cartography and meteorology.

(c) and (d) Remote sensing application studies carried out during the last three years for better management of natural resources include: (i) Pre harvest crop acreage and production estimation for major food crops grown in the country, (ii) Agricultural drought assessment and monitoring in the drought prone States, (iii) Monitoring of

flood events towards damage assessment and relief activities, (iv) Assessment of forest cover in the country, (v) Characterisation of biodiversity at landscape level for planning conservation, (vi) Prediction of snow-melt run-off for reservoir operations management, (vii) Evaluation of watershed development programmes, (viii) Mapping of wastelands for planning reclamation measures, (ix) Preparation of ground water prospects maps for providing drinking water in rural habitations, (x) Assessment of performance of selected irrigated commands, (xi) Coastal regulation zone mapping for coastal zone management planning, (xii) Potential fishing zone forecasting, (xiii) Landslide hazard zonation mapping for planning landslide mitigation measures in Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh and (xiv) Wetland mapping for planning conservation.

[English]

Central Assistance to Andhra Pradesh

2591. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI AMBAREESHA:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have sent any proposal for assistance under the Central Road Fund;

(b) if so, whether the Government have processed the State Proposals; and

(c) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Except some proposals on which clarifications have been sought, others have approved.

Civil Service Exam

2592. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether question paper in the Preliminary as well as in the Main examinations of Civil Services are given in Hindi and English only;

(b) if so, whether languages listed in the Eighth Schedule are not permitted to be used as medium in the Preliminary examination; and

(c) if so, 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) The question papers for Civil Services (Preliminary & Main) Examinations are set both in Hindi and English except the language papers in Civil Services (Main) Examination.

(b) and (c) The Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination consists of two papers—Paper I on General Studies and Paper II on one of the subjects to be selected by the candidate from the list of optional subjects. Both these papers are of objective type (multiple-choice questions). In the Preliminary Examination, the candidates are not required to write answers in any language medium but they are only required to select the right answer form the given choices and indicate the same in the answer sheet.

Kabani River at Kerala Border

2593. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal for the construction of Baiara Kuppar bridge across Kabani river at Kerala border on Waganad district;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government has already accorded in principle on 15.3.2002 for the construction of about 160 meter long bridge at an approximate cost of Rs. 830 lakh with 100% Grant-in-Aid under the Scheme of Inter-State connectivity.

Per Capita Income

2594. SHRI ARUN KUMAR:
SHRI MANJAY LAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4981 on December 20, 2002 and state:

(a) whether the Government have since collected the data from Bihar Government about information on per capita income;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme to increase the per capita income in the States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the financial assistance to be provided for the purpose?

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) Sir, information is still awaited from the Government of Bihar.

(c) and (d) The reply of this part of the question has already been given against Unstarred Question No. 4981 answered on 20.12.2000 and the same is reproduced below:

The estimates of per capita income are compiled by the State Directorate of Economics & Statistics (DEs) of the respective State Governments. After bifurcation of erstwhile Bihar, the newly created State of Bihar is required to send information on per capita income of the State. But the same has not been furnished by the State so far. However, information on per capita income (per capita NSDFP) at current prices (position as on 15.11.2000) of the undivided State of Bihar as per the quick estimates (as worked out by the Central Statistical Organisation) during 1998-99 was lowest in the country.

Increase in per capita income will come about by implementing such schemes which are economically productive and lowering the rate of growth of population. State Government of Bihar itself is responsible for taking up such schemes as would meet these objectives.

Funds to Tamil Nadu

2595. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received a proposal from the Government of Tamil Nadu for more financial support during 2002-2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the list of special projects for which more funds have been sought by the Tamil Nadu; and

(d) the action taken by the Government on the requests?

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) to (d) Do not arise.

Documents Relating to Hijacking of IC-814

2596. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Embassy of Nepal has received documents relating to the December 1999 hijacking of IC-814 flight of Indian Airlines from Kathmandu to Kandhar;

(b) if so, whether the Government have since received those documents;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have taken any steps to book the hijackers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) During the Home Secretary-level talks between India and Nepal, held at New Delhi on February 6-7, 2002, the Nepalese side informed that the original documents required by the Indian side for the trial of the case relating to hijacking of IC-814 on December 24, 1999, had been made available to the Embassy of Nepal in India for showing to the court, as and when required.

(d) and (e) Investigations into the case of the hijacking of IC-814 were conducted by the Central Bureau of Investigation. The CBI has filed a chargesheet with

the competent court against the hijackers and their accomplices who have been declared absconders and evidence against them, in absentia, is being recorded. International Red Corner notices have also been issued for the arrest of the hijackers and their associates.

[Translation]

Visit of Deputy Prime Minister of Israel

2597. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Deputy Prime Minister of Israel visited India recently; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the discussions held with him?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Mr. Shimon Peres, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Israel had visited India from 7-11 January, 2002 to participate in the CII Partnership Summit in Bangalore. He utilised the opportunity to visit New Delhi to brief the Indian leadership on the current situation in the West Asia and the status of the Middle East Peace Process. He also conveyed Israel's condemnation to 13 December attack on the Indian Parliament.

[English]

Fight Against Terrorism

2598. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether under UN resolution 1373, every member country has to submit a report on where it stands domestically in the fight against terrorism;

(b) if so, whether India has reported to the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee (UNCTC) that it had to settle a few questions before it could develop a domestic legislation on terrorism;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) On September 28, 2001, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1373, outlining comprehensive mandatory measures to combat terrorism. The Resolution requires all countries to submit a National Report to the Counter Terrorism Committee, set up under the Resolution, on the measures they have taken to implement the Resolution.

(b) to (d) In compliance with the Resolution, India has submitted its National Report to the Counter Terrorism Committee. The report explains that as a victim of terrorism, mainly from across its border, the Indian State and its people are cognizant of the consequences of and are sensitive to the need to strengthen measures to combat terrorism. A reference has been made in the report to the Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance and it is stated that: "The POTO in its existing form or the Act, as adopted by the Indian Parliament, after due consideration, will be the comprehensive piece of legislation specifically to tackle terrorism."

Ban on Landmines

2599. SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to sign the Ottawa Convention banning the use of landmines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) India has not signed the 1997 "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction", also known as the Ottawa Convention, as it does not adequately address its security concerns. India is, however, party to the inhumane Weapons Convention and is fully committed to its Amended Protocol II which deals with Anti-Personnel Landmines. India has urged for universal application of the Inhumane Weapons Convention and all its four Protocols.

Population Control

2600. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed under the National Population Policy for the year 2000 and the achievements made thereto; and

(b) the plan of Government to achieve the target during the 10th Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) National Population Policy, 2000 does not mention about fixing of targets but lists certain socio-demographic goals to be achieved by 2010. These are:

- (1) Address the unmet needs for basic reproductive and child health services, supplies and infrastructure.
- (2) Make school education upto age 14 free and compulsory and reduce dropouts at primary and secondary school levels to below 20 percent for both boys and girls.
- (3) Reduce infant mortality rate to below 30 per 1000 live births.
- (4) Reduce maternal mortality ratio to below 100 per 100,000 live births.
- (5) Achieve universal immunization of children against all vaccine preventable diseases.
- (6) Promote delayed marriage for girls, not earlier than age 18 and preferably after 20 years of age.
- (7) Achieve 80 percent institutional deliveries and 100 percent deliveries by trained persons.
- (8) Achieve universal access to information/counselling and services for fertility regulation and contraception with a wide basket of choices.
- (9) Achieve 10 per cent registration of births, deaths, marriages and pregnancy.
- (10) Contain the spread of Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and promote greater integration between the management of Reproductive Tract Infection (RTI) and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) and the National AIDS Control Organisation.

(11) Prevent and control communicable diseases.

(12) Integrate Indian System of Medicines (ISMN) in the provision of reproductive and child health services and in reaching out of households.

(13) Promote vigorously the small family norm to achieve replacement levels to TFR.

(14) Bring about convergence in implementation of related social sector programmes so that family welfare becomes a people centered programme.

(b) The Xth Five Year Plan aims at achieving the following measurable indicators:

1. Reduction in the decadal rate of population growth between 2001 and 2011 to 16.2%.
2. Reduction of Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) to 45 per 1000 live births by 2007 and to 28 by 2012;
3. Reduction of Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) to 2 per 1000 live births by 2007 and to 1 by 2012.

The strategic themes have already been detailed in National Population Policy, 2000 to achieve the goals which inter alia includes the above indicators.

Ceasefire in Sri Lanka

2601. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has welcomed the recently concluded ceasefire between Sri Lankan Government and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE); and

(b) if so, the deals thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Government have welcomed the ceasefire agreement and stated that it would provide an opportunity to both sides to move forward towards a substantive dialogue for a negotiated political settlement of the ethnic conflict in a manner which would meet the aspirations of all sections

of Sri Lankan society and restore lasting peace in that country.

India has reiterated its commitment to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka and once again assured the people and Government of Sri Lanka, India's consistent support to the peace process and to cooperating fully towards Sri Lanka's economic development and progress.

Development of Mumbai and Kandla Ports

2602. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of comprehensive programme for the development of Mumbai and Kandla Ports has been undertaken since the beginning of the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details of proposed development activities completed by the end of the year 2001; and

(c) the amount spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The major plan schemes completed at Mumbai and Kandla Ports by the end of the year 2001 and expenditure incurred during the 9th Plan Period on each scheme are given below:

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme	Expenditure incurred
1	2	3
Mumbai Port		
1.	Replacement of Pir Pau Oil Pier	1.58
2.	Modernisation of Ship Repair Facilities	8.64
3.	Replacement of Submarine Pipelines connecting Marine Oil Terminal at Jawahar Dweep with Main Land	264.00
4.	Modernisation of Storage Facilities	4.90
5.	Installation of VTMS	5.61
6.	Replacement of Grab Dredger 'Vikas'	22.07
7.	Replacement of Underground Cables	1.87
8.	Modernisation of Sub-Stations	10.16
9.	6.6 KV Ring Feeder	3.28
10.	Providing 22 KV/6.6 KV Cable Switch Gear and Transformer	5.25
11.	Replacement of Entrance Gate at Victoria Dock and Replacement of Machinery and Swing Bridge of P&V Docks	5.82
12.	Replacement of two Dock Tugs (Rudra & Rahul)	3.32
13.	Replacement of Harbour Tug Atul with 45 T Bollard Pull Tug.	13.60
14.	Replacement of Harbour Tug Ankush with 45T Bollard Pull Tug.	13.60

1	2	3
15.	Replacement of Inner Lock Gate at Indira Dock	4.50
16.	Modernisation of Storage Facilities (New)	5.85
17.	Revamping of MbPT Railways System	29.19
Kandla Port		
1.	3rd Oil Jetty	6.75
2.	4th Oil Jetty	17.33
3.	8th Cargo Berth	46.56
4.	Procurement of Wharf Cranes (4 Nos.)	19.62
5.	Providing 66/11 KV Electric Sub-Station	4.17
6.	Distribution of Electric Power to Port installations through underground Feeders	4.51
7.	Procurement of 4 Nos. 35 Ton TUG	48.10
8.	Additional facilities for handling Crude Oil at Vadinar	17.38
9.	Deepening of Channels, Approaches and alongside Berths	48.21
10.	Development/Upgradation of open plots	4.96
11.	Development of land including roads etc. outside west Gate	6.71

Telephone Facility in Andaman and Nicobar Island

2603. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the tribal villages have been provided with telecommunication facilities in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details therefor locations-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the time by which telecommunications facilities would be provided in all the tribal villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) No Sir. 50 out of 191 villages in Andaman & Nicobar Islands have been provided with telecom facility as on date. Details of locations are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) There is no plan to provide telecom facility in these tribal villages as these are not identified revenue villages. As per government policy, the objective is to cover all revenue villages with telecom facilities by 2002, and all revenue villages have been covered.

Statement

Telephone Facility in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Sl.No.	Name of Village	Whether Telecom Facility Provided
1	2	3
Name of the Island: Car Nicobar		
1.	Mus	Yes
2.	Teetop	Yes
3.	Sawai	Yes
4.	Arong	Yes
5.	Kimois	Yes

1	2	3
6.	Kakana	Yes
7.	IAF Camp	Yes
8.	Malacca	Yes
9.	Perka	Yes
10.	Tomaloo	Yes
11.	Kinyuka	Yes
12.	Chukchucha	Yes
13.	Tapoiming	Yes
14.	Big Lapathi (Jayanti)	Yes
15.	Small Lapathi	Yes
16.	Kinmai	Yes
Name of the Island : Chowra		
1.	Tahila	No
2.	Chongkamong	No
3.	Rainon	No
4.	Alhiat	No
5.	Kuitsuk	No
Name of the Island: Tilong Chung		
1.	Tilang Chong	No
Name of the Island: Terasa		
1.	Aloorang	No
2.	Bengali	No
3.	Aloora	No
4.	Enam	No
5.	Luxi	No
6.	Kalara	No
7.	Chukamachi	No
8.	Safed Balu	No
9.	Minyuk	No
10.	Kanahinot	No
11.	Kalasi	No

1	2	3
Name of the Island: Bambooka		
1.	Bambooka	No
Name of the Island: Katchal		
1.	Jhoola	Yes
2.	Jansin	No
3.	Hitlat	No
4.	Mayatapis/Maratapia	No
5.	Chonhhipoh	Yes
6.	Sanaya	Yes
7.	Alkaipoh/Alkripoh	No
8.	Alhithith/Alhloth	No
9.	Katahuwa	Yes
10.	Kumikia	No
11.	Kamriak	Yes
12.	Hutnyak	No
13.	Ongulongho	No
14.	Chonsiyala	No
15.	Hontona	No
16.	Kulatapangla	Yes
17.	Vyavtapu	Yes
18.	Hiopoh	Yes
19.	Mapayala	Yes
20.	Chengtamilan	No
21.	Atkuna/Alkun	Yes
22.	Tani	Yes
23.	Kalminikum/Kalmenkam	No
24.	Hakonhala	No
25.	Reakomlong	No
26.	Sonomkuwa	No
27.	Tavinkin/Tavakin	Yes
28.	Halnata (Hoinatal)	No
29.	Altatul	Yes

1	2	3
30.	Kavatinpeu/ Karanhonpoh	Yes
31.	Alsama	No
32.	Kapanga	Yes
33.	Kupinga	Yes
34.	Mildera	Yes
35.	W.B. Katchai (Hindrai)	Yes

Name of the Island: Noncowry

1.	Alipa/Alips	No
2.	Lapat	No
3.	Hindra	No
4.	Mus	No
5.	Payak	No
6.	Neang	No
7.	Tapong	No
8.	Lanuange	No
9.	Altheak	No
10.	Al-Hit Touch (Balu Basti)	Yes
11.	Malacca	Yes
12.	Champin	Yes
13.	Hinnunga	Yes
14.	Tapani (tapainy)	No
15.	Inroak/Chinlak	No
16.	Itoi	No
17.	Alreak	No
18.	Hontona	No

Name of the Island: Kamorta

1.	Uper Tapu	No
2.	Pilpilow	No
3.	Neeche Tapu	No
4.	Manjula	No
5.	Okiya/Chiya	No

1	2	3
6.	Olinpon (Alhinpon)	No
7.	Bumpal	No
8.	Karan (Karav)	No
9.	Daring	No
10.	Maru	No
11.	Chanel (Chanol)	No
12.	Tanae	No
13.	Aloitung	No
14.	Banderkarl (Pulu)	No
15.	Alpintu/Alpintung	No
16.	Tomae/Inmg	No
17.	Changua/changup	No
18.	Masala Tapu	No
19.	Alukiah/Alhukheck	No
20.	Knot	No
21.	Inmae	No
22.	Payuha	No
23.	Munak	No
24.	Ramzaoo	No
25.	Kamorta/Kalatapu	Yes
26.	Chota Inak	No
27.	Berarnak/Badnak	No
28.	Vikas Nagar	No
29.	Kakana	Yes
30.	Nyicalang	No
31.	Mohreak/Kohreakap	No
32.	Kulkua	No

Name of the Island: Trinket

1.	Safedbalu	No
2.	Hockook	No
3.	Trinket	No
4.	Tapiang	No

1	2	3
5.	Kapila	No
Name of the Island: Pulomilo		
1.	Pulomilo	No
Name of the Island: Kondul		
1.	Kondul	No
Name of the Island: Little Nicobar		
1.	Mainlana/Minlan	No
2.	Anul/Anula	No
3.	Makhahu/Makachua	No
4.	Akupa	No
5.	Inlock infock	No
6.	Pulotalia/Pulotohio	No
7.	Pulobaha (Pathathifen)	No
8.	Bewai (Kuwak)	No
9.	Kiyang	No
10.	Pullullo/Puloulo	No
11.	Hoin (incl. Ikuja)	No
12.	Pea	No
13.	Pulobha/Pulobahan	No
14.	Hokesiang	No
15.	Pattia	No
16.	Olinchi (Bombay)	No
17.	Inikock/Pattla	No
18.	Pulopanja	No
19.	Elahi/Ihoya	No
20.	Inod	No
21.	Pahaye	No
22.	Bahua	No
Name of the Island: Great Nicobar		
1.	Pulobed (Lapapu)	No
2.	Katahu	No
3.	Dairkurat	No

1	2	3
4.	Alexander Piver	No
5.	Ayouk	No
6.	Pulobed	No
7.	Pulokunj	No
8.	Shompen Village	No
9.	Renguang	No
10.	Dogmar River	No
11.	Kopenheat	No
12.	Shompen Village (B)	No
13.	Kasintung	No
14.	Koe	No
15.	Denlel	No
16.	Pulobhabi	No
17.	Patatiya	No
18.	Hin-Pou-Chi	No
19.	Kokeon	No
20.	Dekhiyon (FC)	No
21.	Pulopacca	No
22.	In-hin-loi	No
23.	Pulobaha	No
24.	Indira Point	No
25.	Chingan	No
26.	Galathia River (FC)	No
27.	Sastri Nagar	Yes
28.	Gandhi Nagar	Yes
29.	Laxmi Nagar	Yes
30.	Vijay Nagar	Yes
31.	Joginder Nagar	Yes
32.	7 KM Farm	Yes
33.	Not yet named 27.8 KM	No
34.	Shompen Hut	Yes
35.	Govind Nagar	Yes

1	2	3
36.	Campbell Bay	Yes
37.	Rangnathan Bay	No
38.	Not yet Named	No
39.	Not yet Named	No
40.	Chawnallah	No
41.	Navy Dera	Yes
42.	Lawful	No
43.	Trinket Bay	No

[*Translation*]

**Corruption Cases against IAS
and IPS Officers**

2604. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of corruption cases involving IPS and IAS officers are on the rise;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) the number of IPS and IAS officers whose services have been terminated during the last three years on account of their involvement in corrupt practices; and

(d) the details in regard to the charges levelled against these officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) No studies have been conducted in this regard.

(c) and (d) From 1999 till date, 3 IAS officers and one IPS officer have been dismissed from service and one IAS officer compulsorily retired on conclusion of major penalty proceedings on charges of corruption/administrative misconduct.

[*English*]

CVD on Cellular Handsets

2605. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Telecom services especially the cellular sector grew almost 100 percent during the year 2000-2001 and is expected to touch over 3 million subscribers by the end of the year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the legal market for mobile handsets has not kept pace with growing demand resulting large scale smuggling of cellular handsets into the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) As per the information furnished by Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) on behalf of Cellular Operators, the total number of cellular mobile telephone subscribers in India as on 31st January, 2002 were 57,37,907 i.e. 5.74 million approx.

The growth rate of cellular mobile telephone subscribers during the year 2000-2001 is as follows:

Sl.No.	Month and Year	Number of cellular mobile telephone subscribers in India	Growth Rate in %
1.	31st March, 2000	18,84,311	—
2.	31st March, 2001	35,77,095	89.84% (approx.)

(b) and (c) No Sir, mobile handsets available in the legal market has kept pace with the demand. The Customs Department including the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are alert in this regard. However, details of

seizures of cellular handsets effected by field formations under the customs department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence during the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 (upto October, 2001) are as follows:

Year	No. of Cellular Handsets seized	Value of Cellular Handsets seized (Rs. in lakhs)
2000-2001	23547	1341.06
2001-2002 (upto October, 2001)	14472	713.56

In this year's Budget proposals, CVD (Countervailing duty) on cellular phones has been removed and the import duty structure on Cellular Phones has been fixed at 10% (Basic Customs Duty) + Nil (Countervailing duty or CVD) + 4% (Special Additional Duty or SAD). With these changes, the total import duty incidence on cellular telephones is proposed to come down from 26.67% ad-valorem to 14.4% ad-valorem.

Rehabilitation of Displaced Families

2606. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons displaced by the Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant in Karnataka;

(b) the total number of persons out of them rehabilitated so far;

(c) whether many facilities are yet to receive the compensation; and

(d) if so, the time by which they are likely to get compensation?

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 (d) For establishment of Kaiga Atomic Power Project, total of 160 families were affected but only 60 families were actually displaced. The rehabilitation package for the Kaiga Atomic Power Project was implemented and completed in 1993-94 by the State Government with funds made available by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited.

Mumbai FPO

2607. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Mumbai Foreign Post Office had refused to accept any mail to US Capital since November 2001 to January 2002;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Booking of EMS articles remained suspended at Mumbai GPO and post offices in the country only for the period 20/11/2001 to 30/11/2001 for addresses in Washington DC in Postal codes (Zip Codes) 202 to 205 on the specific request of the US Postal Administration. Normal services were restored thereafter. Except for the suspension of EMS for the specified period explained, Mumbai Foreign Post Office did not refuse to accept mails for the US Capital during November 2001 to January 2002. During this period it booked 205 articles including EMS articles for USA and duly despatched these.

(b) and (c) The services to the specified areas were suspended as per specific request of US Postal administration and were also duly restored immediately after the period of suspension.

National Highway No. 8A

2608. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether four laning of Bhaghau-Gandhidham National Highway 8A is under implementation;

(b) whether the project is running behind schedule;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Four-laning of Bhaghau-Gandhidham section of National Highway-8A is being implemented in two packages as under:

- (i) From Bhaghau to Padana (22 Km)
- (ii) From Padana to Gandhidham (16.16 Km)

The package from Bhaghau to Padana is scheduled for completion by June, 2002, and that from Padana to Gandhidham by May, 2002. There has been some delay in completion because of extensive damages caused to the pavement and structures by the earthquakes of 26th January 2001.

Health Scheme in Andhra Pradesh

2609. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the health schemes implemented/ being implemented and under clearance for implementation in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the allocation made for these schemes by the Union Government, funds utilized by State Government during the last three years;

(c) whether the allocated amounts for health sector has not been spent by the State Government at the scheduled time;

(d) if so, the main reasons advanced by the State Government in this regard;

(e) whether State Government has forwarded some new health scheme for clearance, grants and assistance of the Central Government recently; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the present status of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) National Health Programmes for control of major diseases like Malaria, Leprosy, TB, Blindness and AIDS are being implemented in Andhra Pradesh as Centrally Sponsored Schemes. Funds allocated/released to the State and expenditure incurred under these programmes during the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement. In addition, the World Bank assisted State Health Systems Project to provide quality health care in rural areas with an outlay of Rs. 608.00 crores is also under implementation in the State since 1.3.1995. DFID assisted sexual health project is also under implementation in Andhra Pradesh. An amount of Rs. 2.50 crores and Rs. 10.25 crores was released under this project during 2000-01 and 2001-02 respectively.

(c) and (d) The funds allocated/released to the State have more or less been utilized by the State Government.

(e) and (f) A proposal for DFID funding for the health sector has been received from the State Government. The State Government has been requested to provide complete details of the proposal.

Statement

Major Health Schemes being implemented in the State of Andhra Pradesh and Allocation/Releases & Expenditure of Funds during 1998-1999 to 2000-2001

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the Programme	Allocation/Releases			Expenditure		
		1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
1.	NAMP*	464.91	322.86	539.67	482.93	663.50	644.13
2.	NLEP	322.50	442.21	508.75	322.50	402.41	508.75
3.	NTBCP	783.93	482.76	448.58	521.06	350.74	514.11
4.	NPCB	442.50	434.40	521.00	559.77	592.86	732.41
5.	NACC	650.00	1219.67	824.50	843.51	1003.93	823.95

NAMP*: National Anti Malaria Programme excluding cash and commodity grant under Enhanced Malaria Control Programme.

NLEP: National Leprosy Eradication Programme.

NTBCP: National Tuberculosis Control Programme.

NPCB: National Programme for Control of Blindness.

NACO: National AIDS Control Programme.

Opening of Drug Store in AIIMS

2610. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) does not have its own on-campus drug outlet despite a clause in chapter IV of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, that allows a medical institutions to open drug store without a license; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard to ameliorate the difficulties facing the patients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal for opening of drug stores in the Institute Campus. A tender has been issued in this regard. Though the Institute does not have its own drug outlet, some private drug store chemists who are located in the proximity of the Institute are currently meeting the demand of the patients.

[Translation]

Connection with Junjhunu to National Highway

2611. SHRI SIS RAM OLA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to connect Jhujhunu district of Rajasthan with a national highway;

(b) whether Rajasthan Government have sent any proposal to the Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the time by which approval is likely to be accorded to the above said proposal and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) Govt. of Rajasthan has sent a proposal to connect Jhunjhunu district with a National Highway. The proposal would be considered alongwith similar proposals received from other State Governments after the finalisation of the 10th Five Year Plan and availability of funds, keeping in view the traffic needs and inter-se priority.

[English]

Pension Rules

2612. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pension rules are not very clear for Central Government employees in granting pension on attaining the age of superannuation;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir. The Pension Rules are clear, comprehensive, and well established.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Doctor-Patient Ratio

2613. DR. V. SAROJA:
SHRI Y.V. RAO:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that India has one of the lowest doctor-patient ratio in the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to formulate any plan to reduce this ratio?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. As per the Medical Council of India, doctor population ratio for allopathic doctors is about 1 : 1800. However, if the number of qualified practitioners of Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy, which is about 6 lakh, is taken into account the ratio is comparable with that of other developing countries.

]Translation]

Telephone Services to Villages

2614. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI:

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

(a) the names of States where the private sector institutions were assigned the work of providing telephone facilities both in urban and rural areas;

(b) the number of villages in each State where these institutions have provided telephone facilities till December 31, 2001;

(c) whether any of these companies have violated the tender agreement of providing 10 per cent of the total connections to the rural areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action the Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The requisite information is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

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

(c) and (d) These companies have not provided connections in villages as per the terms and conditions of the licence. Government has recovered Liquidated Damage (LD) charges for their delay in performance and made it clear that their committed performance obligations cannot be diluted in any case. Government has asked them to complete the unfulfilled committed roll out obligations by December 2002 against submission of Additional Performance Bank Guarantees and Deed of Guarantees. Further, Government has already taken appropriate steps to resolve their problems.

Statement I**State-wise List of Private Licensees for Provision of Basic Telephone Service**

S.No.	Name of Circle	Name of the private licensees
1	2	3
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.
2.	Andhra Pradesh	M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.* M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.
3.	Assam	NIL
4.	Bihar	M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.
5.	Delhi	M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd. M/s Reliance Communications Ltd. M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.
6.	Gujarat	M/s Reliance Telecom Pvt. Ltd.* M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.
7.	Haryana	M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd. M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.
8.	Himachal Pradesh	M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.

1	2	3
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	NIL
10.	Karnataka	M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd. M/s Reliance Communications Ltd. M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.
11.	Kerala	M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.
12.	Madhya Pradesh	M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd.* M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.
13.	Maharashtra	M/s Hughes Telecom India Ltd.* M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.
14.	North East	NIL
15.	Orissa	M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.
16.	Punjab	M/s HFCL Infotel Ltd.* M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.
17.	Rajasthan	M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd.* M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.
18.	Tamilnadu	M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd. M/s Reliance Communications Ltd. M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.
19.	Uttar Pradesh-West	M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.
20.	Uttar Pradesh-East	M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.
21.	West Bengal	M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.

*The telephone facilities in urban and rural areas under these six licence agreements were to be provided in terms of quantified number of Direct Exchange Lines and Village Public Telephones voluntarily committed for provision by the said private licensees.

Statement II

Provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) by Private Licensees

Sl. No.	Licensee and Licensed Circle	Effective Date of Licence	Committed targets* for VPTs in first Three years (as per obligations under Licence Agreement)			Total No. of committed VPTs in 1st 3 years	No. of VPTs actually provided* upto 31st December 2001
			I Year	II Year	III Year		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	M/s Tata Teleservices (Andhra Pradesh)	30.9.1997	9635 (by 30.9.1998)	(all villages were to be covered in first year i.e. by 30.9.1998)		9635	15
2.	M/s Reliance Telecom (Gujarat)	30.9.1997	8635 (by 30.9.1998)	(all villages were to be covered in first year i.e. by 30.9.1998)		8635	Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	M/s HFCL Infotel Ltd. (Punjab)	30.9.1997	5442 (by 30.9.1998)	(all villages were to be covered in first year i.e. by 30.9.1998)		5442	Nil
4.	M/s Hughes Telecom (India) Limited (Maharashtra)	30.9.1997	4000 (by 30.9.1998)	21760 (by 30.9.99)	No. village was to be left Uncovered by 30.9.99	25760	103
5.	M/s Bharti Telenet (Madhya Pradesh)	30.9.1997	5500 (by 30.9.1998)	5500 (by 30.9.99)	5500 (by 30.9.2000)	16500	348
6.	M/s Shyam Telelink (Rajasthan)	4.3.1998	7439 (by 4.3.1999)	10629 (by 4.3.2000)	13766 (by 4.3.2001)	31834 [36727]**	209
Total			40651	37889	19266	97806	675

* Translated into absolute terms based on bid/tender documents keeping in view the committed targets for Direct Exchange Lines (DELS) and the figure for number of uncovered villages indicated in the tender.

** The total number of uncovered villages in Rajasthan Service area is only 31834 as against the licensee's commitment of 36727.

^ As reported by the licensees.

[English]

Cellular Subscribers

2615. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state the total Number of Cellular Subscribers as on December 31, 2001 and its growth rate for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): As per the information furnished by Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) on behalf of Cellular Operators, the total number of cellular mobile telephone subscribers in India as on 31st Dec. 2001 were 54,90,322.

The data regarding growth rate of cellular mobile telephone subscribers for the last three years is as follows:

Sl. No.	Month and Year	Numbers of Cellular mobile telephone subscribers in India	Growth Rate in % from previous years
1.	31st December, 1998	10,70,603	—
2.	31st December, 1999	15,99,364	49.39%
3.	31st December, 2000	31,07,449	94.29%
4.	31st December, 2001	54,90,322	76.68%

Upgradation of Highways in Gujarat Into NHs

2616. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA:
SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI
CHIKHALIA:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any requests from Gujarat Government for upgradation of State-Highways into National Highways;

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

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN.

(RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: (a) to (c) During the 9th Plan period, the Ministry had received 21 proposals relating to declaration of new National Highways from the State Government of Gujarat, out of which 5 routes with approximate length of 830 kms. have already been declared as National Highways. A statement giving details of left over proposals is enclosed. These would be considered alongwith similar proposals received from other State Governments after the finalisation of the 10th Five Year Plan and availability of funds, keeping in view the traffic needs and inter-se priority.

Statement

Details of Left Over Proposals

1. Bagodra-Wataman-Tarapur-Borsad-Padra Karjan road.
2. Rajkot-Jamnagar-Vadinar road.
3. Shamlaji-Modasa-Godhra-Halol-Rajpipala-Vapi Eastern State Highway No. 5.
4. Sarkhej-Anand-Virmagam-Malvan-Dhrangadhra-Halvad-Maliya-S.H. No. 7 & 17 linking NH-8C near Ahmedabad and NH-8A near Maliya.
5. Link road from Palanpur on NH-14 to Gandhinagar-Ahmedabad NH No. 8.
6. Mehsana-Chanasma-Radhanpur.
7. SH No. 14 joining Rajkot on NH No. 8A & at Morvi 8B Extension upto Navlakhi port.
8. Vadodara-Por-Sinor-Netrang-Vyara-Ahwa-Satpura Nashik road linking NH-8 with NH-6.
9. Extension of NH-15 to Bhuj-Khavada-India Bridge-Dharamshala upto India border.
10. Maliya-Jamnagar-Okha-Porbandar-Somnath.
11. Mandavi-Narain Sarovar
12. Nadiad-Kapadwanj-Modasa.
13. Ahmedabad-Dholka-Bhavnagar.
14. Surat-Calicut-Mumbai via Nagpur
15. Jamnagar-Mahuwa-Bhavnagar-Vadodara.
16. Bhavnagar-Karjan.

Standardisation of PFA Act

2617. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to standardise Indian Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 in accordance with accepted international regulations;

(b) if so, whether the existing PFA Act is not meeting the standardisation in the various food products;

(c) if so, the facts and details in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to standardise the PFA Act to meet quality control on food products coming from the foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) The Prevention of Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954 is the enabling legislation for prescribing standards for various food products.

The existing PFA Rules and the specifications of various food products made thereunder are sufficient to check the quality of food projects coming from abroad.

The Codex Alimentarius Commission has recommended use of many food additives for international trade and has set up different levels for different contaminants. All of them are not included in the PFA Rules. However, the process of harmonization between them has been initiated as per the requirements of the country.

CBI Raids

2618. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI has conducted countrywide special anti-corruption raids on officials of several Central Government and Undertakings officials recently as reported in all the newspapers of February 24, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the basis on which such raids were conducted; and

(d) the steps the Government propose to take to check corruption amongst such officials?

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 has conducted countrywide special anti-corruption raids on 22.2.2002 as a part of a nationwide Special Drive against corrupt public servants, economic offenders and others. During the drive 36 cases (23 in Anti Corruption Division, 4 in Economic Offences Wing and 9 in Special Crimes Division of the CBI) involving 112 persons, including Government servants, were registered.

(c) In order to retain its anti-corruption thrust, besides conducting investigation in ordinary course, as a deterrent action, CBI periodically carries out Special Drives for apprehending/detecting corrupt officials at various levels. Raids are a part of the search process and aim at collecting evidence during investigation.

(d) Fight against corruption is a continuous process and the Government is fully committed to root out this evil through various agencies like Central Bureau of Investigation and Central Vigilance Commission. A multi-pronged strategy of prevention, surveillance and deterrent punitive action is being followed by the Government to fight against corruption.

Upgradation of Cuddalore-Chittoor Road

2619. SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received representations from the State Government for upgradation of Cuddalore-Chittoor Road into National Highway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal relates to declaration of approximately 230 kms. of new National Highway.

(c) and (d) The proposal would be considered alongwith similar proposals received from other State Governments after the finalisation of the 10th Five Year Plan and availability of funds, keeping in view the traffic needs and inter-se priority.

[*Translation*]

Pulse Polio Drops

2620. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:

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

(a) the number of children to whom Pulse Polio Drop has been administered during the year 2000-2001;

(b) the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether slackness has been shown in administering Pulse Polio Drop to the children in the rural and hilly areas;

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

(e) the time by which the country is likely to become polio free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Information is furnished in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) India is committed to eradicating polio and obtaining international polio-free certification in 2005.

Statement*Coverage as reported by States under Pulse Polio Immunization during 2000-2001*

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	24th Sep. 2000		5th Nov. 2000		10th Dec. 2000		21st Jan. 2001	
		Total	% of Total	Total	% of Total	Total	% of Total	Total	% of Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	A&N Islands	-	-	-	-	39150	97.26	49404	96.97
2.	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	-	-	10592242	103.34	10660112	104.00
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	160265	84.92	172843	91.36
4.	Assam%	-	-	4505206	102.43	4548935	103.42	4528733	102.96
5.	Bihar\$\$	20035015	107.74	20587370	106.87	21219453	107.42	21259668	106.14
6.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	98426	85.42	115912	100.59
7.	D&N Haveli	-	-	-	-	32397	102.58	32665	103.43
8.	Daman & Diu	-	-	-	-	17655	100.45	18755	106.71
9.	Delhi\$\$	2313104	115.66	2316187	101.82	2321917	102.07	2383461	104.78
10.	Goa	-	-	-	-	123630	101.07	127335	102.51
11.	Gujarat%	-	-	7058640	106.90	7119245	107.82	7227050	109.45
12.	Haryana%	-	-	3493866	109.47	3619264	113.40	3750177	117.50
13.	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	669455	97.22	688618	100.00
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	-	1559857	103.30	1575451	104.33
15.	Karnataka	-	-	-	-	6721983	103.26	6991685	106.06
16.	Kerala	-	-	-	-	2890252	100.14	2932313	101.60
17.	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	6595	101.92	6814	101.38
18.	Madhya Pradesh%	-	-	13235768	112.76	10638458	111.25	13400520	113.81
19.	Maharashtra	-	-	-	-	10937442	95.45	11898695	103.26
20.	Manipur	-	-	-	-	296781	89.06	305605	93.96
21.	Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	346869	89.17	357155	91.87
22.	Mizoram	-	-	-	-	103499	93.40	104915	94.68

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
23.	Nagaland	-	-	-	-	213105	95.31	209106	93.69
24.	Orissa%	-	-	4578117	99.42	4601351	100.04	4617921	100.30
25.	Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	103593	106.33	105175	107.97
26.	Punjab%	-	-	3561609	104.30	3587792	105.07	3619246	105.99
27.	Rajasthan%	-	-	10460850	116.09	10733032	119.12	10910844	121.09
28.	Sikkim	-	-	-	-	70068	94.66	71190	93.33
29.	Tamil Nadu	-	-	-	-	7209197	103.24	7390587	105.17
30.	Tripura	-	-	-	-	386280	96.13	399927	99.53
31.	Uttar Pradesh\$\$	31957229	102.94	33633787	102.54	34086747	103.91	34570056	105.40
32.	West Bengal\$\$	7023754	91.76	9100626	99.58	9152659	100.15	9311549	101.88
Total		61329102	103.43	112532026	105.72	154207594	104.77	159793487	106.62

\$\$Four rounds were organised in 4 High risk States.

%Three rounds were organised in 7 Middle risk States.

Mobile Rates

2621. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rates of telephones and mobile phones are likely to be slashed in the country after April 1, 2002;

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

(c) the effects thereof on the economy of the country; and

(d) the total profit earned by the Government from mobile telephone and internet services during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The power for fixation

of tariff of telecom services rests with the 'Telecom Regulatory Authority of India'. The Authority has on 14th of March 2002 notified the 3rd and final tranche of tariff re-balancing as envisaged by the Telecom Tariff Order, 1999. This tranche has lowered the ceilings for STD/ISD tariffs. A copy of the relevant revision is enclosed as statement. These tariffs take effect from 1st of April 2002.

Tariffs for cellular mobile phones have shown a continuous downward trend. On an average, the overall reduction in cellular tariff has been approximately 50% in the two years since implementation of TTO 1999.

(c) The overall impact on the economy is likely to be positive as telecom service are becoming more affordable, giving rise to increased usage as well as an increase in tele-density.

(d) The Government does not earn any profit from these services as they are being provided by the private and public sector companies.

Statement***Pulse rates for ceiling tariffs for peak hours***

Pulse rates for ceiling tariffs for subscriber trunk dialed long distance calls

Radial distance between any two exchanges or between any two charging centers	From 1st April, 2002 (in seconds)
Up to 50 Kms.	180.0
Above 50 Kms. and up to 200 Kms.	18.0
Above 200 Kms. and up to 500 Kms.	6.8
Above 500 Kms. and up to 1000 Kms.	4.6
Above 1000 Kms.	3.5

These pulse rates imply the following peak hour ceiling tariffs for an STD call of 1 minute duration

At pulse charge of Rs. 0.80 per metered call

Radial distance between any two exchanges or between any two charging centers	From 1st April, 2002 (Rs.)
Up to 50 Kms.	0.80
Above 50 Kms. and up to 200 Kms.	3.20
Above 200 Kms. and up to 500 Kms.	7.20
Above 500 Kms. and up to 1000 Kms.	11.20
Above 1000 Kms.	14.40

At pulse charge of Rs. 1.00 per metered call

Radial distance between any two exchanges or between any two charging centers	From 1st April, 2002 (Rs.)
Up to 50 Kms.	1.00
Above 50 Kms. and up to 200 Kms.	4.00
Above 200 Kms. and up to 500 Kms.	9.00
Above 500 Kms. and up to 1000 Kms.	14.00
Above 1000 Kms.	18.00

At pulse charge of Rs. 1.20 per metered call

Radial distance between any two exchanges or between any two charging centers	From 1st April, 2002 (in seconds)
Up to 50 Kms.	1.20
Above 50 Kms. and up to 200 Kms.	4.80
Above 200 Kms. and up to 500 Kms.	10.80
Above 500 Kms. and up to 1000 Kms.	16.80
Above 1000 Kms.	21.60

Pulse rate for ceiling tariffs for International Subscriber Dialed Calls

Categorisation of various countries for the purpose of charging

From 1st April, 2002 (Seconds)

SAARC and other Neighbouring Countries

3.3

Countries in Africa, Europe, Gulf, Asia and Oceania

2.3

Countries in American Continent and Other Places In Western Hemisphere

1.8

These pulse rates imply the following peak hour ceiling tariffs for and ISD call 1 Minute duration

At pulse charge of Rs. 0.80 per metered call

Call made to

From 1st April, 2002 (Rs.)

SAARC and other Neighbouring Countries

14.40

Countries in Africa, Europe, Gulf, Asia and Oceania

21.60

Countries in American Continent and Other Places in Western Hemisphere

27.20

At pulse charge of Rs. 1.00 per metered call

Call made to

From 1 April, 2002

(Rs.)

SAARC and other Neighbouring Countries

18.00

Countries in Africa, Europe, Gulf, Asia and Oceania

27.00

Countries in American Continent and Other Places in Western Hemisphere

34.00

At pulse charge of Rs. 1.20 per metered call

Call made to

From 1 April, 2002

(Rs.)

SAARC and other Neighbouring Countries

21.60

Countries in Africa, Europe, Gulf, Asia and Oceania

32.40

Countries in American Continent and Other places in Western Hemisphere

40.80

Mainpuri Telephone Exchange in Uttar Pradesh

2622. CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that people are suffering due to the poor services of Mainpuri Telephone Exchange in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or being taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir. The Telecom Services of Mainpuri Telephone Exchange are working satisfactorily.

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

[English]

Reservation to SC/ST

2623. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2442 dated 5 December, 2001 and state:

(a) the number of persons appointed to the posts referred to in the reply during the last three years; and

(b) the percentage of SC/ST among them during the period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The reply sought under Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2442 was regarding nomination of SC/ST members on the Selection Committees/Boards. Guidelines and instructions exist in this regard. However, details of these Committees or the nomination of SC/ST members on such Committees is not maintained centrally.

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

Colleges and Seats for NRIs

2624. SHRI Y.V. RAO:
DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO:

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

(a) the number of recognised medical colleges in the country and seats reserved for NRIs;

(b) whether NRIs quota exceeds more than the prescribed quota almost every year in the absence of inspections by the Medical Council of India; and

(c) if so, the action proposed against the Medical Council of India for the dereliction of duty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) There are a total of 155 recognised medical colleges in India. The number of seats for NRI/foreign students in private institutions is 15% of the total number of seats as per order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

(b) and (c) Since NRIs quota has been fixed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, it is the primary responsibility of the concerned University and the State Government to ensure the compliance of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Medical Council of India also look into this aspect whenever they undertake inspections of the colleges for renewal of annual permission, in case of newly established colleges and periodical inspections at an interval of five years in the case of recognised colleges for continuance of the recognition of medical college.

[Translation]

National Highway No. 78 and 200

2625. SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated for National Highway No. 78 and 200 during the financial years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(b) the amount out of the above spent on establishment, conducting survey and undertaking construction work separately each year;

(c) the funds earmarked for construction works for each during the year 2001-2002 out of the above; and

(d) the amount spent on these proposed construction works so far and the details of achievements made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Allocation of funds is made State-wise and not National Highway-wise.

(b) and (c) Sanctioned estimated costs include costs of construction, survey and investigation and establishment. (90% of the project cost)

Estimates for projects sanctioned for NH-78 and NH-200 during the financial year 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 were:

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)	
	NH-78	NH-200
1999-2000	Nil	428.881
2000-2001	788.92	1833.41
2001-2002	1632.63	1553.72

(d) The expenditure incurred in the year 2001-2002 (upto February, 2002) on these National Highways is as under:

NH-78	Rs. 946.13 lakhs.
NH-200	Rs. 971.70 lakhs.

70 kms of NH-78 and 54 kms. of NH-200 have been improved so far.

Accidents/Trauma Centres

2626. DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) whether a Centralised Accidents and Trauma (CAT) Scheme was launched in 1980's in Delhi;

(b) if so, the latest network in Delhi indicating the number and details of the trauma centres operating thereunder, and the infrastructure available therefor;

(c) whether any more centres, including the one at Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital are to be set up;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(e) the progress made so far in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of NCT Delhi has informed that a Centralized Accidents and Trauma Service (CATS) was started under the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in 1984. It was taken over by erstwhile Delhi Administration in 1989 and has been functioning since then.

At present the Centralized Accidents & Trauma Service (CATS) has a network of 35 ambulances operating from various points located all over Delhi with central command and control for effective monitoring and deployment. The Sushrut Trauma Centre under the Lok Nayak Hospital is good for basic life support and advanced trauma life support for trauma victims and functions round the clock. Apart from this another Trauma Block has been established in the Guru Tegh Bahadur Hospital.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. A Centralized Accidents and Trauma Centre at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) is under consideration. The proposed Trauma Centre at AIIMS shall be multi disciplinary which apart from providing holistic trauma care services would be used as a role model for other centers, in terms of conceptualization, project formulation, training and operation. The total project cost of the 140 bedded facility is expected to be Rs. 54.14 crores.

The Central Government Hospitals viz. Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. RML Hospital and Lady Harding Medical College and Associated Hospitals are well equipped to deal with accident and emergency cases. A proposal for expansion and upgradation of existing casualty and emergency services for Dr. RML Hospital has also been approved. The expected cost of this project is Rs. 28.13 crores.

The Government of NCT Delhi has informed that another trauma centre is in the process of being established at the Deen Dayal Hospital, which will also be furnished with latest equipment and infrastructure.

*[English]***Theft in MTNL Office, Laxminagar, Delhi**

2627. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4560 dated December 19, 2001 and state:

(a) the outcome of the inquiry conducted by the Government into the theft of money from the locker of telephone exchange, Laxminagar, Delhi; and

(b) the action taken by the Government against the officials found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The case was registered with the Preet Vihar Police Station vide FIR No. 610 on 29.11.2001 under section 457/380/411/120B/34 IPC. It has been intimated by Police that seven accused have been arrested so far and a sum of Rs. 12,55,400 has been recovered from them and further investigation is under progress.

(b) The Police has not reported involvement of any MTNL employee so far.

*[Translation]***Eradication of Blindness**

2628. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is one of the countries having the largest number of people suffering from blindness;

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

(c) the number of blind persons in the country, State-wise, especially in the tribal areas;

(d) the financial assistance provided so far during the last three years for tackling the problem of blindness; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for curbing the growing problem of blindness in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Estimated blind persons as per 1986-89 National Survey Projected for the 2001 is 1.5 crores. Cataract is the predominant cause of blindness. Other main causes include refractive errors, glaucoma and corneal blindness.

(c) A Statement showing estimated number of blind persons, State-wise is enclosed.

(d) Financial assistance provided during the last three years under National Programme for Control of Blindness is as follows:

Year	Funds Utilised
1998-99	Rs. 73.00 Crores
1999-2000	Rs. 83.83 Crores
2000-2001	Rs. 109.70 Crores

(e) Steps taken to control of blindness in the country include the following:

- (i) Development of Eye Care infrastructure through construction of eye wards & operation theaters and supply of equipments.
- (ii) Training of eye surgeons and allied personal.
- (iii) Assistance to NGOs for strengthening infrastructure, free cataract surgery & eye banks.
- (iv) Organising eye care services in rural areas through camps.
- (v) School Eye Screening Programme for detection and correction of refractive errors.
- (vi) Public awareness on prevention and control of blindness.

Statement*Prevalence of Blindness and Estimated Blind Persons in 2001*

State	Population (in lakhs) (2001)	Prevalence* of Blindness/ 10,000 Pop.	Estimated Blind Persons (in Lakhs)
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	75727541	150	1135913
Arunachal Pradesh	1091117	123	13421

1	2	3	4
Assam	26638407	134	356955
Bihar	82878796	128	1060849
Jharkhand	26909428	128	344441
Delhi	13782976	63	86833
Goa	1343998	203	27283
Gujarat	50596992	144	728597
Haryana	21082989	113	238238
Himachal Pradesh	6077248	87	52872
Jammu & Kashmir	10069917	280	281958
Karnataka	52733958	129	680268
Kerala	31838619	131	417086
Madhya Pradesh	60385118	201	1213741
Chattisgarh	20795956	201	417999
Maharashtra	96752247	164	1586737
Manipur	2388634	65	15526
Meghalaya	2306069	22	5073
Mizoram	891058	NA	NA
Nagaland	1988636	38	7557
Orissa	36706920	172	631359
Punjab	24289296	73	177312
Rajasthan	56473122	224	1264998
Sikkim	540493	45	2432
Tamil Nadu	62110839	165	1024829
Tripura	3191168	118	37656
Uttar Pradesh	166052859	158	2623635
Uttaranchal	8479562	158	133977

1	2	3	4
West Bengal	80221171	96	770123
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	356265	67	2387
Chandigarh	900914	189	17027
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	220451	NA	NA
Daman & Diu	158059	NA	NA
Lakshadweep	60595	89	539
Pondicherry	973829	NA	NA
All States	1027015247	149	15302527

*Source WHO GOI National Survey (1986-89).

[English]

New National Highway from Delhi to Mumbai

2629. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct another National Highway from Delhi to Mumbai via Shamlaji to Uadodara, Rajpipla to Songadh, Virar to Vapi which are tribal areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the work on this is likely to be started; and

(c) the length of the existing National Highway No. 8 and the newly suggested National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to construct another National Highway from Delhi to Mumbai. However, a request has been received for declaration of State roads from Shamlaji-Modasa-Godhra-Halol-Rajpipala-Vapi in Gujarat as new National Highway. The proposal would be considered alongwith similar proposals received from other State Governments after the finalisation of the 10th Five Year Plan and availability of funds keeping in view the traffic needs and inter-se priority. The length of existing National Highway No. 8 is approximately on 1428 km.

Review of Performance of Passport Offices

2630. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had reviewed the functioning of Passport Offices in the country;

(b) if so, the period covered under the last review;

(c) whether there is a need to review them again; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (d) The process of simplification and streamlining of passport issuance system is a continuous process. An inter-ministerial Committee to review the Passport Issue System was constituted by the Government and it has since submitted its recommendations which have been accepted. The recommendations include the proposal to decentralise passport services to enable acceptance of passport application forms at District level, and its implementation has already commenced. Application forms are already being accepted at the designated speed post passport collection centres. Another recommendation already implemented relates to the simplification of the police verification process which would enable certain categories of persons, whose identity and nationality are well established, to be issued passports without police verification.

*[Translation]***Incoming Call on Cellular Mobile Telephones**

2631. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to make incoming call on MTNL mobile service free;

(b) if so, the time by which the decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) The tariff is fixed by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

*[English]***Fixed Service**

2632. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fixed Service providers and Limited Mobility Operators have been allowed to operate the Central Switch system which are normally used by Cellular Operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the G.O.T., I.Ts and the TRAI's recommendations in this regard have been fully implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) After considering the recommendations of TRAI, the Basic Telephone Service providers have been allowed to provide hand-held telephone sets to their subscribers on Wireless Access

Systems in local area/Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs), typically Tehsils. Such systems are to be engineered to be connected to Telephone Exchange of Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA) on Access Network protocol based on National standards for V5.2 as prescribed by Telecom Engineering Centre or an approved improved version with latest technology.

Control of Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases

2633. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking steps to control communicable as well as non-communicable diseases in every State;

(b) if so, the present position of these diseases in each State;

(c) the programme drawn up in each State to control these diseases; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) A number of focussed disease control programmes are being run by the Government for identification and control of communicable diseases like the National Anti Malaria Programme, National TB Control Programme, National AIDS Control Programme and the National Programme for Surveillance of Communicable Diseases.

Steps are also being taken for control of non-communicable diseases through programmes like National Cancer Control Programme, National Programme for Control of Blindness as well as through health promotion measures such as discouraging use of tobacco products and promoting healthy life style of the people.

The Disease Control Programmes are run all over the country in an equitable manner. In addition to the focussed disease control programmes, steps are being taken to strengthen the public health system in order to ensure early detection and treatment of diseases at the point of first contact.

Export Incentives

2634. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Export Directorate of Khadi and Village industries Commission has released export incentives without taking cognizance of outstanding loan and interest thereon;

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government against the officials for violating Government orders of adjusting loans/interest before releasing export incentives; and

(c) the details of claims released during the last three years, party-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) and (b) The release of incentives after adjustment of outstanding dues was decided as a policy by the Standing Finance

Committee (SFC) of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) only in October 1998. This was because the scheme was introduced for the first time in 1995 as a maiden effort to boost exports in the KVI Sector. During 1998, it was observed that certain units claiming export incentives had also availed Working Capital from the Commission under CBC Scheme and it became necessary to adjust the CBC loan instalments dues from these units from export incentives sanctioned to them. Hence, before 1998, the export incentives were released without taking cognizance of outstanding loan and interest. Since there were no violations of any rule/regulation of KVIC in-vogue at that time, no action was proposed.

(c) The details of claims released during the last three years, party-wise and year-wise are given below:

Sl.No.	Name of the Party	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
1.	Hand Made Paper & Board Industries Sanganer, Jaipur	Rs. 18,72,607	Rs. 23,48,818	Rs. 3,44,963
2.	A.L. Paper House, Sanganer, Jaipur	Rs. 3,36,870	Rs. 4,89,427	

Linking of National Highway No. 46 with National Highway No. 5 in Orissa

2635. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to link National Highway No. 46 with National Highway No. 5 through Athagarh, Mundate, Trishutia, Mendhasal, Khurdha in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such proposal has been received from the State Government of Orissa.

Pending Passport Applications

2636. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passport applications pending with the Passport Office, Bareilly at the beginning of 2002;

(b) the number of applications received by the Passport Office, Bareilly since January, 2002, till date;

(c) the maximum and minimum pendency period in respect of applications pending for clearance at the beginning of 2002;

(d) the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to clear backlog of passport applications by Bareilly Passport Office?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) An

application is considered pending after receipt of clear police verification report. The number of applications for passports pending with the Passport Office, Bareilly at the beginning of 2002 was 1382.

(b) The number of applications received by the Passport Office, Bareilly since January 2002 till date (14.3.2002) was 7559.

(c) The maximum and minimum pendency period in respect of applications pending clearance at the beginning of 2002 was 4 weeks and 2 weeks respectively.

(d) and (e) The number of passport applications rose from 34230 in the year 2000 to 42512 in the year 2001 which is an increase of over 24 per cent. The Passport Office is dealing with this increasing volume of work by a greater degree of computerisation and by improving the work culture of the staff. Pendencies are gradually coming down but their elimination depends on the number of fresh passport applications received.

Function of Medical System

2637. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:
DR. S. VENUGOPAL:

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

(a) whether Santosh Medical College, Ghaziabad and the D.Y. Patil Medical College for Women, Pimpri, Pune and Kasturba Medical College in Manipal are not having full bed occupancy rates of hospitals and flouting admission quota for NRIs;

(b) if so, the date on which these colleges were inspected during the last two years by the Medical Council of India and their observations thereto; and

(c) the action taken to ensure that functioning of the entire Medical System in the country are properly regulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) During the inspections conducted by the Medical Council of India the Santosh Medical College, Ghaziabad and D.Y. Patil Medical College for Women, Pimpri, Pune were found to have adequate bed occupancy for 50 and 100 admissions annually respectively. As per the report of the last inspection carried out by the Medical Council of India on 8th & 9th January, 2001 the average bed

occupancy for the year 2000 in respect of the hospitals attached to the Kasturba Medical College, Manipal was found to be below the required bed occupancy rate of 80%.

It was found that between the academic sessions of 1995-96 and 1999-2000, Santosh Medical College, Ghaziabad had made excess admissions of 40 students under the Management/NRI quota. The Central Government, taking into account the interest of the students, conveyed its approval as a one time measure to a proposal received from the college authorities for neutralizing the said excess admissions in the succeeding academic sessions by surrendering the Management/NRI quota of seats. As per the report of the inspection carried out by the Medical Council of India in January, 2001 the two medical colleges managed by the Manipal Academy of Higher Education have been admitting NRI/Foreign students in excess of the prescribed 15% of the admission capacity. As per the information available with the Government, the D.Y. Patil Medical College for Women, Pimpri, Pune has not admitted any students in excess of its capacity.

(b) The inspections of Santosh Medical College, Ghaziabad were carried out by the Council Inspectors during the last two years on 12-14th October, 2000, 10th & 20th January, 2001 and 16th April, 2001. The inspections of Dr. D.Y. Patil Medical College for Women, Pimpri, Pune were carried out by the Council Inspectors during the last two years on 9th & 10th June, 2000, 26th-28th December, 2000 and 2nd-3rd April, 2001. After being satisfied that these Colleges fulfilled the prescribed minimum requirements in terms of infrastructure and other facilities, the Medical Council of India recommended to the Central Government for recognition of the MBBS degree awarded to the students being trained in both these colleges by the concerned affiliating Universities. The inspection of Kasturba Medical College, Manipal was conducted by Medical Council of India on 8th & 9th January, 2001. In view of the deficiencies reported by the Council's Inspectors, the College authorities have been issued a show cause notice by the Council under section 19 of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956. The explanation furnished by the College is being examined by the Council.

(c) The Medical Council of India, with the approval of the Central Government, prescribes the minimum standards of medical education required for grant of both graduate and post-graduate medical qualifications by the Universities and medical institutions in the country. The Council conducts periodic inspections of the medical

institutions for this purpose. It also takes necessary follow up action to ensure that the deficiencies pointed out in the inspection reports are rectified by the concerned medical institution.

Foreign Investment in Road Development

2638. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the liberalised surface transport policy significant private foreign investment has started flowing in for development of road infrastructure facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the projects received and cleared so far, State-wise;

(c) the progress made and achieved on-going projects, project-wise and the target of their completions; and

(d) the steps taken to remove the snags while implementing the projects/schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Statement giving details is enclosed.

(d) There is no snag in implementation of these projects.

Statement

Details of Projects involving Private Foreign Investment

S.N.	Project	Length (in kms)	Project Cost (Rs. in crores)	Present Status	Target date substantial completion
1.	Upgradation/ four laning of National Highway-5 from Tada- Nellore and Vijayawada- Nandigram Section on NH-9	146	760 (including 167.5 crores grant from NHAI)	Under implementation	December, 2003
2.	Upgradation/four laning of Panagarh-Palsit and Palsit- Dunkuni Section on NH-2	130	782 (Annuities basis)	Under implementation	December, 2003

Software Industry

2639. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Software Industry in the country are apprehending some threat from China;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any step in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD

MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The NASSCOM-McKinsey 2002 Study has indicated that we should treat China as the potential competitor in IT software and services business. Over the last two decades, its growth rate have been almost double that of India in most years. China has a much larger PC penetration internet user base, mobile phone user base and a strong domestic market.

However, while China has a large growing domestic market, its software exports are estimated to be just about US \$ 600 Million as compared to India's present achievement of US \$ 6.2 Billion (2000-2001).

(c) and (d) Government of India have taken several initiatives to make India more competitive. These initiatives are in the realm of taking IT to masses, delivering emerging technologies to the common man and making India's 1 billion population, potential user of IT products, by bridging digital divide.

Internet Telephony

2640. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Internet Service Providers (ISP) have requested for allowing them to offer internet telephony without taking any additional licences and paying any entry fee;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) have recommended to the Government for opening up of Internet Telephony to the Internet Service Providers (ISPs).

(c) The Government has accepted the recommendations given by TRAI.

[Translation]

Development of Mahanadi of Chhattisgarh

2641. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to develop the Mahanadi of Chhattisgarh as National Waterways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Techno economic feasibility study of Brahmani/Kharsua rivers including the delta of Mahanadi, linking Talcher to Paradip has been completed. This waterway integrated with East Coast Canal connecting, Dhamra and Haldia ports has been found viable for development. No Techno-Economic feasibility study has so far been conducted on the Mahanadi river in Chhattisgarh region.

[English]

Per Capita Expenditure on Health Care Facilities

2642. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

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

(a) the per capita expenditure incurred on health care service for the people living in urban and rural areas in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether there is great difference in expenditure incurred on the health care services on the rural and urban people;

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

(d) the measure being taken by the Government to fill the gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) A statement showing per capita Government expenditure on health, State-wise for 1999-2000 is enclosed. Separate estimates for the people living in rural and urban areas in respect of expenditure on health care services are not available.

(d) Various National Health Programmes relating to control of diseases like TB, Leprosy, Malaria, Blindness and AIDS are being implemented by the Government

both for the urban and rural population. However, in order to address the problem of uneven attainment of health indices across the rural urban divide, the Draft National Health Policy 2002 envisages increases in the sectoral outlay in the primary health sector to 55% of total public health investment not only to strengthen the existing facilities but also open additional public health service outlets.

Statement

Per Capita Government Expenditure (Health)

(In Rs.)

S.No.	State/UTs	Per Capita Govt. Expenditure (Health)* (1999-2000)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	128
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	613
3.	Assam	94
4.	Bihar	50
5.	Goa	852
6.	Gujarat	192
7.	Haryana	169
8.	Himachal Pradesh	418
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	374
10.	Karnataka	150
11.	Kerala	253
12.	Madhya Pradesh	110
13.	Maharashtra	163
14.	Manipur	352
15.	Meghalaya	310
16.	Mizoram	674
17.	Nagaland	445
18.	Orissa	109
19.	Punjab	256
20.	Rajasthan	163
21.	Sikkim	575

1	2	3
22.	Tamil Nadu	189
23.	Tripura	186
24.	Uttar Pradesh	79
25.	West Bengal	175
26.	Delhi	317
27.	Pondicherry	659
India		162

*Expenditure on health does not include expenditure on family welfare, medical & health expenditure on defence services and local bodies.

Private Participation in Nuclear Power Programme

2643. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend Atomic Energy Act, 1962 to allow private participation in nuclear power programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any expert committee has been set up by the Government to examine 'ticklish' issues involved in the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the recommendations of the Committee; and

(e) the reaction of 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 process of reviewing the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 and suggesting amendments is currently underway.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Hospitals/Medical Colleges at Bhuj

2644. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI:

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

(a) whether the Prime Minister, during his visit to Bhuj in Gujarat after the devastating earthquake in the State, had announced Rs. 100 crore grant for setting up of a world class Hospital and Medical College at Bhuj;

(b) if so, the progress made in this respect, so far;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to provide mobile hospitals in Kutch district of Gujarat, particularly in the remote areas of the district; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith financial allocation made by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister Office has informed that the Prime Minister had announced the reconstruction of the District Hospital at Bhuj, which was completely devastated in the Earthquake. This was in response to the request of the State Government. The progress of the construction so far is as per schedule.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Digital Distribution System

2645. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages lined with digital distribution system;

(b) the names of the companies who have come forward to lay digital distribution system to connect cities, towns and villages;

(c) the States where these facilities are proposed to be provided;

(d) whether it is a fact that the private companies are not interested to provide services in the rural areas; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No village has been lined with digital distribution system. However, as reported by private basic service operators, 792 villages in 4 States have been provided with digital technology Village Public Telephones.

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

(d) and (e) The private Basic Telephone Service providers who have been granted licence as per the Guidelines dated 25.1.2001 are required to set up Points of Presence in urban, semi-urban and rural Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs), typically Tehsils, in equal proportion as a part of their roll out obligations.

[*Translation*]

Family Welfare Programme

2646. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount allocated by the Government for the family welfare programme during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether this amount was adequate for the said period; and

(c) if not, the total amount proposed to be allocated by the Government for family welfare programmes during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Rs. 15120.00 crores was allocated for National Family Welfare Programme during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) During Tenth Five Year Plan, the amount proposed for National Family Welfare Programme is Rs. 43996.58 crore.

[*English*]

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

2647. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have accepted in totality the recommendations made by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India regarding the INSAT Mobile Satellite System Reporting Services; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The broad guidelines for issue of licence for INSAT Mobile Satellite System Reporting Service are:

- (i) No restriction on number of operators.
- (ii) Any Indian Company registered under Indian Companies Act, 1956 is eligible to apply.
- (iii) Maximum foreign equity of 49%.
- (iv) No entry fee.
- (v) Licence fee 5% of Annual Gross Revenue (AGR) towards Universal Service Obligation (USO).
- (vi) Must start the service within 6 months from the date of licence.
- (vii) Interconnection with Public switched telephone network (PSTN) not permitted.

[Translation]

Revamping CBI

2648. SHRI NAGMANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to re-constitute the Central Bureau of Investigation with a view to dispose of the large number of pending cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases lying with Central Bureau of Investigation for the last three years; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken for the expeditious disposal of these cases within a fixed time period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES

AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) There is no proposal to reconstitute the Central Bureau of Investigation. The number of cases pending for investigation with the Central Bureau of Investigation for last three years is given below:

As on	Number of Cases
31.12.1999	1573
31.12.2000	1555
31.12.2001	1456

For ensuring expeditious disposal, Central Bureau of Investigation has drawn up an action plan in 2001 for achieving 10% reduction in cases pending investigation and 20% reduction in cases pending investigation for over 2 years. The cases under investigation for more than two years are being monitored centrally at the level of Director, Central Bureau of Investigation.

[English]

Attacks on Indian Fishermen

2649. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of reported attacks on Indian fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy during the last one year;

(b) the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Sri Lankan Government has honoured the Katchathevu agreement;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the Government stand thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) There were eight reported incidents of firing on Indian fishermen last year. Government of India takes up every reported incident of shooting of Indian fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy with the Government of Sri Lanka and has emphasised the need to avoid such incidents. Sri Lanka Government has denied involvement of its Navy in a large majority of cases. It has also assured Government of India that its forces are under instructions to exercise

maximum restraint in dealing with Indian fishermen found in Sri Lankan waters.

(c) to (e) Government of India regards the delineation of the Indo-Sri Lanka Maritime Boundary through the Agreements of 1974 and 1976 as a settled matter. In terms of these Agreements, the island of Kachchativu lies on the Sri Lankan side of the International Boundary Line. The Agreement states that Indian fishermen and pilgrims will enjoy access to visit Kachchativu as hitherto, and will not be required by Sri Lanka to obtain travel documents or visas for these purposes. Fulfilment of these traditional rights has been in abeyance since 1983 due to the security situation in the Palk Straits.

[Translation]

Abolition of Posts of Accounts Officers

2650. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the posts of Junior Accounts Officer, Assistant Accounts Officer and Senior Accounts Officer created in the Ministries and Subordinate Offices of the Central Government, Department-wise and Ministry-wise;

(b) the batch of employees upto which they have been promoted after they passed the exam of Junior Accounts Officer;

(c) the number of posts of these categories lying vacant as on date, category-wise, Ministry-wise and Department-wise;

(d) whether the posts of these categories have been abolished after 1994; and

(e) if so, 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 (e) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Grants for KVIC

2651. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state

the details of loan and grant extended to various agencies in the State of Karnataka Khadi and Village Industry Commission (KVIC) for the promotion of Khadi and Village Industries during the last two years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): The Government does not release funds directly to States for promotion and development of Khadi and Village Industries. The Government provides funds to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission for the promotion and development of such industries. These funds are released on the basis of requirement. The loan and grant disbursed by the KVIC to Karnataka for the development of KVI sector during the last two years are as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)			
1999-2000		2000-2001	
Loan	Grant	Loan	Grant
43.84	1182.75	43.01	703.25

[Translation]

Violation of MCI Rule

2652. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently ordered periodic review of recognized medical colleges so that they do not violate the criteria laid down by the Medical Council of India or the Government;

(b) the number of medical colleges who have failed to fulfil the said criteria; and

(c) the action taken or being taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Medical Council of India has been carrying out periodical inspection of medical colleges with a view to ensure that the colleges continue to provide the required infrastructure facilities like staff, bed strength, equipment etc. Such inspections are normally carried out once in every five years for each medical college. Generally, the medical colleges have been fulfilling the criteria. Wherever deficiencies are observed the college authorities are asked to remove the deficiencies.

*[English]***Rubberisation of National Highway-3**

2653. DR. SANJAY PASWAN:
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to rubberise all National Highways passing through Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Use of rubberised/polymer modified bitumen in wearing course has already been approved for 197 km. and 13 km. length for four-laning National Highway-2 and National Highway-31 respectively under National Highway Development Project in Bihar. It is also proposed to use it for high traffic corridors of other National Highways for Improvement of Riding Quality and Periodical Renewal during 2002-2003.

(c) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Capital Provided by SIDBI to SSI Units**

2654. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether the Small Industries Development Bank of India meets the capital requirement of Small Scale Industries Sector in the country;

(b) if so, capital demanded by the Small Scale Industries Sector in 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01;

(c) the capital provided during the said period against the demand made, separately; and

(d) the names of other institutions, which meet the capital requirement of the Small Scale Industries Sector besides the above institution?

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) Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) provides refinance and other financial support to State Financial Corporations and banks who meet the capital requirements of small scale industrial units (SSI) by way of term loan and working capital. In addition, it also provides direct finance to the SSI units.

(b) and (c) Based on the viability of the proposals for capital requirement of SSI units, the amount disbursed by the SIDBI during the last three years is as follows:

(Rs. Crores)	
Year	Disbursements
1998-1999	6285
1999-2000	6964
2000-2001	6441

(d) Besides, the SIDBI, the capital requirement of SSIs is met by National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), State Small Industries Corporations (SSICs), State Financial Corporations (SFCs), State Industrial Development Corporations (SIDCs), Commercial Banks etc.

Secondary Switch Area

2655. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up an independent office of Secondary Switch Area (D.E.T.) in Gadwa district of Jharkhand State by separating it from the Daltonganj Telecom Division;

(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 (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) Gadwa is a revenue district under Daltonganj Secondary Switching Area (SSA). SSA is basic unit of operation for the purpose of administration, charging, routing and numbering plans, so it is not bifurcated because of administrative and operational reasons. Hence it will not be feasible to set up independent office of DET at Gadwa by separating it from Daltonganj Telecom District.

[*English*]

Hand Over of KVIC to Multi-National Companies

2656. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to hand over Khadi and Village Industries Commission to Multi-national companies or private companies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

New Highway Project

2657. SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for taking up new Highway project from Gopalpur to Raipur Via-Polasara in Orissa during the next financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal of taking up super highway project in the State of Orissa;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any contemplation of getting it funded by private finance; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Employment Opportunities in Rural Areas

2658. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state the details of target fixed to provide employment to the persons during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): The Government has decided to continue the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), during the 10th Plan period i.e. upto 31.3.2007, as well. This programme is being implemented through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to generate employment opportunities in rural areas. The target set for the 10th Plan period is to generate additional employment opportunities for 2.0 million persons.

[*English*]

National Highways in Karnataka

2659. SHRI R.S. PATIL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the request of Karnataka Government to declare Bidar-Sriranga Patnam, Jewargi-Sankeshwar and Kalala-Raichur as National Highways is pending for the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) The request received from the Government of Karnataka during the 9th Plan period was duly considered along with similar proposals received from other State Governments but could not be acceded to, keeping in view the traffic needs, inter-se priority of all such proposals and overall availability of funds.

(c) The proposal would be considered along with similar proposals received from other State Governments after the finalisation of the 10th Five Year Plan and availability of funds keeping in view the traffic needs and inter-se priority.

WHO Aided Health Projects

2660. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:
SHRI ADITYA NATH YOGI:
SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN:
SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:

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

(a) the details of the Health Projects launched with the assistance of World Health Organisation during each of the last three years, State-wise particularly in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Gujarat;

(b) the funds allocated, disbursed and utilized by the States during the said period;

(c) whether some Health Projects with assistance from World Bank are likely to be launched during the current financial year particularly in Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

Marketing Subsidiary of KVIC

2661. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is considering to set up its marketing subsidiary;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to upgrade the National Institute of Rural Industrialisation as on date?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has proposed to set up a Marketing Company under the Companies Act 1956 for marketing of Khadi and Village Industries products.

(c) With a view to strengthen the existing Jamnalal Bajaj Central Research Institute (JBCRI) at Wardha, a project, prepared in consolidation with Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, is under implementation. The total allocation for the project is Rs. 8.35 crores in a 3 year period.

[Translation]

Highway Patrolling Check Posts

2662. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Madhya Pradesh Government have sent any proposal to the Union Government for providing special grant for setting up of regional training centres at Bhopal for vehicle drivers and setting up highway patrolling check post at some other places; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The request of Madhya Pradesh Government for setting up a Regional Drivers Training Institute could not be considered as scheme was discontinued during the Ninth Plan Period.

A fresh scheme for setting up a Model Drivers Training Institute during the Tenth Plan period has been formulated, which has been circulated to all States/UTs.

There is no scheme in this Ministry which provides funds for setting up of Highway Patrolling Check Posts.

[English]

Indian Consulate in Bonn

2663. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to close down the Indian Consulate in Bonn;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether representations have been received against this; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The reunification of Germany in October 1989, the subsequent decision of the Deutsche Bundestag (German Parliament) in June 1991 to return the capital of the Federal Republic of Germany from Bonn to Berlin, followed by the actual transfer of the capital to Berlin in August 1999, necessitated the transfer of the Embassy of India in the Federal Republic of Germany from Bonn to Berlin in October 1999. Munich is the capital of the state of Bavaria which is the largest Federal State in Germany and is the fastest growing State economically. India had no consulate located in Southern Germany and the new Consulate in Munich is the first one in a dynamic, hitech and economically significant part of Germany.

(c) A number of Indian Associations based in German State of North Rhine Westphalia (where Bonn is located) have submitted representations in favour of maintaining a consulate or an office of the Embassy of India in Bonn, or alternatively in some other city in the state of North Rhine Westphalia.

(d) The convenience of the NRI community living in North Rhine Westphalia (where Bonn is located) is being fully addressed by the planned reorganisation of Consular Jurisdictions of our Mission and Posts, namely Berlin, Frankfurt, Hamburg and Munich, located in the Federal Republic of Germany.

[*Translation*]

Homoeopathy Research Centres in Hospitals

2664. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up Homoeopathy Research Centres in various hospitals on the lines of allopathy;

(b) if so, the names of the hospitals, where such centres are likely to be set up and the time by which these are likely to be started; and

(c) the amount allocated for the year 2002-03 to set up these centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The Government have already taken the following steps to encourage research in the field of homoeopathy medicine:

1. Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy which was established in the year 1975 as an autonomous organisation under the Department of Indian systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy has been engaged in the research activities of Homoeopathy medicine.
2. National Institute of Homoeopathy, another autonomous body under this Department has Post Graduate Departments in Homoeopathy medicine and also undertakes Research in Homoeopathy medicine.
3. Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy is also implementing a scheme for Extra Mural Research in ISM&H under which financial assistance is given to accredited research institutions for undertaking research projects.
4. Homoeopathy Colleges in the country where Post Graduate Departments are established, are also involved in Research activities.

Telephone Facilities in Rajasthan Villages

2665. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages targeted to be connected by telephone service in Rajasthan during last three years;

(b) whether the Government have achieved the target particularly in Jodhpur district; and

(c) if not, the steps taken to provide the telephone connections to remaining villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd., the private Basic Telephone Service operator in Rajasthan, had a target to connect a total of 31834 villages in 3 years (7439 in the first year, 10629 in the second year and 13766 in the third year) with effect from 4.3.1998.

(b) M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd. has reported that it has connected 209 villages in Rajasthan, which includes 35 villages of Jodhpur district.

(c) Government has recovered Liquidated Damage (LD) charges for the company's delay in performance and made it clear that its committed performance obligations cannot be diluted in any case. Government has asked the company to complete the unfulfilled committed roll out obligations by December, 2002 against submission of Additional Performance Bank Guarantees and Deed of Guarantees.

[English]

Four Laning National Highway

2666. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have signed any agreement with some countries for development of four laning of National Highways in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the countries and the details of the National Highways that are likely to be developed under these agreements;

(c) the details of the plan expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An agreement has been signed with CIDB of the Government of Malaysia for four laning of Tada-Nellore section of National Highway-5 and Vijayawada-Nandigama section of National Highway-9 in the State of Andhra Pradesh on Build, Operate and Transfer basis.

(c) National Highways Authority of India will provide a grant of Rs. 167.5 crore for the project. The total cost of the project is Rs. 760 crore.

(d) The project is scheduled for completion by December, 2003.

Opening of Post Offices

2667. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has the lowest density of post offices and network of postal services in the world;

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

(c) whether there is huge requirement of post offices in rural areas;

(d) if so, the reasons for not sanctioning new rural post offices in the country; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to open more post offices in the country particularly in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No Sir, India has the largest network of post offices in the world and density of post offices is also better than in many countries in the world.

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

(c) and (d) The opening of new post offices in the rural areas depends upon the fulfillment of prescribed norms and availability of requisite resources.

(e) During 2001-2002 a target to open 500 post offices has been fixed for rural areas in the country including 65 post offices in Maharashtra. The opening of these post offices is, however, subject to fulfillment of prescribed norms and availability of requisite resources.

National Highway No. 9

2668. SHRI RAJAI AH MALYALA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be please to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to expand the National Highway No. 9 from Hyderabad to Vizayawada into four (04) lanes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) Four-laning of National Highway No. 9 from Hyderabad to Vijayawada is being done in phases. About 27 km. length of NH No. 9 from Hyderabad to Vijayawada (13 km. from Ibrahimpattam to Vijayawada and 14 km. within

Hyderabad city) is already four-laned. Four-laning of another 35 km. from Nandigama to Ibrahimpatnam is being done on Build Operate Transfer (BOT) basis. Further, four-laning of about 40 km. length from Kobad to Nandigama is proposed to be taken up on BOT basis.

Allocation of Funds during Ninth Plan

2669. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of revenue collected for roads by the Government during the Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(b) the details of funds allocated for roads during the Ninth Plan period;

(c) whether revenue collected for roads was not allocated for the purpose and diverted to other sectors during the above said period; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the proposals with the Government for mobilising the necessary resources in the road sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Total collection from cess of Rs. 1 per litre on petrol and diesel during Ninth Five Year Plan is Rs. 15034 crore upto November, 2001.

(b) The details of the funds allocated for roads during the Ninth Five Year Plan is as below:

(Rs. in Crore)

Development of National Highways	Maintenance of National Highways	For State roads under Central Road Fund
17748.82	3789.76	2155.32

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

The proposal will be considered alongwith other proposals, received from other State Governments after finalization of the Tenth Five Year Plan and availability of funds, keeping in view the traffic needs and inter-se priority.

National Highway No. 5

2670. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Orissa for upgradation of National Highway No. 5 at Khurda Road connecting it with National Highway 201 in the Western belt of Bolangir in Orissa via Nayagarh-Daspala-Boudh and Sonapur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, other measures being taken to promote tourism in this belt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, A proposal for upgradation of State Highways SH 1 and SH 14 connecting Khurda on National Highway No. 5 and near Bolangir on National Highway 201 to National Highway has been received.

Opening of Hospital In Tamil Nadu

2671. SHRI A.K. MOORTHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open a big hospital like AIIMS, New Delhi, in between Chengalpattu and Dindivanam, with modern facilities in Tamil Nadu;

(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) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

U.S. Strategy Against Terrorism

2672. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the speech made by U.S. President George W. Bush in his "State of Union Address" outlining the American Strategy to fight terrorism and the future course to be pursued in this regard; and

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

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

(b) In his "State of the Union Address" to the U.S. Congress on 29.01.2002, the U.S. President outlined a number of domestic and international policies of his Government, including the U.S. Government's commitment to combat international terrorism. In this context, the U.S. President raised concerns about the links between terrorism and weapons of mass destruction and reiterated his objective of preventing regimes that sponsor terror for threatening America and its friends and allies from weapons of mass destruction. Government has noted that the U.S. President did not state that the United States intends to militarily target any of the named countries.

Vallarpadam Container Trans-shipment Terminal

2673. SHRI SURESH KURUP:
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any company has been identified for the construction of the Vallarpadam Trans-shipment container terminal for Kochi Port;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated amount likely to be incurred on it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Pak's Role in Attack on Parliament

2674. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI AMBAREESHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have shared the evidence gathered by our investigating agencies with any foreign countries showing Pakistan's direct role in the attack on Indian Parliament;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of these countries thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) Government have provided to the international community information based on results of our investigations into the December 13 attack on India's Parliament. This has included evidence of the Pakistani nationality of the five terrorists killed, as well as the involvement of the Lashkar-e-Tayyaba (LeT) and the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JuM), two Pakistan based terrorist groups known for their close links with Pakistan's intelligence agencies.

Government have been, appropriately and effectively, bringing to the attention of the international community facts pertaining to Pakistan's sponsorship of cross border terrorism in India. The international community has been openly acknowledging the fact that Pakistan sponsors cross border terrorism and uses it as an instrument of state policy. This perspective is also often reflected in the media coverage on Pakistan.

The December 13 attack against India's Parliament once again starkly highlighted to the international community the fact that terrorism poses the gravest danger to liberal, open and democratic societies such as ours. The international community strongly supports India's resolve to resist terrorism until it is decisively crushed; the widespread consensus in the international community is that there is no justification for terrorism, which must be eradicated wherever it exists.

Marketing Subsidiary

2675. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Marketing subsidiary of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether one of the subsidiaries is proposed to be set up in West Bengal; and

(d) if so, by when this will be set up?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) and (b) The proposal for setting up a Marketing Company under Companies Act 1956 for marketing Khadi and Village Industries products is under consideration of the Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Declaration of New National Highways

2676. SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a request to declare Bidar-Srirangapatna, Jewargi-Sankeshwar and Kalala-Raichur in Karnataka as National Highways is pending with the Government for the last two years; and

(b) if so, reasons for the delay in taking decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) The request received from the Government of Karnataka during the 9th Plan period was duly considered along with similar proposals received from other State Governments but could not be acceded to, keeping in view the traffic needs, inter-se priority of all such proposals and overall availability of funds.

National Highways Authority of India

2677. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of allocation made to National Highways Authority of India on Rest Areas in Andhra Pradesh during the last two years and details of funds spent in this regard;

(b) whether any design has been made with regard to road safety; and

(c) the steps proposed by the Government to utilise such designs on all the National Highways in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) No separate allocation has been made by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) on rest areas in Andhra Pradesh during the last two years. However, provision for rest areas, wherever required, has been included in the contracts being executed by NHAI.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Government proposes to incorporate safety features, such as improved intersection layout, safety barriers, proper signages, pavement markings etc., on the National Highways in the country.

[Translation]

Telephone Services in Jharkhand

2678. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether no telephone services are available in Bandgaon, Sunwa, Goyalkera, Tant Nagar, Manjhari and Kumarigedi blocks of Singbhum region of Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to provide telephone services in these blocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Sir, the telephone services, at present, are available in Bandgaon, Sunwa, Goyalkera and Kumarigedi blocks of Singbhum region of Jharkhand.

(b) and (c) New telephone exchanges have been planned during 2002-2003 at Tant Nagar and Manjhari blocks of Singbhum region.

[English]

New Express Highways in Hilly Areas

2679. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether new express highways connecting remote areas in the hills of Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh is proposed to be constructed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Telecom Growth

2680. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether there is stupendous growth in the telecom sector world wide;

(b) if so, whether the revenues from infocom have crossed the two trillion mark in 2000; and

(c) if so, the India's share in the world telecom sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) India's revenue share in the world telecom sector is around 1%.

Funds from World Bank

2681. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank agreed to grant 62 million dollars (Rs. 260 crores) loan for modernizing and expanding regulatory capacity of the Department of Communications;

(b) if so, the main features thereof;

(c) the details of the schemes proposed to be implemented with this loan; and

(d) the time by which the work on these schemes is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The funds will be used to strengthen elements of the policy and regulatory environment to promote private investment and competition in the telecommunication sector in India. This will be achieved by assisting the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology to strengthen its Government functions, including modernisation of radio frequency management and licences systems and technical standards setting; to strengthen the capacity of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) to regulate the sector.

(c) The scheme to be implemented with this loan is "Telecommunications Sector Reform Technical Assistance Project". The details are as follows:

(i) Support-project for the Department of Telecommunications, Government functions and institutional organization and capacity building.

(ii) Strengthening and modernisation of radio frequency spectrum management and radio regulatory and licensing process.

(iii) Strengthening technical standards' setting with regard to emerging telecom technologies.

(iv) Strengthening institutional capabilities and regulatory capacity of TRAI and TDSAT.

(d) The project has started on 28.9.2000.

Reservation to SC/ST and OBC

2682. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the representation of SCs, STs and OBCs has not reached the level of 15%, 7.5% and 27% respectively reserved for them in Pondicherry Civil Service Group B;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) indicate total number of 'sanctioned posts' in Pondicherry Civil Service Group B;

(d) the number of persons belonging to SC, ST, OBC and General Categories working against such posts

including their respective percentage to such posts as on July 2, 1997 as ascertained as per the instructions contained under para 5 of DOPT OM No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated 2nd July, 1997; and

(e) the new vacancies occurred during 1999, 2000 and 2001 and number of such vacancies/posts filled by persons from SCs, STs, OBCs and General Categories?

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 (d) The information is as under:

Statement

I. Sanctioned posts in Pondicherry Civil Service—62 Posts (31 posts each to be filled up by direct recruitment and by promotion)

II. Number of posts earmarked for direct recruitment and the status of their incumbency:

Total No. of posts earmarked for direct recruitment	Reservation for various categories	No. of posts reserved	Officers in position as on 2.7.97	Level of Percentage achieved	Officers in position as on 18.3.2002	Level of Percentage achieved	Reasons for short fall, if any
31 posts	SC	5	5	16.13%	5	16.13%	—
	ST	2	1	3.23%	2	6.45%	—
	OBC	8	1	3.23%	3	9.68%	The reservation for OBC came into force only with effect from the year 1994. Vacancies are reported to UPSC as per the post based reservation roster to achieve the prescribed level of reservation.

III. Number of posts earmarked for pro motion and the status of their incumbency:

Total No. of posts earmarked for direct recruitment	Reservation for various categories	No. of posts reserved as per the percentage	Officers in position as on 2.7.97	Level of Percentage achieved	Officers in position as on 18.3.2002	Level of Percentage achieved	Reasons for short fall, if any
31 posts	SC	5	6	19.35%	5	16.13%	—
	ST	2	1	3.23%	1	3.23%	Non-availability of ST candidates in the feeder grade.

(e) The details regarding the vacancies which occurred during 1999, 2000 and 2001 and the number of

such vacancies/posts filled by candidates from SCs, STs, OBCs and General categories are given below:

A. Direct Recruitment

Year	Number of Vacancies	Reservation category as per the roster point	How filled
1	2	3	4
1999	1	General-1	1 (General)
2000	2	General-1	General-1
		OBC-1	OBC-1

1	2	3	4
2001	2	General-1 OBC-1	Vacancies reported to UPSC. Allotment yet to be made by the UPSC.
B. Promotion			
1999	—	—	—
2000	2	General-2	Action for filling up the vacancies is in progress.
2001	3	General-2 SC-1	Action for filling up the vacancies is in progress.

*[Translation]***Funds for Primary Health Centres in Rajasthan**

2683. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds allocated by the Union Government to Rajasthan to open Primary Health Centres during the last three years; and

(b) the allocation made to Rajasthan to open such Centres in the State during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Primary Health Centres are established and maintained by the respective State Governments out of the funds provided under health sector outlay of state plan and Basic Minimum Service (BMS) Programme. The funds provided to Rajasthan, under health sector outlay and BMS, during last three years are as under:

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	Health Sector	
	Outlay	BMS/PMGY
1999-2000	17262.00	9656
2000-2001	9914.94	1446
2001-2002	12366.30	1446

(b) The allocation under the Tenth Five Year Plan are yet to be finalized.

*[English]***Amendment of Food Adulteration Act**

2684. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI:
SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:

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

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from any Organisation and State Governments seeking amendment to the prevention of Food Adulteration Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the decision of the Government thereto; and

(d) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. Representations/suggestions have been received from various organisations, certain State Governments and some Committees seeking amendment to various provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954.

(b) The amendments suggested include:

(i) Change in the title of the Act.

(ii) Amendment of certain definitions given under the Act.

(iii) Making provisions for giving a counterpart of the sample to the vendor.

(iv) Harmonization of the penal provisions considering the gravity of the offence.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has initiated action to review the PFA Act, 1954 for considering the necessary amendments to the Act.

Irregularities in Unani Wing of CGHS

2685. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Medical Officer, CGHS Dispensary, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, was appointed as Enquiry Officer to go into details about the prevailing irregularities in the Unani Wing of CGHS;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the recommendations made by the Enquiry Officer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Enquiry Officer has given the Enquiry Report which is under examination.

(c) The Enquiry Report has *inter-alia* stated that:

(a) It is beyond the scope of the Enquiry Officer to establish a prima-facie case against anyone of the officers mentioned in the complaint.

(b) Technical aspect of the case needs to be examined from the technical point of view by some Unani specialists or by some other suitable methods.

(c) The complainant was not traceable and his identity could not be ascertained. Further, it is also not clear whether the complainant is a CGHS beneficiary or not.

[*Translation*]

Funds for Setting up Post Offices in Bihar

2686. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated for the construction of new Post Office buildings and their maintenance in Bihar during the last three years;

(b) the number of new Post Offices set up in the State during the said period; and

(c) the number of Post Offices proposed to be set up and the amount allocated for it during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The details of amounts allocated for construction of new Post Offices and maintenance of all departmental buildings (Post Offices, Administrative Offices and Staff Quarters) in Bihar during the last three years are given below:

Year	Amount allocated for construction of Post Office Buildings	Amount allocated for maintenance of buildings
1998-1999	29.65 Lakhs	120.00 Lakhs
1999-2000	34.99 Lakhs	158.10 Lakhs
2000-2001	59.87 Lakhs	370.00 Lakhs

(b) The number of new Post Offices set up in the State during the last three years are as follows:

Year	No. of Post Offices set up
1998-1999	74
1999-2000	51
2000-2001	71

(c) 60 Post Offices are proposed to be set up during the current financial year subject to fulfilments of prescribed norms and availability of requisite resources. An amount of Rs. 10 lakhs has been allocated for the purpose.

Telephone Facility to Blocks in Purulia Region

2687. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are several such blocks in the Purulia region in West Bengal which have not been provided telephone facilities as yet;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to provide telephone facilities to these blocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) All the 20 blocks in the Purulia region in West Bengal have already been provided with telephone facilities.

National Highways Under BOT

2688. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any National Highway Scheme is proposed to be started under the funding of BOT World Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the projects for which funds were allocated to Rajasthan from the Central Road Scheme during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) The details of projects funded on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis are in statement I. The details of World Bank funded projects are in Statement II.

(c) Under the revamped Central Road Fund effective from November, 2000, 35 projects amounting to Rs. 38.03 crore were sanctioned to Rajasthan in the year 2000-2001.

Statement I

S.No.	Stretch	NH No.	Length (Km.)	Project Cost (Rs. crores)
1	2	3	4	5
<i>BOT Toll based Projects</i>				
1.	ROB At Kishangarh	8	1	18
2.	Durg bypass	6	18	70
3.	Tada-Nellore	5	111	760
4.	Vijayawada-Nandigama	9	35	
5.	Vivekananda Bridge	2	6	600
6.	Jaipur-Kishangarh	8	90.38	644
7.	Satara-Kagal	4	133	530
8.	Delhi-Gurgaon	8	27.7	555
Total			454	3302
<i>BOT annuity based Projects</i>				
1.	Rajamundry-Dharmavaram	5	53	206
2.	Dharmavaram-Tuni	5	47	232

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Tuni-Ankapalli	5	59	283
4.	Tambaram-Tindivanam	45	93	375
5.	Panagarh-Palsit	2	65	350
6.	Palsit-Dankuni	2	65	432
7.	Maharashtra Border Belgaum	4	77	332
Total			459	2210

Statement II*World Bank Funded Projects*

S.No.	Projects	National Highway for which loan is sanctioned	Total Length (Km.)	Loan Amount (U.S. Dollar Million)
1.	Third National Highway Project	NH-2 (Sections in the States of U.P., Bihar and Jharkhand)	477	516
2.	Grand Trunk Road Improvement Project	NH-2 (Sections in the States of U.P., Bihar and Jharkhand)	421	589

Cellular Service in Rajasthan

2689. SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether mobile phone services were proposed to be introduced in Kota S.S.A. at Rajasthan circle by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) during the year 2001-2002 and 2002-2003;

(b) if so, the reasons for not launching the said services;

(c) the location-wise number of city mobile lines proposed to be allotted under first and second phases in Rajasthan along with the time by which the above said services are likely to be started;

(d) whether construction work has been undertaken for the purpose;

(e) if so, names of the cities of the State where the construction work has been completed alongwith the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Purchase Orders could only be released on 5th February, 2002 due to time taken in negotiations.

(c) to (e) The details are as per the Statement enclosed. Wherever site survey is completed and location of sites firmed up, acquisition/infrastructure built up is in progress. The work is likely to be completed only in 2002-2003.

(f) It is expected that Mobile Telephone Services under Phase-I will be progressively available during the Third quarter of the next financial year.

Statement*IMPCS-Main Project*

S.No.	Name of Station	No. of IMPCS Lines allotted during		Total Lines
		Phase-I	Phase-II	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ajmer	2000	3000	5000
2.	Alwar	2000	3000	5000
3.	Banswara	1000	1600	2600
4.	Baran	0	1000	1000
5.	Barmer	500	800	1300
6.	Beawar	500	800	1300
7.	Bharatpur	1000	1600	2600
8.	Bhilwara	1500	2500	4000
9.	Bhiwadi	1000	1600	2600
10.	Bikaner	3500	5600	9100
11.	Bundi	0	1000	1000
12.	Chittorgarh	500	800	1300
13.	Churu	1000	1600	2600
14.	Dausa	0	1000	1000
15.	Dholpur	500	800	1300
16.	Dungarpur	0	1000	1000
17.	Hanumangarh	500	800	1300
18.	Jaipur	11000	18000	29000
19.	Jaisalmer	500	800	1300
20.	Jalore	0	1000	1000
21.	Jhalawar	0	1000	1000
22.	Jhunjhunu	1000	1600	2600

1	2	3	4	5
23.	Jodhpur	3000	4750	7750
24.	Kankroli	1000	1600	2600
25.	Rajsamand	0	1000	1000
26.	Karauli	0	1000	1000
27.	Kota	4000	6400	10400
28.	Madanganj	500	800	1300
29.	Makrana	500	800	1300
30.	Mount Abu	500	800	1300
31.	Nagaur	500	800	1300
32.	Nathdwara	500	800	1300
33.	Pali	2000	3000	5000
34.	Ramganj Mandi	500	800	1300
35.	Sikar	1000	1600	2600
36.	Sirohi	500	800	1300
37.	Sriganganagar	2000	3000	5000
38.	Sawai Madhopur	1000	1600	2600
39.	Tonk	500	800	1300
40.	Udaipur	4000	6400	10400
	Total	50000	87650	137650

[English]

E-Mail Service In Post Office

2690. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the postal department is making any efforts to enter into "e-commerce" forex services and internet-related activity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been conducted on the benefits to accrue therefrom; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The department has no immediate plans to enter into e-commerce. However, there is a proposal to buy and sell foreign exchange in identified post offices in the country. The Department has also launched Internet related e-Post service in 200 post

offices in the country. These offices are located in 5 States of Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

(c) No, Sir.

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

Funds to Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh under the National AIDS Control Programme

2691. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI AMBAREESHA:

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

(a) whether several proposals have been received by the Union Government from the State of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh for funds under the National AIDS Control Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to clear these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, the National AIDS Control Board approves annual action plans for the States of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh submitted by the respective AIDS Control Societies and the Government of India releases the funds against these approved action plans from time to time.

Indian Cultural Heritage in Foreign Countries

2692. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several items of Indian Cultural heritage are lying with foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to procure them back?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Government is aware that some items of Indian Cultural Heritage are lying in museums in some foreign countries.

(c) Government is exploring ways and means for obtaining a satisfactory resolution of the matter.

Redefining Limits to Territorial Waters and Continental Shelf

2693. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to redefine the limits of territorial waters and continental shelf;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India is likely to lose some portion of the territorial waters or continental shelf because of India's parting with Kachathevu Island; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to handle it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Amendment in CAT Act

2694. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV:
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Central Administrative Tribunal Act, 1985 to provide powers to the Union and State Governments to abolish Tribunal set up under the Act; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and 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)

Yes, Sir. Government is considering suitable amendments to the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 in view of certain judicial pronouncements as well as demands from a few States. The amendments proposed, among other things, include an enabling provision for the abolition of any Bench of the Central Administrative Tribunal and any State Administrative Tribunal, proposals for transfer/disposal of pending cases in such an event and a provision for appeal against judgments of tribunal.

[*Translation*]

Collaboration/Transfer of Technology

2695. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the number of cases concerning atomic energy in regard to which there have been collaborations or transfers of technology with several other countries during the past three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has sixteen (16) cases of collaborations or transfer of technology with other countries during the past three years encompassing various fields in the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

[*English*]

Development of JNPT as Mother Port

2696. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make the JNPT as the Mother port on the West Coast of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the plan drawn up in this regard alongwith the expenditure likely to be incurred on its development; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) A mother port is capable of receiving large size vessels to

facilitate direct sailing of export containers to their destinations, or to receive import containers destined for India directly without transshipment at any foreign port. Jawaharlal Nehru Port fulfils several requirements of a mother port, such as concentration of traffic, proximity to international routes and markets, longer waterfront, better road/rail connectivity, large back up area and supporting hinterland. Certain customs procedures which were seen as hurdle in transshipment have also been simplified recently. Some of the major schemes drawn up by the port in this regard are augmentation of container handling facilities and deepening and widening of the channel at a cost of over Rs. 700 crores.

Development of the port, which includes its maintenance as a mother port, is a continuous process.

[*Translation*]

Funds for States under various Developmental Schemes

2697. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds allocated by the Union Government to all the States under various developmental schemes during 2001-02;

(b) the amount out of the funds sanctioned under these schemes spent on the recommendations of the Members of the Parliament during the financial year;

(c) whether the expenditure made by State Governments is monitored by the Union Government; 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) According to the revised budget estimates of the Government of India, 2001-02, the total amount of funds allocated by the Union Government to all States under various developmental schemes as Central Assistance to State Plans was Rs. 37593.38 crores.

(b) Out of the total funds provided as Central Assistance to States as indicated in part (a) above, funds provided under Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) are spent on the

recommendations of the Members of Parliament. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has informed that as per the information received from District Heads a total of Rs. 6445 crores since the inception of the scheme has been utilized as on 28.2.2002. The cumulative figure of utilization as on 31.3.2001 was Rs. 4649 crores. Thus a sum of Rs. 1796 crores has been utilized in the year 2001-02 upto 28.2.2002.

(c) and (d) For monitoring of MPLADS the guidelines on the implementation of the scheme, *inter-alia*, provide for normal financial and audit procedure subject to other guidelines under the scheme; visit and inspection of at least 10% of the works every year by the Heads of the District and meeting, at least once in a year, at the level of the Chief Secretary or in his absence a senior Principal Secretary/Deputy Chief Secretary to assess the progress of the works under the scheme.

[English]

State Highways upgraded into National Highways

2698. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:
SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state the total Kilometers of State Highways upgraded into National Highways during the year 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI):

State Highways upgraded into National Highways in kms. during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002

Sl.No.	States	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	128	-
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	40	-
3.	Assam	130	-
4.	Bihar	853	-
5.	Chandigarh	-	-
6.	Chhattisgarh	278	-

1	2	3	4
7.	Delhi	-	-
8.	Goa	-	-
9.	Gujarat	220	-
10.	Haryana	-	-
11.	Himachal Pradesh	-	-
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	85	-
13.	Jharkhand	523	-
14.	Karnataka	176	-
15.	Kerala	210	-
16.	Madhya Pradesh	986	-
17.	Maharashtra	-	-
18.	Manipur	-	-
19.	Meghalaya	-	-
20.	Mizoram	70	-
21.	Nagaland	-	-
22.	Orissa	438	-
23.	Pondicherry	-	-
24.	Punjab	225	-
25.	Rajasthan	100	116
26.	Sikkim	-	-
27.	Tamil Nadu	77	-
28.	Tripura	-	-
29.	Uttar Pradesh	1028	41
30.	Uttaranchal	160	218
31.	West Bengal	-	-
Total		5727	375

Cargo Boats in A&N Islands

2699. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cargo boats/ships with the A&N Administration which are in operation in Andaman & Nicobar Islands;

(b) the number of cargo/ships lying for want of repairs alongwith their names and the time since when they are kept idle;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) the total expenditure likely to be incurred on their repair; and

(e) the time by which these boats/ships are likely to be repaired and put into operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) The A&N Administration has five cargo boats/ships, of which two are in operation, at present.

(b) The details of cargo boats/ships lying for want of repairs etc. are furnished below:

S.No.	Name of vessel	Date from which lying for repair	Remarks
1.	MV Badam	01.01.2002	Repair work in progress
2.	MV Mohwa	20.10.2001	Awaiting dry-dock for under water repair and statutory surveys
3.	MV Vanvikas	29.08.2001	Awaiting dry-dock for under water repair and statutory surveys.

(c) The delay in carrying out repairs is due to non-availability of dry-dock, spare parts and standard approved MS Plates, which are required to be procured from mainland, as also delays associated with statutory surveys.

(d) An expenditure of Rs. 27.00 lakhs (approximately) is likely to be incurred on repair of these boats/ships.

(e) The time by which these boats/ships are likely to be repaired and put into operation are given below:

1. MV Badam by 1.4.2002
2. MV Mohwa 125 days after docking
3. MV Vanvikas 30 days after docking.

Appointment on Compassionate Ground

2700. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the existing norms and criteria being followed for appointment of dependents of a deceased employee on compassionate ground;

(b) whether the quota of compassionate appointments has been curtailed/reduced due to curtailment of Central Government staff;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to increase compassionate appointments quota for the dependent of deceased employees; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Under the Scheme for Compassionate Appointments, 1998, appointment is granted on compassionate grounds to a dependent family member of a Government servant dying in harness or who is retired on medical grounds, thereby leaving his family in penury and without any means of livelihood, to relieve the family of the Government servant concerned from financial destitution and to help it get over the emergency. The Scheme is also applicable to a dependent family member of a member of the Armed Forces who (a) dies during services; or (b) is killed in action; or (c) is medically boarded out and is unfit for civil employment.

- (b) No, Sir.
 (c) Does not arise.
 (d) No, Sir.
 (e) Does not arise.

Concrete Roads

2701. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:
 SHRI RUPCHAND PAL:
 SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Highways laid in concrete results in 15% savings in fuel bills in comparison to bitumen roads;

(b) if so, facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to construct all National Highways in concrete in the country; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) No study has been conducted for savings in fuel on concrete roads in comparison to bitumen roads.

(c) and (d) Both bitumen and concrete type of pavements are being considered for development of National Highways. Option of pavement type depends on a number of factors including type of subsoil, climatic conditions, traffic and relative costs.

Trilateral Agreement

2702. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
 SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
 SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:
 SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
 SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
 SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
 SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:
 SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to make trilateral agreement with Russia and China;

(b) if so, the areas identified for trilateral agreement with those countries; and

(c) the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Amount Released under PMRY to Bihar

2703. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount released under Prime Minister Rojgar Yojana (PMRY) to Bihar during the financial year 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(b) whether the amounts so released to Bihar has been declining year after year;

(c) the details of applications pending for clearance under PMRY Scheme in Bihar, district-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to support educated unemployed youths in the State under PMRY Scheme for their upliftment?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) and (b) Under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), the Central Government releases funds for Subsidy as well as for Training Entrepreneurial Development, etc. While the funds for Subsidy are unauthorised to the Reserve Bank of India for passing on to the individual beneficiaries through the implementing banks, the funds for Training, Entrepreneurial Development, etc. are released to the States/UTs. An amount of Rs. 17.26 lakh was released during 1998-99, Rs. 13.74 lakh during 1999-2000 and Rs. 44.52 lakh was released during 2000-2001 to Bihar. However, no funds could be released to Bihar State so far during 2001-02 for want of Utilization Certificates for the funds already released to the State.

(c) As per the reports of the State Governments, district-wise details of applications pending for sanction with banks as on 14.03.2002 is enclosed as statement.

(d) Under the PMRY, educated unemployed youth belonging to the weaker sections are provided loans by Commercial Banks to set up self employed micro enterprises. To assist them, the Central Government provides financial assistance by way of subsidy, organising motivational camps, training for the beneficiaries, contingencies etc.

Statement

District-wise Number of Applications pending for Sanctions with the Banks in Bihar as on 14.03.2002

(Based on the State Government Reports)

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Applications pending with bank for sanction
1	2	3
1.	Araria	154
2.	Aurangabad	131
3.	Banka	179
4.	Begusarai	252
5.	Bhagalpur	420
6.	Bhojpur	11
7.	Buxar	39
8.	Darbhanga	307
9.	E. Champaran	284
10.	Gaya	437
11.	Gopalganj	252
12.	Jamui	116
13.	Jahanabd	119
14.	Kaimur (Bha.)	140
15.	Katihar	221
16.	Khagaria	106
17.	Kishanganj	112

1	2	3
18.	Lakhisarai	73
19.	Madhepura	131
20.	Madhubani	287
21.	Munger	174
22.	Muzaffarpur	473
23.	Nalanda	274
24.	Nawada	383
25.	Patna	943
26.	Purnea	204
27.	Rohtas	211
28.	Saharsa	208
29.	Samastipur	196
30.	Saran	527
31.	Shaikhupura	18
32.	Shedhar	21
33.	Sitamarhi	260
34.	Siwan	316
35.	Supaul	155
36.	Vaishali	290
37.	W. Champaran	245

Regrouping of Militants

2704. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any regrouping of militants in POK as reported in the 'Time of India' dated February 21, 2002;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) There have been reports suggesting regrouping and relocation of terrorists to Pakistan occupied-Kashmir from some parts of Pakistan.

(b) and (c) Despite its profession of support to the international coalition against terrorism, it is increasingly clear that Pakistan seeks to continue its sponsorship of cross border terrorism in India. Pakistan has sought to pass-off cosmetic half measures, non-measures and fictitious incidents against terrorist groups, as a so called crack down against terrorist groups operating from its territory and territories under its control. However, Pakistan's real approach to the issue of cross-border terrorism was clearly indicated by the President of Pakistan in a public address on 5th February 2002. In his address the President of Pakistan reiterated Pakistan's time-worn and untenable formulations on terrorism and also sought to justify the continued terrorist violence in Jammu & Kashmir.

Government rejects this outright, and are firmly resolved to resist cross border terrorism until it is defeated. The international community has also been strongly supportive of India's approach; the widespread consensus in the international community is that there is no justification for terrorism which must be eradicated wherever it exists.

Population Control

2705. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to draw up any scheme for achieving balance in the population of male and female in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the target for birth control has not been achieved in the country so far as has been achieved in other Asian countries;

(d) if so, the birth rate as per 1000 male and female in the country as per census 2001, State-wise *vis-a-vis* in other Asian countries;

(e) the details of funds allocated by the Government to each State during the year 2001-2002 and proposed allocation for the year 2002-2003; and

(f) the effective measures being taken by the Government to bring down the birth rate in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Several reasons are adduced to explain the consistently low levels of sex ratio in the country. Some of these reasons are:

- * Son preference;
- * Neglect of the girl child resulting in their higher mortality at younger ages;
- * High maternal mortality;
- * Female infanticide;
- * Male bias in enumeration of population;
- * Sex selective female abortions (foeticide).

As such imbalance in Male-Female population is more of a social problem. Keeping in view the factors influencing the Sex Ratio in the country the National Population Policy, 2000 envisages certain promotional and motivational measures for the benefit of Girl child as well as for reducing Maternal Mortality:

- (1) The Balika Samridhi Yojana run by the Department of Women and Child Development, to promote survival and care of the girl child, will continue. A cash incentive of Rs. 500 is awarded at the birth of the girl child of birth order 1 or 2.
- (2) Maternity Benefit Scheme run by the Department of Rural Development will continue. A cash incentive of Rs. 500 is awarded to mothers who have their first child after 19 years of age, for birth of the first or second child only. Disbursement of the cash award will in future be linked to compliance with antenatal check up, institutional delivery by trained birth attendant, registration of birth and BCG immunisation.

- (3) A Family Welfare-linked Health Insurance Plan will be established. Couples below the poverty line, who undergo sterilisation with not more than two living children would become eligible (along with children) for health insurance (for hospitalisation) not exceeding Rs. 5000, and a personal accident insurance cover for the spouse undergoing sterilisation.
- (4) Couples below the poverty line, who marry after the legal age of marriage, register the marriage, have their first child after the mother reaches the age of 21, accept the small family norm, and adopt a terminal method after birth of the second child, will be rewarded.
- (5) Increased vocational training schemes for girls, leading to self-employment will be encouraged.
- (6) Strict enforcement of Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1976.
- (7) Strict enforcement of the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 for containing the evil of female foeticide.

(c) The total Fertility Rate (TFR) of 2.1 is a pre-requisite for achieving population stabilisation and is also one of the goals to be achieved at the national level by the year 2010 mentioned in the National Population Policy, 2000. At present the TFR is 2.97 according to National Family Health Survey-II. The TFR in other Asian Countries is given in the Statement-I.

(d) The number of females per 1000 males in the country, State-wise as per Census 2001 is given in statement-II. With regard to females per 1000 males in other Asian Countries is given in Statement I.

(e) Statement giving details of grants-in-aid released to States during 2001-2002 and allocation proposed for the year 2002-2003 is enclosed as statement-III.

(f) Since the year 1997 the following major steps have been taken for bringing down the birth rate:

- * An integrated and holistic programme for Reproductive and Child Health that include Maternal Health, Child Health and Contraception issues has been launched since 1997.
- * Government has adopted a National Population Policy in February 2000, which provides for an inter-sectoral agenda to bring about population stabilisation within the country. The Policy affirms the commitment of Government towards voluntary and informed choice and consent of citizens while availing of reproductive health care services, and continuation of the target free approach in administering family planning services.
- * For strengthening the primary health care infrastructure particularly at rural level the National Population Policy, 2000 has placed the objective of meeting the unmet needs of health infrastructure, health personnel, and contraception and providing integrated service delivery for basic reproductive and child health care to be achieved on immediate basis. An effort has been made to enlist the services of private doctors and para medical staff on contract and honorarium basis to fill the gap of manpower.
- * An Empowered Action Group has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Union Health and Family Welfare Minister for focussed attention on improving the coverage and outreach of services in the eight states of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Bihar, Jharkhnd, Rajasthan, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, involving voluntary associations, community organisations and Panchayati Raj institutions in this national effort.

Statement I

Demographic Indicators of Major Asian Countries

Name of Countries	Total Population (Millions) 2001	Birth Rate females per 1000 Male	Total Fertility Rate (2000-2001)
China	1,285.0	944	1.80
Indonesia	218.8	1004	2.27
Bangladesh	140.4	953	3.56
India	1,025.5	933	2.97
Pakistan	145.0	938	5.08
Sri Lanka	19.1	N.A.	2.09

Statement II*Number of Females per 1000 Males*

Sl. No.	States	1991	2001
1	2	3	4
1.	Punjab	882	874
2.	Haryana	865	861
3.	Chandigarh	790	773
4.	Himachal Pradesh	976	970
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	N.A.	900
6.	Delhi	827	821
7.	Rajasthan	910	922
8.	Uttar Pradesh	876	898
9.	Bihar	907	921
10.	Orissa	971	972
11.	Madhya Pradesh	912	920
12.	Uttaranchal	936	964
13.	Jharkhand	922	966
14.	Chhattisgarh	985	990
15.	Sikkim	878	875
16.	Arunachal Pradesh	859	901

1	2	3	4
17.	Nagaland	886	909
18.	Manipur	958	978
19.	Mizoram	921	938
20.	Tripura	945	950
21.	Meghalaya	955	975
22.	Assam	923	932
23.	West Bengal	917	934
24.	Gujarat	934	921
25.	Daman & Diu	969	709
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	952	881
27.	Maharashtra	934	922
28.	Andhra Pradesh	972	978
29.	Karnataka	960	964
30.	Goa	967	960
31.	Lakshadweep	943	947
32.	Kerala	1036	1058
33.	Tamil Nadu	974	986
34.	Pondicherry	979	1001
35.	A&N Islands	818	846

Statement III*Allocation of Grants-in-Aid during 2001-2002*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Dir. & Admn.	Training			Rural F.W. Service			
			Trg. of ANM/LHV	H&FW Trg. Centres	Trg. of MPWs (Male)	Rural F.W. Centres	Sub-Centres	VHG Scheme	PP Prog. at sub-div. Level
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	643.00	318.00	90.00	160.00	3135.00	3450.00	52.00	430.00
2.	Bihar	699.00	285.00	67.50	-	2981.00	3725.00	10.65	222.89
3.	Chhattisgarh	249.00	80.00	24.00	64.00	1381.00	1280.00	16.00	104.87
4.	Goa	31.00	16.00	-	16.00	95.00	55.00	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5.	Gujarat	602.00	255.00	45.00	-	1875.00	3350.00	4.50	425.00
6.	Haryana	327.00	158.00	22.50	32.00	693.00	1110.00	0.41	153.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	200.00	143.00	22.50	48.00	574.00	815.00	5.42	173.00
8.	Jharkhand	330.00	127.00	23.50	-	1404.00	3155.00	5.00	131.11
9.	Karnataka	740.00	285.00	45.00	-	2008.00	3650.00	25.85	495.00
10.	Kerala	374.00	350.00	45.00	32.00	1216.00	3000.00	-	465.00
11.	Madhya Pradesh	695.00	524.00	67.50	160.00	2054.00	2550.00	30.18	500.13
12.	Maharashtra	665.00	508.00	90.00	112.00	3196.00	4800.00	56.10	536.00
13.	Orissa	226.00	270.00	45.00	48.00	2344.0	2935.00	34.61	484.00
14.	Punjab	212.00	95.00	22.50	48.00	962.00	785.00	14.41	280.00
15.	Rajasthan	755.00	476.00	45.00	32.00	1733.00	4520.00	13.98	808.00
16.	Tamil Nadu	601.00	238.00	67.50	48.00	2860.00	4280.00	-	678.00
17.	Uttar Pradesh	1100.00	730.00	157.50	-	6185.00	5852.00	115.66	1085.67
18.	Uttaranchal	18.00	80.00	-	-	590.00	1463.00	20.00	105.33
19.	West Bengal	438.00	270.00	67.50	80.00	2502.00	4485.00	63.45	428.00
	Total (Other States)	8905.00	5208.00	947.50	880.00	37788.00	55260.00	468.22	7505.00
20.	Jammu & Kashmir	275.00	127.00	22.50	-	612.00	870.00	-	45.00
	Total (J&K)	275.00	127.00	22.50	-	612.00	870.00	-	45.00
	Total (States-NEER)	9180.00	5335.00	970.00	880.00	38400.00	56130.00	468.22	7550.00
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	81.00	17.00	-	-	-	185.00	-	22.00
2.	Assam	343.00	373.00	31.00	-	2315.00	4700.00	19.00	564.00
3.	Manipur	260.00	32.00	31.00	22.00	492.00	390.00	2.54	22.00
4.	Meghalaya	75.00	32.00	31.00	-	365.00	300.00	1.95	22.00
5.	Mizoram	83.00	17.00	-	22.00	223.00	185.00	0.80	90.00
6.	Nagaland	133.00	32.00	-	-	112.00	285.00	0.82	22.00
7.	Tripura	72.00	65.00	-	-	555.00	510.00	2.76	64.00
	Total (NE States)	1047.00	568.00	93.00	44.00	4062.00	6555.00	27.87	806.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8.	Sikkim	73.00	32.00	-	-	238.00	195.00	0.35	44.00
	Total (Sikkim)	73.00	32.00	-	-	238.00	195.00	0.35	44.00
	Total (NE+Sikkim)	1120.00	600.00	93.00	44.00	4300.00	6750.00	28.22	850.00
	Total-All States	10300.00	5935.00	1063.00	924.00	42700.00	62880.00	496.44	8400.00
<i>UTs with Legislature</i>									
1.	Delhi	30.500	-	30.00	-	80.00	30.00	-	100.00
2.	Pondicherry	195.00	20.00	-	-	120.00	40.00	0.25	-
<i>UTs without Legislature</i>									
1.	A&N Islands								
2.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli								
3.	Chandigarh								
4.	Lakshadweep								
5.	Daman & Diu								
	Total-UTs	500.00	20.00	30.00	-	200.00	70.00	0.25	100.00
	Grand Total	10800.00	5955.00	1093.00	924.00	42900.00	62950.00	496.69	8500.00

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Urban F.W. Service			POL	Compen- sation	Sterili- sation Beds	Total
		Urban F.W. Centres	Revamp. of Urban F.W. Services	PP at Distt. Level				
1	2	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1.	Andhra Pradesh	302.00	-	311.00	112.18	1776.00	13.80	10792.98
2.	Bihar	85.15	-	258.59	100.67	505.00	2.29	8942.74
3.	Chhattisgarh	29.55	72.47	67.84	34.22	269.00	0.29	3572.24
4.	Goa	-	-	44.00	4.71	13.00	-	274.71
5.	Gujarat	354.00	114.54	330.00	75.92	615.00	16.03	8061.99
6.	Haryana	48.00	50.04	112.00	30.59	223.30	3.18	2963.02
7.	Himachal Pradesh	102.00	-	100.00	27.46	71.40	-	2281.78

1	2	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8.	Jharkhand	42.85	—	89.41	50.34	238.00	1.46	5597.67
9.	Karnataka	280.00	—	425.00	82.37	987.00	10.34	9033.56
10.	Kerala	—	—	242.00	54.58	355.00	5.35	6138.93
11.	Madhya Pradesh	175.45	272.26	387.16	102.67	759.00	2.02	8279.37
12.	Maharashtra	205.00	1206.55	572.00	122.97	1246.00	33.43	13349.05
13.	Orissa	34.00	38.93	187.00	84.33	223.30	—	6954.17
14.	Punjab	74.00	260.21	210.00	41.97	316.30	0.44	3321.83
15.	Rajasthan	157.00	160.13	345.00	84.14	493.50	1.25	9624.00
16.	Tamil Nadu	122.00	449.25	390.00	107.28	916.70	24.47	10782.20
17.	Uttar Pradesh	320.58	706.82	717.93	201.77	992.40	4.06	18169.39
18.	Uttaranchal	12.42	43.80	67.07	50.44	184.30	—	2634.36
19.	West Bengal	379.00	—	385.00	90.61	641.30	11.00	9840.86
	Total (Other States)	2723.00	3375.00	5241.00	1459.22	10825.50	129.41	140714.85
20.	Jammu & Kashmir	22.00	—	109.00	26.28	24.50	0.59	2133.87
	Total (J&K)	22.00	—	109.00	26.28	24.50	0.59	2133.87
	Total (States-NER)	2745.00	3375.00	5350.00	1485.50	10850.00	130.00	142848.72
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	82.00	—	—	1.60	29.90	—	418.50
2.	Assam	100.00	—	306.00	49.66	934.00	0.50	9735.16
3.	Manipur	35.00	—	112.00	11.11	18.68	—	1428.33
4.	Meghalaya	21.00	—	82.00	9.52	46.71	0.18	986.36
5.	Mizoram	21.00	—	55.00	6.12	93.42	0.32	796.66
6.	Nagaland	—	—	26.00	7.71	24.28	—	642.81
7.	Tripura	70.00	—	43.00	8.84	70.32	—	1460.92
	Total (NE States)	329.00	—	624.00	94.56	1217.31	1.00	15468.74
8.	Sikkim	21.00	—	26.00	5.44	32.69	—	667.48
	Total (Sikkim)	21.00	—	26.00	5.44	32.69	—	667.48
	Total (NE+Sikkim)	350.00	—	650.00	100.00	1250.00	1.00	16136.22
	Total-All States	3095.00	3375.00	6000.00	1585.50	12100.00	131.00	158984.94

1	2	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<i>UTs with Legislature</i>								
1.	Delhi	350.00	200.00	160.00	5.88	174.80	5.00	1440.68
2.	Pondicherry	-	-	40.00	3.92	25.20	-	444.37
<i>UTs without Legislature</i>								
1.	A&N Islands							
2.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli							
3.	Chandigarh							
4.	Lakshadweep							
5.	Daman & Diu							
Total-UTs		350.00	200.00	200.00	9.80	200.00	5.00	1885.05
Grand Total		3445.00	3575.00	6200.00	1595.30	12300.00	136.00	160869.99

Scheme-wise Details of Outlay as Approved by Planning Commission

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	Approved Outlay A. Plan 2002-03			Outlay for North-East
		DBS	EAP	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6
	INFRASTRUCTURE	2444.70	335.50	2780.20	253.32
1.	Rural Family Welfare Centres		To be transferred to States		
2.	Sub-Centres	1809.00		1809.00	180.90
3.	Urban FW Services	122.00		122.0	12.20
	(a) Urban Family Welfare Centres	64.00		64.00	6.40
	(b) Urban Revamping Scheme (Health Posts)	58.00		58.00	5.80
4.	Direction & Administration	200.00		200.00	20.00
5.	Post Partum Centres				
	(a) At District Level		To be transferred to States		
	(b) At Sub-district Level				
6.	Village Health Guides Scheme		To be transferred to States		
7.	Logistics Improvement	10.00		10.00	1.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Contractual Services/Consultancies	162.00		162.00	13.72
	ANM (Part of Sub-Centres)	100.00		100.00	10.00
	Additional ANMs/PHNs/Lab. Technicians	50.00		50.00	3.00
	SM Consultant	5.00		5.00	0.30
	Aneasthetist	1.00		1.00	0.06
	Other Exp. (State/National level Consultants/Contingency)	6.00		6.00	0.36
9.	Arrears		To be weeded & provision be kept in res. Schemes		
10.	Area Development Programmes	28.70	56.10	84.80	1.00
	Area Projects (IPP Projects)	18.70	56.10	74.80	
	Social Marketing Area Projects	10.00		10.00	1.00
11.	USAID Assisted Area Project		59.40	59.40	
12.	Other Ext. Aided Infr. Dev. Projects				
13.	EC Assisted SIP Project		220.00	220.00	13.20
14.	Transport	113.00		113.00	11.30
	Maintenance of vehicle already available	98.00		98.00	9.80
	Supply of Mopeds to ANMs	15.00		15.00	1.50
	Training	99.60		99.60	9.30
15.	Basic Training for ANM/LHVs	67.00		67.00	6.70
16.	Maintenance & Strengthening of HFWTCs	14.00		14.00	1.40
17.	Basic Training for MPWs Worker (Male)	10.00		10.00	1.00
18.	Strengthening of Basic Training Schools	2.00		2.00	0.20
19.	F.W. Training and Res. Centre, Bombay	1.50		1.50	
20.	NIHFW, New Delhi	3.15		3.15	
21.	IIPS, Mumbai	1.70		1.70	
22.	Assistance to I.M.A.	0.25		0.25	
	RESEARCH	30.30		30.30	0.30

1	2	3	4	5	6
23.	Population Research Centres	8.00		8.00	0.30
24.	CDRI, Lucknow	2.30		2.30	
25.	ICMR and IRR	20.00		20.00	
26.	Other Research Projects				
	CONTRACEPTION	483.50		483.50	48.30
	Supply of Contraceptives, equipments and drugs				
27.	Free distribution of contraceptives	184.50		184.00	18.40
	Conventional Contraceptives	138.00		138.00	13.80
	Oral Contraceptives	24.00		24.00	2.40
	IUD	22.00		22.00	2.20
	New Methods				
28.	Social marketing of contraceptives	115.00		115.00	11.50
	Conventional Contraceptives	95.00		95.00	9.50
	Oral Contraceptives	20.00		20.00	2.00
29.	Sterilization	180.00		180.00	18.05
	Sterilization Beds	2.00		2.00	0.20
	Sterilisation and IUD insertion	160.00		160.00	16.00
	Supply/Procurement of Laparoscopes	18.00		18.00	1.80
	Recanalization	0.50		0.50	0.05
30.	Testing Facilities	0.50		0.50	
31.	Role of Men in Planned Parenthood	3.50		3.50	0.35
	No Scalpel Vasectomy	1.50		1.50	0.15
	Other Innovative Schemes (Male Participation)	2.00		2.00	0.20
	REPRODUCTIVE & CHILD HEALTH	614.80	569.40	1184.20	74.35
32.	Immunisation	167.00	59.00	226.00	13.56
	Procurement of Vaccines for Routine Immunisation	150.00		150.00	9.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Cold Chain	17.00	44.00	61.00	3.66
	(a) Cold Chain Maintenance	6.00		6.00	0.36
	(b) Cold Chain Equipment	11.00	44.00	55.00	3.30
	Surveillance against VPDs		Extra-Budgetary-WHO		
	Other Vaccines (Hepatitis B)		15.00	15.00	0.90
33.	Routine Immunisation Strengthening		10.00	10.00	0.60
34.	Pulse Polio	15.00	385.00	400.00	24.00
	(a) OPV	10.00	230.00	240.00	14.40
	(b) Operating cost	5.00	155.00	160.00	9.60
35.	Child Health	1.00		1.00	0.60
	Essential New Born care (Home based neonatal care)	1.00		1.00	0.60
	Diarheal Diseases—Prevention/Treatment				
	ARI—Prevention/Treatment				
36.	NUTRITION				
	Vitamin-A Programme				
37.	Adolescent Health	3.00		3.00	
38.	Maternal Health	245.00	8.60	254.00	15.24
	Ante-natal care				
	Nutritional Anaemia (Anaemia Control & De-worming)	1.00		1.00	0.06
	Home Delivery Care	5.40	8.60	14.00	0.84
	(a) Community based midwives	0.60	1.40	2.00	0.12
	(b) Dais Training	4.80	7.20	12.00	0.72
	Dais Kits (Drugs, Kits & Equipments)	234.00		234.00	14.04
	(a) Drug Kits/FRU Drugs/PHC Drugs/RTI Drugs	115.00		115.00	6.90
	(b) MTP/RTI/STI Equipment/Kit/IUD Kit	90.00		90.00	5.40
	(c) Equipment for Blood Storage & Lab. Equipment	1.00		1.00	0.06

1	2	3	4	5	6
	(d) Needles & Syringes	20.00		20.00	1.20
	(e) Neo-Natal Equipment	8.00		8.00	0.48
	Promoting Institutional Deliveries	5.00		5.00	0.30
	(a) 24 Hour Delivery	3.00		3.00	0.18
	(b) Operationalising FRUs for Emergency Obs. & NN Care	2.00		2.00	0.12
39.	MTP Services (Manual Vac. Aspirator for safe abortion)	1.20		1.20	0.07
40.	RTI/STI prevention and management	2.00		2.00	0.12
41.	Maternity Benefits Scheme	90.00		90.00	9.00
42.	Other RCH Interventions and services	90.20	31.80	122.00	7.20
	Referral Transport	0.20	1.80	2.00	0.12
	Out reach Services	8.00	12.00	20.00	1.20
	RCH Camps	6.00	9.00	15.00	0.90
	Civil Works	60.00		60.00	3.60
	Research (In RCH Activities)	8.00		8.00	0.48
	MIS	6.00	9.00	15.00	0.90
	Expdt. At Headquarters	2.00		2.00	
43.	NGOs and SCOVA		22.00	22.00	1.32
44.	Training		53.00	53.00	3.18
	RCH Training		50.00	50.00	3.00
	Training of ISM&H		1.00	1.00	0.06
	Training of AWW		2.00	2.00	0.12
	SPECIAL PROJECTS	35.00	45.00	80.00	5.00
45.	Tribal Projects		Included under SIP		
46.	Urban Slums Projects	5.00		5.00	0.30
47.	District Projects	30.00	45.00	75.00	4.70
48.	Other Projects				

1	2	3	4	5	6
49.	Information, Education and Communication	84.70		84.70	5.23
	Non-RCH	53.70		53.70	3.37
	RCH	31.00		31.00	1.86
50.	Travel of Experts/Conferences/Meetings etc.	1.50		1.50	
51.	International Contribution	1.70		1.70	
52.	Empowered Action Group	50.00		50.00	
53.	Other Schemes	128.00		128.00	12.80
	Community Incentive Scheme	60.00		60.00	6.00
	Family Welfare Link Health Insurance Plan	50.00		50.00	5.00
	Policy Advocacy/Seminars	3.00		3.00	0.30
	Legal Age Benefit Scheme	14.80		14.80	1.50
	Revolving Fund for Income-generating Activities Scheme	0.10		0.10	
	Soft Loans to run Ambulance Services Scheme	0.10		0.10	
54.	Str. of RFWCs under Nat. Human Dev. initiative				Scheme dropped
55.	Other Offices under Direction & Administration				To be dropped
56.	Hindustan Latex Limited				Scheme dropped
57.	Family Welfare Counsellor Scheme				Scheme dropped
58.	School Health Scheme				Scheme dropped
59.	New Initiatives in the Tenth Plan	6.20	0.10	6.30	0.40
	Strengthening MIS through CNAA	2.00		2.00	
	Strengthening of Primary Health Care Infrastructure				
	Implementation of PNDT Act	4.00		4.00	0.40
	Additional RCH Activities	0.20	0.10	0.30	
	(a) Training Prog. For Doctors for providing Anaesthesia		0.10	0.10	
	(b) Micronutrient & Metabolic disorders—Women & Child	0.10		0.10	
	(c) School Health Programme	0.10		0.10	
	GRAND TOTAL	3980.00	950.00	4930.00	409.00

*[Translation]***Computerised Blood Banks**

2706. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether first computerized blood bank of the country has been established in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total cost for establishing this blood bank;

(d) whether the Government have any plan to establish such blood banks in other parts of the country also; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) No, Sir. There are many blood banks in Delhi and in the rest of the country which have some aspects of their operations Computerised for their more efficient functioning.

*[English]***CGHS Dispensaries in NCR**

2707. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the Central Government employees have opted for private medical attendant/hospitals due to non-availability to CGHS dispensaries in NCR of Delhi particularly in Ghaziabad, Gurgaon and Faridabad;

(b) if so, the total number of requests received by Government from CGHS beneficiaries for authorization of private medical attendant in these towns;

(c) the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to set up CGHS dispensary in these towns; and

(e) if so, the details and steps taken or being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) CGHS dispensaries are already functioning in the cities of Ghaziabad, Gurgaon and Faridabad where CGHS beneficiaries are given OPD treatment etc. In addition to this, private hospitals have been recognised under CGHS where the beneficiaries can get various medical procedures/investigations/tests etc. after following the prescribed procedure.

As the CGHS beneficiaries can get treatment through CGHS dispensaries, the question of authorising private medical attendants under CGHS does not arise. As stated above, CGHS dispensaries are already functioning in Ghaziabad, Gurgaon and Faridabad.

(d) and (e) Keeping in view constraints of manpower and resources, it is not possible to open more CGHS dispensaries in Ghaziabad, Gurgaon and Faridabad at present.

*[Translation]***Proposal of New Highways**

2708. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new National Highways proposed to be constructed by the Union Government during the year 2002-2003;

(b) the areas to be covered by the above said highways;

(c) whether new highways are proposed to be constructed in Bihar State during the current financial year;

(d) if so, the locations thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (e) The proposals relating to declaration of new National Highway in the country including those in Bihar would be considered after the finalisation of the 10th Five Year Plan and availability of funds keeping in view the traffic needs and inter-se priority and therefore no details can be given at this stage.

*[English]***Surveillance Network**

2709. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
 SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
 SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
 SHRI T.T.V. DHANAKARAN:
 SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
 SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal to set up an integrated disease surveillance network in all districts of the country in the Tenth Five Year Plan;

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

(c) whether the State Governments have also been consulted in this regard;

(d) if so, the suggestions made by them;

(e) the time by which it will start functioning in all the districts; and

(f) the funds earmarked for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The National Programme for Surveillance of Communicable Diseases is already under operation in 80 districts, on a pilot basis, during the Ninth Five Year Plan. A review of the programme indicated that in the districts in which it has been made fully operational, there is definite improvement in the capacity for early detection of outbreaks and for a structured response on a time bound basis. Keeping in view the immense utility and necessity of the scheme, it is proposed to expand the programme to the entire country during the 10th Plan which is under finalisation. The programme shall focus on and closely monitor communicable diseases having outbreak potential. Besides, some important non-communicable diseases and related risk factors are also proposed to be taken upon under the programme.

(c) and (d) Consultative meeting followed by workshops were organised with State Governments to prepare a concept plan for the Integrated Disease surveillance Programme and work out the implementation strategies. Useful suggestions regarding diseases to be covered, monitoring mechanism, role of Centre and State

agencies, private practitioners, NGOs, community participation, etc. were received and appropriately utilised to evolve the project implementation plan.

(e) and (f) The programme shall be extended in a phased manner so as to cover all the districts by the end of 10th Plan. A plan outlay of Rs. 10 crore has been earmarked for this purpose during 2002-03.

*[Translation]***Indo-Russia Agreement in Nuclear Power Sector**

2710. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
 DR. ASHOK PATEL:
 SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:
 SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nuclear Power Corporation of India recently signed an agreement with the Russian firm ATOMSTROYEXPORT regarding supply of materials/equipment to atomic power plants in the country and vice-versa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the atomic power plants which will receive Russian equipment and materials;

(d) the cost thereof; and

(e) the time by which the plants are likely to generate and supply electricity?

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) The agreement is for the supply of equipment for a nuclear power project (2 x 1000 MWe) being set up at Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu in cooperation with the Russian Federation.

(c) The project is called the Kudankulam Atomic Power Project (Units 1 & 2).

(d) the sanctioned cost of the project, including Indian portion of works, is Rs. 13,171 crore.

(e) The targeted date of completion of the project is December 2007 for Unit-1 and December 2008 for Unit-2.

Blood Charges

2711. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued directives to all the Government and voluntary blood banks and hospitals to charge Rs. 250 per unit in lieu of providing blood to the patients;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to provide this facility free of cost to the poor patients and the patients suffering from Thalassaemia and haemophilia who frequently require blood as a life saving measure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. Costing guidelines have been issued, so that those blood banks who would want to recover a part of their processing charges in supplying blood units can use the guidelines.

(b) For handling of blood including its mandatory testing for transfusion transmitted diseases before it is issued by blood banks, some expenditure is incurred. This expenditure has been estimated to be about Rs. 500 (without including cost of testing of HCV which has subsequently been made mandatory).

(c) In most states, government blood banks do not charge the service charges from poor patients. In case of patients suffering from Thalassaemia and Haemophilia, the guidelines encourage free supply of blood/blood products to them.

[English]

Introduction of Vessels

2712. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce vessels in the existing waterways from Kolkata to Guwahati, Kolkata to Allahabad and Cochin;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government for setting up of several jetties for a greater Cargo and passenger movement; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Inland vessels are already plying in the existing national waterways from Kolkata to Guwahati, Kolkata to Allahabad, and Kochi. Government have recently approved an inland vessel building subsidy scheme aimed at increasing the inland vessels operation in national waterways.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. There are 15 jetties to facilitate cargo and passenger movement in 3 National Waterways. The proposal for setting up permanent terminals at Gaighat, Patna has been approved by the Government. Similar approval for setting up of permanent Terminal at Pandu, Guwahati is in state of finalization. Work is also under progress for construction of 11 terminals in National Waterway No. 3.

Research by ICMR

2713. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ICMR have undertaken any indepth study of medical research during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The ICMR recently conducted a study to map Indian contributions in bio-medical sciences based on research papers published in various journals and indexed in three databases viz. Index Medicus, Excerpta Medica and Tropical Diseases Bulletin of 1990 and 1994. The details of contributions made by Indian institutions in the field of bio-medical research have been given by ICMR in an article published in the Information Today and Tomorrow Vol. 19, No. 1, 2000.

Telephone Adalats

2714. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telephone Adalats are being held throughout the country every three months to resolve subscribers' grievances, but details regarding number of cases settled/pending, nature of grievances etc. are not being maintained centrally;

(b) if so, the reasons for not monitoring the performance/achievement of Telephone Adalats; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Generally Telephone Adalats are being held in all the Telecom circles of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) every three months at Telecom circle Head's level and every two months at Telecom District Heads' level to resolve subscribers' grievances. Details regarding number of cases settled/pending, nature of grievances etc. are being maintained centrally.

In Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), Telephone Adalats were held quarterly in Mumbai and Delhi. The details regarding number of cases settled/pending, nature of grievances etc. are being maintained centrally.

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

Telecom Services

2715. SHRI Y.V. RAO:

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

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

(a) whether the telecom services in the country has not reached the level of world class quality and are still not affordable to common people;

(b) if so, where the tariffs on telephone services in the country are also very high;

(c) if so, the reasons for the same; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) Sir, The Telecom

Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) which also monitors quality of service for various telecom services has notified Quality of Service (QoS) Regulation for both basic and mobile services setting world class bench marks against which the performance of service providers are monitored. The Authority has observed significant improvements in the performance of various network services due to introduction of state of art technologies as well as competition among service providers.

The long distance tariffs was earlier subsidizing rental and local call charges. The Telecommunication Tariff Order (TTO), 1999 notified by TRAI did rebalancing to align tariffs and specified a phased implementation, which led to a decline of about 35% in STD/ISD tariffs. The process of tariff re-balancing as envisaged by TTO, 1999 has been completed with the notification of the third tranche tariffs on the 14th March, 2002.

With the opening of the market for basic and NLD services to unlimited competition, there has been a further decline ranging between 50 to 63% in these tariffs, narrowing the gap between tariffs in India and the developed countries. A similar trend of tariff decline might be observable when competition arrives in the ILD sector which has also been opened to unlimited competition from April 1, 2002.

With regard to comparison of Indian tariffs with other countries, such comparison can be done on a rate by rate basis or by using a basket approach, which stimulates a typical user pattern over a period of time. Comparison is however difficult because of the many rates in the tariff scheme, varying exchange rates and differences in purchasing power across countries.

Regional Postal Training Centre

2716. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open more Regional Postal Training Centres in the country;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No.

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

Homoeopathy Discipline of Medicines

2717. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent and level of integration in health care delivery and medical education permitted/available in various countries between Allopathic and Homoeopathic disciplines of medicines;

(b) the extent to which such integration is permitted in the country; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make Homoeopathy as a first line of treatment in health care delivery because of its safety efficacy and economically?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The Government have no information on the extent and level of integration. However, it is understood that some countries are conducting Homoeopathy courses for allopathic doctors.

(b) A course capsule on ISM & H containing the principles and concepts has been sent to Medical Council of India for incorporating in the course curriculum of modern physicians. The State Governments have been advised to post ISM & H physicians in the Primary Health Centres and District Hospitals. It has also been suggested that the practitioners of ISM & H should be involved in national programmes.

(c) There are 297 homoeopathy hospitals having bed strength of 14,477 and 7437 dispensaries in the country. The Central Government is proposing to draw up schemes for providing home remedy kits in the rural areas, assist hospitals to start ISM & H treatment and open ISM&H wings in the District Hospitals.

Decommission of Atomic Power Plants

2718. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to decommission some Atomic Power Plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) 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) There are fourteen operating nuclear power reactors in the Country. There is no plan, as of now, to take up decommissioning in any of the Units in the near future. The approach, in regard to the older plants, is plant life extension through Renovation and Modernisation programme.

Modernisation of Telephone Exchanges

2719. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plan for the modernization of telephone exchanges in Kerala is under consideration of the Government;

(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 (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There are 1032 telephone exchanges in Kerala and all of them are modern digital exchanges.

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

Scandal in Local Purchase of Medicine

2720. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is great scandal in the local purchase of medicines for the CGHS dispensaries and majority of the medicines are purchased from the locally appointed chemists;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received during the last three years in this regard; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

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

Industries Financed by KVIC

2721. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industries financed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in Orissa during last three years;

(b) whether all these industries are functioning; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to locate the missing institutions?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) The number of industries financed by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) under Rural Employment Generation Programme in Orissa during the last three years are given below:

Year	No. of projects financed
1998-1999	352
1999-2000	297
2000-2001	199

(b) and (c) The KVIC provides one time financial assistance in the form of margin money for setting up of such village industries. While sanctioning loans under the REGP, the commercial banks examine the feasibility and viability of such projects and keep close watch on functioning of such industries to monitor their proper working and repayment of loans. The Government, however, does not maintain any data on the functioning of such industries.

MTNL Trump Pre-Paid Mobile Service

2722. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI:

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

SHRI CHADRESH PATEL:

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:

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

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has launched a Trump pre-paid mobile services from January 15, 2002 in Delhi and Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether its lower tariff set by MTNL has been welcomed by public in both Delhi and Mumbai;

(c) whether this has forced the private companies to reduce the tariff;

(d) the extent to which the MTNL has achieved success in this regard;

(e) whether there is any proposal to reduce the monthly rent and the pulse rate from three minutes to two minutes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) MTNL has launched its 'Trump' pre-paid mobile service from 14th January, 2002 in Delhi and Mumbai.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The 'Trump' pre-paid service of MTNL, has so far raised a customer base of 17000 in Delhi and 10096 in Mumbai since its launch on 14th January, 2002.

(e) No, Sir.

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

Talks with Pak Foreign Minister

2723. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistan Foreign Minister held any talks on security environment in South Asian Subcontinent with the National Security Adviser of India in February 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) National Security Adviser, Shri Brajesh Mishra attended

the Munich Conference on Security Policy (1-3 February) this year. In an address to the conference, National Security Adviser covered issues pertaining to international and regional security including the issue of cross border terrorism. National Security Adviser also had informal interactions on issues related to Security Policy, including the regional security environment, with other delegates attending the conference, including the Foreign Minister of Pakistan.

[Translation]

Meeting with U.S. Army Chief

2724. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had a meeting with the U.S. Chief of Army Staff on February 18, 2002 in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held with him; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

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

(b) and (c) The Chairman of U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Richard B. Myers, visited India on 17-18 February 2002 at the invitation of the Chairman of the Chief of Staffs Committee. General Myers also called on the Minister of External Affairs. They discussed bilateral relations, particularly India-U.S. defence cooperation and regional and international security issues of mutual concern. They agreed that India and the United States have many common security interests in Asia and beyond and expressed support for stronger and mutually beneficial India-U.S. defence cooperation.

[English]

Weather Monitoring Radar

2725. SHRI Y.S. VEVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has developed a new weather monitoring radar that will meet the meteorological needs of the new millennium;

(b) if so, whether this new class of radar would provide precise warnings, enhancing the lead time

available for saving lives and property in the event of natural disasters associated with severe weather;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to become operational?

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) This new class of radar will provide information on parameters such as wind structure, potential rainy regions, cloud structure etc., which are useful in providing warnings on severe weather conditions such as, tropical cyclones. The radar can estimate rainfall intensity, rainfall accumulation and track a tropical cyclone over a distance of about 300 to 350 Kms.

(d) The system is likely to become operational by end of year 2002.

New Subsidy Scheme

2726. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a new subsidy scheme for inland water transport sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide infrastructural facilities in three national waterways;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) the fund allocated by IWAI in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With an aim to reduce capital burden on prospective Inland Water Transport (IWT) entrepreneur, thereby enhancing their profitability and making IWT tariff competitive, an Inland Vessel Building Subsidy Scheme has recently been approved by the Government. The Scheme will come into effect from 1.4.2002 and remain in force for a period of 5 years. The Inland Vessel Building

Subsidy Scheme would be applicable to both cargo & passenger inland Vessels meant for operation on National Waterways. The subsidy will be available only for vessels acquired by an Indian inland water transport entrepreneur from a shipyard in India. The subsidy payable under this scheme would be equal to 30% of the ex-factory price of the inland vessel.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) There waterways namely the Ganga from Haldia to Allahabad, the Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya and West Coast Canal from Kottapuram to Kollam along with Udyogmandal and Champakkara canals have been declared as national waterways. Provision of infrastructure such as navigational channels, terminals at select locations and navigational aids form part of the development schemes for the national waterways.

(e) Funds for development of national waterways are provided to Inland Waterways Authority of India by the Government. During 2001-02, IWAI was allocated Rs. 34.23 crore for development of National Waterways.

[*Translation*]

Entry of Foreign Pharmaceutical Companies

2727. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have given permission to the foreign companies to set up fully owned units in India in the pharmaceutical sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the domestic pharmaceutical companies will be effected owing to their entry in the market; and

(d) if so, the extent of the impact?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the extant FDI policy, FDI up to 100% is permitted under the automatic route in Drugs and Pharmaceuticals sector provided the activity does not attract compulsory licensing or use of recombinant DNA technology and specific cell tissue targeted formulations. FDI up to 100% in Drugs and Pharmaceuticals involving compulsory licensing or use of recombinant DNA technology and specific cell tissue targeted formulations is permitted under Government FIPB route.

(c) and (d) The advantage of FDI lies not only in supplementing domestic investments efforts by way of capital infusion but also in the infusion of state-of-the-art technologies and best global practices, which enhance the international competitiveness of the domestic industry.

[*English*]

Funds to Tamil Nadu for Agro-Rural Industries Development

2728. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAR: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allocated additional funds to Tamil Nadu for setting up of more Agro and Rural Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to develop Agro and Rural Industries in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) and (b) The Government does not release funds directly to State Governments for setting up of Agro and Rural Industries. The Government provides funds to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) for the promotion and development of such industries.

(c) The Government through Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) throughout the country including the State of Tamil Nadu. Under this Scheme the KVIC provides margin money assistance at the rate of 25% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs and for the project above Rs. 10 lakhs and upto Rs. 25 lakhs rate of margin money is 25% of Rs. 10 lakhs plus 10% on remaining cost of the project. In the case of weaker sections viz. SC/ST/OBC/Women/Physically Handicapped/Exservicemen and Minority Community beneficiary/institution and for hill border and tribal areas, North Eastern Region, Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Island, Lakshadweep, the margin money grant is 30% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs.

Under the Scheme, the beneficiary is required to contribute 10% of the project cost. In case of SC/ST and other weaker sections, beneficiary's contribution is 5% of the project cost. This scheme is being implemented through Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks and on selective basis through Cooperative Banks and Private sector Scheduled Commercial Banks. Balance funds for the projects are provided by banks in the form of term loan.

Agreement with foreign countries for Development of Telecom Facilities

2729. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any collaboration agreements have been signed with any foreign country for the development of the telecom facilities in the country during the last three years; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Haj Pilgrimage by Sea

2730. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether any request has been received for allowing Haj pilgrimage through sea-route;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Haj Committee, Mumbai, had received a representation through the Tamil Nadu State Haj Committee Requesting Haj pilgrimage by sea.

(c) For logistic reasons, it was not possible to accede to this request.

Bids for BSNL

2731. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that Chinese firms are going to acquire bid for BSNL network in India as reported in the 'Statesman' dated February 7, 2002;

(b) if so the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether such acts are going to pose security threat to the nation;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to investigate such investments and bids by Chinese firms; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR):(a) and (b) Sir, the news item referred in the question refers to tender issued by BSNL for Dense Wavelength Division Multiplex (DWDM) equipment. Only Indian companies were eligible to participate in the tender for procurement of DWDM equipment, opened on 19/7/2001. Eleven Indian companies participated in this tender, of which four companies offered their equipment with Chinese technology.

(c) to (e) DWDM equipment is envisaged to have Network Management System (NMS). The software of this has built in security and only authorized staff is given password for operation. This NMS is not connected to Public Switched Network and therefore it is not possible to remotely Jam the network or access it for any information.

Further, The tender for procurement of DWDM equipment has not yet been finalized and all aspects including security angle will be taken into account while taking the decision.

Application Software for Transit Mail Offices

2732. SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Application Software supplied to Transit Mail Offices are not working satisfactorily and the Computers are lying idle;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the expenditure incurred by the Government on this account till march 2000;

(d) whether any action has been initiated by the Government against those erring officials involved in creating such a huge loss to the exchequer;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The application software supplied to the Transit Mail Offices developed snags. Consequently, this has been reviewed, modified and is in the process of stabilisation.

(c) The Government has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 1,88,75,570.00 till March 2000 on Computerisation of Transit Mail Offices.

(d) to (f) Does not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.

Deadweight Tonnage Incentive Scheme

2733. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether deadweight tonnage incentive scheme is being implemented at various Ports in the county;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Indian Ports Association has brought this issue to the attention of the Government;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Deadweight tonnage incentive scheme is being implemented only at Jawaharlal Nehru, Chennai and Cochin major ports for handling large/over designated deadweight vessels.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Siphoning of Funds

2734. SHRI ARUN KUMAR:
COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation has carried out a surprise check in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) to verify allegations of mass siphoning of funds;

(b) if so, whether any report in this regard was submitted by the CBI;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the action taken against those held responsible; and

(e) the steps being taken to check such frauds in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. a surprise check was conducted in H.L.A. Laboratory, AIIMS by the Central Bureau to investigation/anti Corruption Branch, Delhi on 3.1.2002 in order to verify a reliable information that the testing charges collected from the patients are not being properly accounted and remitted to the cash/account department of AIIMS. No Report from the CBI/ACB Delhi has been received so far.

[Translation]

Mumbai Pune Express Highway

2735. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for extending the Mumbai-Pune Express Highway to connect Rehuroad and Talegaon;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government for ensuring smooth road transport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) No, Sir. Mumbai pune Expressway is not a national Highway. This Ministry is responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

*[English]***Conversion of STD/PCO Booths into Cyber Cafe**

2736. SHRI G. MALLIKARJNAPPA:
 SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
 SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:
 SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether the Government have any plan to convert PCOs/STD booths in the country into cyber cafe as part of its programme to provide universal access with Internet telephone;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which it would further reduce the STD/ISD rates;

(c) the time by which it would come into effect;

(d) whether the Government propose to take the benefits of e-commerce and e-governance to rural areas; and

(e) if so, the extent to which the same has been achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) The Government has decided to open up internet telephony from 1st April, 2002. The telecom operators have now to take action for implementation of the policy. The impact of internet telephony on STD/ISD rates will be known once the internet telephony is implemented and finally will be decided by the competition in due course of time.

(d) and (e) E-commerce and E-governance are some of the application of internet technology. Public in rural areas may take benefit of the technology through internet access as available.

Outstanding Issues Between India and Bangladesh

2737. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agreement signed in 1990-91 between India and Bangladesh on the question of illegal migrants is still in force;

(b) if so, the details of its implementation; and

(c) the steps taken for resolving the outstanding issues between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) The Government of India has been taking up the issue of illegal migrants from Bangladesh regularly at various meetings. At the first India-Bangladesh Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting held in New Delhi from March 29-31, 1994 it was agreed to revive the ground arrangements of 1991 between the BSF and the Bangladesh Rifles to deal with the cases of illegal cross border movement. These arrangements were amended during the second Joint Working Group meeting held in Dhaka from April 19-21, 1995 and provide for the return of persons under various specified circumstances. During the Home Secretary-level talks held in New Delhi in April 2000 and Foreign Secretary-level talks between India and Bangladesh held in Delhi in December 2000, and the Director General level meeting between the BSF and the Bangladesh Rifles in Delhi in March 28 to April 01, 2001, this issue has been discussed. Both sides agreed to adhere to the specific procedures agreed upon during the second JWG meeting. As friendly neighbours, both countries are committed to resolving all outstanding issues through dialogue.

Poverty Level

2738. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
 SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have achieved the aim of downsizing the level of poverty in the country;

(b) if so, the extent to which the poverty level has been downsized in the nineties;

(c) whether the progress of downsizing the poverty level has been much slow;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to change the existing method of estimating the poverty level;

(f) if so, the criteria proposed to be adopted in this regard;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the specific programmes made by the Government to reduce the poverty level in the rural areas in particular and in the entire country in general?

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 (d) The planning commission estimates the percentage and number of persons living below the poverty line at national and state level from the large sample survey on consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The two latest such surveys were conducted in 1993-94 (NSS 50th Round) and 1999-2000 (NSS 55th Round). The number of persons living below the poverty line calculated from 50th Round large sample survey on consumer expenditure conducted by the NSSO in 1993-94 was 320.4 million, which is 35.97 per cent of the total population. The data from the latest large survey of the 55th Round indicate the number of persons living below the poverty line in the country in 1999-2000 as 260 260.25 million, which is 26.10 per cent of the total population.

(e) to (g) There is no proposal to change the method of estimation of poverty level at the moment since it is based on the recommendations of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor, which comprised of the leading experts in the country.

(h) There is a three-pronged action to alleviate and reduce the poverty in the country. These are: (i) acceleration of economic growth, (ii) human, and social development through literacy, education, health, nutrition, meeting of the minimum needs, elevation of social and economic status of the weaker sections of the society, etc., and (iii) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generating programmes and assets-building for the poor.

The increase in income of the people living below the poverty line occur from the joint impact of general growth process and direct income generation of the poor arising from various anti-poverty programmes introduced from time to time by the government for their upliftment. Since the Sixth Five Year Plan (1980-85), the government has been implementing employment and asset generation schemes for the upliftment of the people living below the poverty line. These schemes are mainly of two types, self-employment and wage employment. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) has been the major self-employment programme and it has been in operation in all the blocks of the country since 1980. The wage

employment programme initially was national Rural Employment Programme (NREP) during the Sixth plan period. In the Seventh Plan, another wage employment programme under the name Rural Labour Employment guarantee Programme (RLEGP) was introduced. Then in 1989, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) was launched by merging the National Programme, and it became the main wage-employment programme. In addition, several programmes to help the poor were also in operation until March, 1999. These programmes are: Million Wells Scheme (MWS), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM), Supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans (SITRA).

From 1st April, 1999, these programmes, excepting EAS and JRY have been restructured into single self-employment programme called the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) with the primary objectives of focussed approach to poverty alleviation, capitalising advantages of group lending, and overcoming the problems associated with multiplicity of programmes. Also, from 1st April, 1999, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) has been restructured as Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) with the primary objective of creation of demand driven community village infrastructure including durable assets at the village level and assets to enable the rural poor to increase the opportunities for sustained employment. Its secondary objective is generation of supplementary employment for the unemployed poor in the rural areas. The wage employment under the programme is given to Below Poverty lines (BPL) families.

The Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) announced by the Prime Minister on 15.8.2001 was launched in September 2001. The scheme focuses on generation of wage employment, creation of durable rural assets and infrastructure and provision of food security to the rural poor. The scheme of JGSY and EAS have been brought under the purview of this mega scheme. The SGRY will be a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) implemented on cost sharing basis between Centre and States in the ratio of 75.25 of the cash component of the programme.

[Translation]

Popularisation of Ayurveda at International Level

2739. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are making efforts to popularize the Ayurveda and ayurvedic medicines at international level;

(b) whether several countries have requested export of Ayurvedic medicines and have also invited our ayurvedic experts to their countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the efforts being made by the Government to accord the international status to Ayurveda?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) From the statistics compiled by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Kolkata, export of drugs of Indian System has been reported of the order of Rs. 221.51 crores during 2000-2001.

The Govt. has received demand for experts in Indian System of Medicine, particularly for ayurveda from various countries, namely, United States of America, United Kingdom, South Africa, Hungary and Russia.

A number of delegations have visited Germany, U.K. USA, South Africa, Switzerland, Russia, Portugal etc. however, experts for teaching and clinical practice have not been deputed so far.

Memorandum of Understanding between the Govt. of India and the Govt. of Russian Federation on Co-operation and collaboration in the field of Indian Traditional System of Medicine and Homoeopathy was signed. Also, we have " Plan of Co-operation in the field of Health and Medicine" between the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Hungary and the Ministry of Health and Family welfare of the Republic of India for 2001-2005, signed in December, 2001.

A number of Memoranda of Understanding have been signed between Gujarat Ayurved University and institutions in foreign countries.

[English]

Ayurvedic Universities

2740. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Ayurvedic Universities functioning in the country alongwith the details of grant given to each of them by the Union Government;

(b) the details of research and development programmes of these Ayurvedic Universities;

(c) whether the grant being given to these Universities is inadequate; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/being taken to enhance their grants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) There is one Ayurvedic University functioning in the country viz. Gujarat Ayurved University. The Institute of Post-graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurved (IPGTRA), which is one of the constituents of the Gujarat Ayurved University, is being funded by this Ministry. During 2000-01, a sum of Rs. 448.00 lakhs was released to the institute. In addition a special grant of Rs. 85.00 lakhs was provided for the development of Ayurvedic pharmacy in the year 2000-01. For 2001-02, Rs. 483.00 lakhs have been released.

(b) The Institute of Post-Graduate Teaching & Research in Ayurveda of Gujarat Ayurved University is engaged in clinical research, drugs research and literary research.

(c) and (d) The university is funded by the State Government. The assistance given to IPGTRA is considered adequate.

[Translation]

Nursing Colleges

2741. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Nursing Colleges opened in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of Nursing Colleges sanctioned/recognized during the above period;

(c) whether the Government have received any proposal from State Governments to open Nursing Colleges; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) As per information by the Indian Nursing Council, 80 Nursing Colleges have been recognised during last three years. In addition, during the year 2001-02, 32

Colleges have been recognised by the Indian Nursing Council. Year-wise and state-wise information is give in the enclosed Statement-I.

10 Colleges of Nursing are under process, details of which are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

The number of Nursing Colleges recognized by the Indian Nursing Council during the last three years

S. NO.	State	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02 (Up to Feb)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	11	4
2.	Delhi	-	-	1	-
3.	Gujarat	1	-	-	-
4.	Karnataka	3	20	15	13
5.	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	1	2
6.	Maharashtra	1	2	3	2
7.	Mizoram	-	1	-	-
8.	Orissa	1	-	-	-
9.	Punjab	-	1	2	2
10.	Sikkim	-	-	-	1
11.	Tamil Nadu	2	8	6	8
12.	West Bengal	-	-	1	-
Total		8	32	40	32

Statement-II

Name of the Institution Programme

KARNATAKA

- Smt. Saraswati Gurupadappa Nagmorpalli, Bidar, College of Nursing, Karnataka B.Sc. (N)
- Keerthi College of Nursing, Gulbarga, Karnataka B.Sc. (N)

- Gautham College of Nursing, Bangalore, Karnataka P.B.B. Sc. (N)

- Oxford college of Nursing, Bangalore, Karnataka M.Sc. (N)

- J.S.S. College of Nursing, Mysore, Karnataka P.C.B.Sc. (N)

PUNJAB

- College of Nursing Welfare society, Kotkapura Road, Muktsar, Punjab P.B.B.Sc. (N)

7. C/o, State inst. of Nursing, B.Sc.(N)
& Para Medical Sciences V-
P.O Badal, Muktsar, Punjab
TAMIL NADU
8. Shree Balaji C/o, B.Sc. (N)
Velachery, Main Road,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu
9. S.R.M. College of Nursing, B.Sc. (N)
Bharati Salai, Ramapuram,
Chennai-600089, Tamil Nadu
10. St. John's College of B.Sc.(N)
Nursing, P.B.No.201, No.I,
Dhansura Complex,
Vellore-632001, Tamil Nadu

[English]

Laying of Telephone Cables

2742. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have achieved the target fixed for laying of telephone cables in the country during 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) The year 2001-2002 is still in progress. The achievement up to 31.1.2002 for PIJF Underground Cable is 331 Lakh Conductor Kilo Metres (LCKSs) against the target of 502 LCKMs and that of Optical Fibre Cable is 55644 Route Kilo Metres (RKMs) against the target of 146000 RKMs for 2001-02.

(d) The necessary steps to speed up the cable supply and execution work have been taken by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephones Limited (MTNL) for achieving the targets.

[Translation]

Prime Minister's Meeting with Pak President

2743. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had a meeting with the President of Pakistan during the SAARC Summit and some documents were also handed over to the latter;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the achievements of India during the SAARC Summit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Prime Minister did not hold any formal bilateral meetings or negotiations with the President of Pakistan on the sidelines of the 11th SAARC Summit meeting, held in Kathmandu from 4-6 January 2002, and no document was handed over to the latter.

(c) The recent SAARC summit achieved progress on various issues pertaining to regional cooperation, including in economic & trade matters, Poverty alleviation, the SAARC Social Charter and cooperation in the fight against terrorism. On the occasion the Foreign Ministers of SAARC Countries also signed two conventions—the "Convention on Preventing and Combating the Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution", and the "Convention on Regional Arrangements for the Promotion of Child Welfare in South Asia".

[English]

Transfusion of Wrong Blood

2744. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the wrong blood transfusion cases in the hospitals including All India Institute of medical Sciences, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to arrest such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) In so far as Central government Hospitals, namely, Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. RML Hospital and LHMC & Associated Hospitals and All India Institute of Medical Sciences are concerned, there is no report of any case of wrong blood transfusion.

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

(c) The procedure as laid down under the Drugs & Cosmetic Act, 1940, rules made thereunder the quality assurance are being strictly followed in blood banks of the Central Government Hospitals and AIIMS to avoid the cases of wrong blood transfusion.

Irregularities in Kendriya Bhandar

2745. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 657 dated November 22, 2000 regarding Kendriya Bhandar and to state:

(a) whether departmental inquiries in the cases have since been completed;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof alongwith the action taken in the matter;

(c) the details and number of other cases of financial impropriety that have taken place during 2000 and 2001 and the action taken thereon; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the working of the Kendriya Bhandar and to root out corruption from 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) and (b) Three employees have been found guilty of irregularities. In three cases the employees have been punished and in the fourth case, the report of the enquiry officer is under consideration.

(c) Three cases of financial irregularities have been detected during 2000 and 2001. Departmental Proceedings have been initiated in all the cases.

(d) Kendriya Bhandar has taken various steps to improve its working and to root out corruption:

(i) Society has framed a purchase policy duly approved by the Board of Directors.

(ii) Wherever possible limited tender is invited from registered/deputed suppliers to generate competition among them.

(iii) Kendriya Bhandar has been obtaining an undertaking from the suppliers that the rates quoted by them are the lowest.

(iv) Kendriya Bhandar is also obtaining indemnity bond from the suppliers regarding price guarantee to ensure that the customers get the best price.

(v) The pre-paid post cards have also been provided in all the stores for suggestions/complaints etc.

(vi) Kendriya Bhandar has a Chief Vigilance Officer and all the complaints regarding irregularities and corruptions are looked by him and necessary action is taken after proper inquiry according to rules.

Speed Post Facilities in Orissa

2746. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the districts in Orissa which do not have speed Post facilities in their respective Post Offices;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide the Speed Post facilities in these Districts and Sub-Division of Orissa so as to revamp the postal system in this Tribal dominated State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Navrangpur and Malkangiri are the two district headquarters in Orissa State where speed Post facility is not available.

(b) and (c) Speed Post is a premium product and is run on commercial considerations. Expansion of this network is an on-going process depending on market situation, assessment of the need the anticipated revenue and transport network.

Balance Amount of Sales Tax

2747. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi sales Tax Department has raised a demand of Rs. 1,37,00,000/— and Rs. 9,06,23,549/— on the Kendriya Bhandar for the years 1995-96 and 1998-99 respectively.

(b) if so, on what grounds the demands have been raised;

(c) whether the Kendriya Bhandar is still evading payment of the local sales tax charged by them but not being shown on their invoices and the Delhi Sales Tax Department has lodged a complaint with the Kendriya Bhandar in this regard; and

(d) 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) The Delhi Sales Tax Department has raised the following demands for the years 1995-96 and 1998-99:

1995-96	—	Rs. 1,38,67,205/—
1998-99	—	There were 2 orders, one for refund of Rs. 1,12,208/— and in other, there was a demand of Rs. 1,43,31,686/

(b) to (d) Sales Tax Department decided to levy tax on sale on agency basis which was not accounted for in the books of Kendriya Bhandar for the respective years. Kendriya Bhandar is of the opinion that Sales Tax is not leviable on agency sales and has accordingly preferred appeals before the appropriate authorities and has also deposited a sum of Rs. 1.82 cr. (Approx.). These cases are still sub-judice. There has been no complaint recently received by Kendriya Bhandar from Sales Tax Department. However, Kendriya Bhandar has received a request for production of certain documents which is being complied with.

Telephone Connections in Orissa

2748. SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received by the Government for establishment of a new telephone exchange and extension of telephone lines within the permissible coverage distance in Ganjam district of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons from this district have not been provided the telephone connections so far even after depositing the prescribed fee;

(d) the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Requests have been received for opening new telephone exchanges at Jahada and Nandighar

(c) 450 persons as on February 2002.

(d) and (e) As most of the applicants are from rural areas, it is planned to provide telephone communications to them from the existing exchanges either through wireless in local loop (WLL) equipment or through landline within the next two months.

[Translation]

Complaints Received in the PM Office

2749. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the average number of complaints regarding public grievances and pensions received in the Prime Minister Office per month, during the last three years;

(b) the number of complaints redressed and the number of those pending as on date;

(c) the number and nature of complaints out of these pertaining to Delhi;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up public complaints redressal cell at blocks/district level to dispose of the complaints within a stipulated time frame;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) 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) The average number of complaints regarding public grievances and pensions received in the Prime Minister's Office per month during 1.1.99 to 31.12.2001 was 8153.

(b) All the complaints received in Prime Minister's Office are scrutinized and forwarded for appropriate action on the concerned authorities.

(c) The total number of complaints pertaining to Delhi from 1.1.1999 to 31.12.2001 was 25,883. These complaints, inter-alia, relate to unemployment, service related grievances, allotment of flats/plots, complaints against police officials, and other public servants, unauthorized constructions, encroachments etc.

(d) to (f) The State Governments had adopted an Action Plan for Effective and Responsive Administration in the Chief Minister's Conference organized by the Department of Administrative reforms and Public Grievances, Government of India and held on 24 May, 1997. This plan enjoined that State Department would widely publicise the facilities at various levels for the prompt and effective redress of public grievances from Secretariat downwards to the village level. The respective State Governments are required to decide upon the issues related to disposal of grievances within a stipulated time frame in the context of the Action Plan for Effective and Responsive administration.

[English]

Indo-Sino Ties

2750. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the areas in which Indo-Sino Cooperation have been established;

(b) whether the Government have a proposal to improve Indo-Sino ties; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) India and China have established cooperative relations in several fields. India and China have MOUs/working groups in information technology labour, coal, steel, science and technology, etc. Bilateral trade has grown in recent years. Bilateral trade in 2001 increased by 23.4% over 2000 to reach US\$ 3.596 billion.

(b) and (c) Government of India is committed to the development of friendly and good neighbourly relations with China on the basis of the principles of Panchsheel. Mutual sensitivity to each others concerns and equality.

This has been underscored during recent high level political exchanges between India and China, including during the visit of President to China in May-June 2000, visit of senior Chinese leader and NPC Chairman Mr. Li Peng in January 2001 and the visit of Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji in January 2002.

During the visit of Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji, the two sides signed six MOUs/Agreements on cooperation pertaining to science and technology, outer space, tourism, phytosanitary measures and supply of hydrological data by China to India in respect of the Brahmaputra river during the flood season. These Documents reflect the expansion and diversification of India-China relations.

The two Prime Ministers also agreed (i) to accelerate the process of Clarification and confirmation of the alignment of the line of Actual Control along the India-China boundary; (ii) to establish a bilateral dialogue mechanism against terrorism. Modalities are being discussed between the Foreign Ministries; and (iii) to hold the Seventh Meeting of the Ministerial level Joint Economic Group to look at ways and means of strengthening trade and economic cooperation.

Prime Minister has been invited to visit China and has accepted the invitation. Dates for the visit will be settled through diplomatic channels.

[Translation]

Issuance of Passports by State Governments

2751. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: WILL the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of passport offices functioning in the country at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to authorise State Governments to issue passports in view of the increasing number of passport seekers and delay in inquiry within prescribed time period; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) The total number of passport offices functioning in the country at present is 28. A list is enclosed as statement.

(b) and (c) In addition to the 28 Passport Offices in the country the Government has also authorised Andaman and Nicobar Administration to issue passports. The

Government has also decided to extend the facilities of issuance of passports at the capitals of North Eastern States.

The Government has also decided to decentralize the passport services and to bring these services closer to the people. Under this scheme, the passport applicants can deposit their filled passport application forms through the office of the District Magistrate/Superintendent of Police in every state throughout the country. The districts where the number of applications exceeds 10,000 per year will have dedicated District Passport Cells. The forms will be scrutinized and documents checked by the District Passport Cells and then forwarded to the Passport Office who will issue the passports. This Scheme has already been launched in the States of Sikkim, Nagaland, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh.

Statement

List of Passport Offices in India

S.No.	Name of PO/RPO
1	2
1.	Ahmedabad
2.	Bangalore
3.	Bareilly
4.	Bhopal
5.	Bhubaneshwar
6.	Kolkata
7.	Chandigarh
8.	Chennai
9.	Cochin
10.	Delhi
11.	Ghaziabad
12.	Guwahati
13.	Hyderabad
14.	Jaipur
15.	Jalandhar
16.	Jammu
17.	Kozhikode

1	2
18.	Lucknow
19.	Mumbai
20.	Nagpur
21.	Panaji
22.	Patna
23.	Pune
24.	Srinagar
25.	Thane
26.	Trichy
27.	Trivandrum
28.	Visakhapatnam

Cellular Mobile Service

2752. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide mobile telephone facility in Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) whether this facility would also be made available in the remote rural areas where telephone facility is still not available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) The following four companies have been granted licences for operation of cellular mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) in Madhya Pradesh Telecom Circle:

1. M/s. RPG Cell com Limited.
2. M/s. Reliance Telecom (Private) Limited.
3. M/s. Bharat Sanchar Nigam limited (BSNL).
4. M/s. Bharati Cellular Limited.

Out of these four companies, Service has been started by the first two companies in Madhya Pradesh Telecom Circle and as per the information provided by Cellular Operators association of India (COAI) both these

companies are also providing CMTS Service in District Headquarter of Jabalpur.

BSNL has also proposed to provide CMTS service at District Headquarter of Jabalpur and the network roll-to is expected in the next financial year. BSNL plan envisages the coverage of District Headquarters, Important stations and highways which may provide incidental coverage benefits to the adjoining rural areas.

As per the terms and conditions of the CMTS Licence, an operator is required to cover 10% of District Headquarters within one year and 50% of District Headquarters within three years. The choice of District headquarters/towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/towns shall lie with the licensee depending on their business decision. There is no requirement on the cellular operators under the licensee for mandatory coverage of rural areas.

[English]

Telephone Exchanges in Andhra Pradesh

2753. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Telephone Exchanges functioning with their capacities in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether Government propose to enhance the existing capacities in these telephone exchanges; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) There are 2815 telephone exchanges working in Andhra Pradesh. The total capacity is 36,34,140 lines as on 31.01.2002.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. During the year 2001-2002, 2.7 lakh lines have been added to the capacity. It is planned to add about 1.5 lakh lines by March 2002.

[Translation]

STD Facility

2754. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

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

(a) the number of telephone exchanges having STD facility in Jammu and Kashmir, Bihar and Jharkhand as on date, district-wise;

(b) the number of exchanges not provided with the said facility and the details thereof, State-wise as well as district-wise; and

(c) the time by which STD facility is likely to be provided in all the exchanges of each of the above States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) 300 telephone Exchanges in Jammu & Kashmir, 976 telephone exchange in Bihar and 365 Telephone Exchanges in Jharkhand are having STD facility as on date. State-wise/District-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement-I & II

(b) 28 Telephone Exchange in Jammu & Kashmir and 3 Telephone Exchanges in Jharkhand are not having STD facility as on date. In Bihar all the exchanges are covered with STD facility. State-wise/District-wise details are given in the enclosed statement-III

(c) (i) The remaining 3 Exchanges in Jharkhand are planned to be provided with STD facility by April, 2002.

(ii) The remaining 28 Telephone Exchanges in J & K are planned to be provided with STD facility in a phased manner by March, 2003 subject to availability of funds and materials.

Statement-I

District-Wise Details of Telephone Exchanges Having STD Facility as on Date

BIHAR

Sl.No.	Name of District	Number of Exchanges having STD facility
1	2	3
1.	Arrah	26
2.	Buxar	16
3.	Bhagalpur	40
4.	Banka	19

1	2	3
5.	Betia	28
6.	Chapra	32
7.	Siwan	25
8.	Gopalganj	18
9.	Darbhanga	52
10.	Madhubani	41
11.	Gaya	36
12.	Jehanabad	14
13.	Aurangabad	25
14.	Nawada	19
15.	Arwal	8
16.	Hajipur	43
17.	Katihar	22
18.	Purnia	20
19.	Araria	14
20.	Kisanganj	15
21.	Khagaria	20
22.	Begusarai	31
23.	Motihari	44
24.	Munger	14
25.	Jamui	17
26.	Lakhisarai	14
27.	Sheikhpura	11
28.	Muzaffarpur	39
29.	Sitamarhi	24
30.	Sheohar	6

1	2	3
31.	Patna	48
32.	Nalanda	37
33.	Saharsa	24
34.	Sapaul	21
35.	Madhepura	19
36.	Samastipur	46
37.	Sasaram	30
38.	Bhabhua	18
Total		976

Statement-II

*District-Wise Details of Telephone Exchanges Having
STD Facility as on Date*

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Sl.No.	Name of District	Number of Exchanges having STD facility
1	2	3
1.	Anantnag	15
2.	Badgam	10
3.	Baramulla	20
4.	Doda	10
5.	Jammu	72
6.	Kargil	09
7.	Kathuna	36
8.	Kupwara	03
9.	Leh	24
10.	Poonch	10
11.	Pulwama	09

1	2	3
12.	Rajouri	22
13.	Srinagar	12
14.	Udhampur	48
Total		300

JHARKHAND

1.	Ranchi	57
2.	Lohardaga	6
3.	Gumla	11
4.	Simdega	10
5.	Dhanbad	26
6.	Bokaro	24
7.	Hazaribagh	39
8.	Koderma	10
9.	Girdih	25
10.	Chatra	5
11.	E.Singhbhum	30
12.	W. Singhbhum	24
13.	Latehar	10
14.	Palamau	17
15.	Garhwa	9
16.	Pakur	7
17.	Dumka	14
18.	Jamtara	6
19.	Sahibganj	13
20.	Deoghar	10
21.	Godda	10
22.	Saraikela	2
Total		365

Statement-III

District-Wise Details of Telephone Exchanges Having no STD Facility as on Date

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Sl.No.	Name of District	Number of Exchanges having on STD facility
1.	Baramulla	1
2.	Doda	10
3.	Kargil	1
4.	Kupwara	1
5.	Leh	1
6.	Poonch	6
7.	Pulwama	2
8.	Rajouri	6
Total		28

JHARKHAND

1.	Godda	1
2.	W. Singhbhum	2
Total		3

[English]

Employment Generation

2755. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the target fixed for generation of employment during the Ninth Five Year Plan has been achieved;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the extent to which the target has been achieved so far;

(e) whether it is a fact that on-going economic reforms have failed to generate employment;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to create more opportunities for employment?

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 (d) The growth of employment opportunities between 8th Plan (1992-97) and the 9th Plan (1997-2002) was projected at 2.5 per cent per annum, with a corresponding growth of labour force at 2.5 per cent per annum. Latest survey date, which is available up to the year 1999-2000, Shows a growth of employment opportunities at 1.02 per cent per annum between 1993-94 to 1999-2000, and, growth of labour force at 1.08 per cent per annum.

(e) and (f) The estimated number of employed persons increased from 374 million in 1993-94 to 398 million in 1999-2000, on UPSS basis.

(g) In the Budget proposals for 2002-03, besides the initiatives taken for growth of labour intensive sectors in the economy, the Finance Minister has announced continuation of Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and also proposed to launch the Jai Prakash Rozgar Guarantee Yojana (JPRGY).

Expenditure Reforms Commission

2756. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the recommendations made by Expenditure Reforms Commission set up in his Ministry as on December 31, 2001;

(b) the details of those recommendations which are yet to be implemented by his Ministry of departments under his Ministry alongwith reasons for not implementing them till date; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be implemented in true spirit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

Action taken Note/Comments on Recommendations of Expenditure Reforms Commission (9th Report)

Recommendations No.1

Introduction of VRS in all major ports and the decision to roll back the retirement age from 60 to 58, has helped reduce the staff strength by 16000 persons. However, the staff strength of Indian ports is still very high and the schemes should be persued actively to bring down the strength to normative levels.

Action Taken

The ministry has already decided to ban all new recruitments. As per the instructions issued by the Ministry of Finance, all such vacancies which remain vacant for more than one year stand abolished. The Ports are being asked to identify surplus staff after ascertaining the requirements of staff and steps will be taken by the ministry of gradually reduce the excessive staff.

Recommendations No.2

Government should consider setting up Port Companies to which all the commercial facilities like berths and cargo handling equipment could be leased out with the Port Trusts retaining only the ownership of the land and water fronts. These Port companies should be privatized at the earliest preferably through public offering.

Action Taken

A Bill to amend the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 has been introduced in Lok Sabha on 31.8.2001 which will provide an enabling provision in the Act for corporatisation of Major Port Trusts.

Recommendations No.3

the post of Development Adviser and the Envelopment wing in the Ministry could be abolished.

Action Taken

This Ministry does not agree to the abolition of the post of Development Adviser (D.A). The post of Development Adviser has been reduced to the level of

JS and the strength of Developments wing has been reduced recently.

Recommendations No.4

There is no rationale for retaining the Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) a Public Sector undertaking and it should be privatized.

Action Taken

matter has been referred to Disinvestments Commission.

Recommendations No.5

The Minor Ports Survey Organisation which is functioning under the Ministry should be corporatised or made to operate on commercial lines or attached to the office of the Chief Hydrographer to the Govt. of India.

Action Taken

The MPSO is already operating on no-profit-no loss basis. The administrative control of MPSO has been shifted from Andaman & Lakshdweep Harbour Works, Port Blair to Directorate General Shipping. The Headquarters of both are in Mumbai. It is felt that no useful purpose will be served by attaching MPSO to the Office of Chief Hydrographer to the Govt. of India.

Recommendations No.6

The Andaman & Lakshadweep Harbour Works should either be handed over to the Concerned UT Government or merged with Calcutta/Chennai Port Trusts and Cochin Port Trusts.

Action Taken

The Ministry has already recommended the merger of Andaman & Lakshadweep Harbour Works with the UT Administration of Andaman & Lakshadweep respectively during the 10th Plan.

Recommendations No.7

Licensing of Ship Acquisition should be abolished and the Government should leave it to DG, Shipping to ensure the safety and sea worthiness of a ship.

Action Taken

Already done. Necessary orders/guidelines issued on 15.6.2001.

Recommendations No.8

The Indian Institute of Maritime Studies, which is proposed to be set up under the societies Registration Act, to run the four Institutes namely, (I) training ship Chanakya, (II) Marine Engineering and Research Institute, Mumbai, (III) Marine engineering and Research Institute, Calcutta and (IV) LBS College of Advance Maritime studies and Research, Mumbai should be given status of a deemed University or of an IIT and should become totally autonomous.

Action Taken

Already being done. Necessary action is in progress.

Recommendations No.9

SCI is a candidate for disinvestment and the disinvestment should be completed.

Action Taken

Disinvestment process is already on. The Govt. has decided to bring down its equity share to 26%

Recommendations No.10

Computerisation of the operations of Transchart would result in a reduction in the staff strength. This exercise should be carried out in six months.

Action Taken

Action for full computerisation of Chartering Wing is already in hand. However, any reduction in the staff strength of Chartering Wing can be assessed only after the Wing is fully computerized and assessment is carried out about the requirement of the staff say after 6 to 12 months after computerizing the Wing fully.

Recommendations No.11

Efforts should be made to secure a strategic partner for HSL, which is a loss making company and disinvest GOI holding.

Action Taken

The company has already been referred to disinvestments Commission.

Recommendations No.12

There is no strategic or commercial rationale for continuing CSL in the Public Section. The company should be privatized as soon as possible.

Action Taken

The company has already been referred to disinvestments Commission.

Recommendations No.13

HDPE has valuable land in Calcutta and it should be sold as real estate.

Action Taken

The decision on the future of the company is under active consideration. Therefore the decision on disposal of land can be arrived at only thereafter.

Recommendations No.14

The ship building and repair activity of CIWTC should be closed and the assets disposed of.

Action Taken

Action has already been initiated to close down the Rajabagan Dockyard of CIWTC with the cabinet's approval.

Recommendations No.15

With the ship building and ship repairs carried out by professionally run shipyards both in the public and private sector and the ancillary development taking place in a liberalized economy, there is no case for the continuance of SBR Wing. Development activities relating to ship building and ship repair should be best left to the yards themselves who have much better awareness and understanding of the technology advances in the sector than the Ministry.

Action Taken

Necessary action is in progress.

Recommendations No.16

NSDRG need not remain under the administrative control of the Ministry.

Action Taken

NSDRG is already on its own and is not dependent on budgetary resources. There is no reason to take it out of the administrative control of the Ministry as the mandate of the Society is within the purview of the Ministry.

Recommendations No.17

The matter whether the Establishment and operation of Light Houses and other navigational aids can be privatized with government or an independent, regulator ensuring standard and quality, should be examined.

Action Taken

These cannot be privatized. Lighthouses provide essential infrastructure and navigational aids which are part of safety requirements which cannot be commercialized. At the moment Department of Lighthouses and Lightships is not a burden at the state exchequer because light dues collected are more than enough to meet the expenses of the department.

Recommendations No.18

A Maritime Authority should be set up to oversee and regulate conservancy function in the major and minor ports and exercise all the functions of the D.G. (Shipping) and also of D.G. (Lighthouse & Lightships). The Maritime Authority should have a Member incharge of the ports, a Member Incharge of shipping, a Member Incharge of Lighthouses and a Member of Finance and be headed by one of them with the rank of additional Secretary. Consequently, The Tariff Authority of Major Ports could be wound up and the Maritime Authority empowered to look into cartelisation/monopoly issues and arbitrary fixation of tariffs by ports/shipping lines where necessary. With the setting up of Maritime Authority, it should be sufficient for one J.S. level officer in the Ministry assisted by one or two Deputy Secretaries to look after port policy, international protocols and coastal shipping.

Action Taken

It is an important recommendation because it will bring into focus, at the field level, the different functions of the Ministry now performed through field organizations. This will involve formulation of functional set up of the Maritime Authority, delegation of powers, appropriate legislation and other consequential policy issues. Hence it would be necessary to have a study done on this question to evolve an appropriate institutional mechanism to meet these requirements. This Ministry has prepared the terms of reference of this study and has asked D.G. (Shipping) to undertake it.

Recommendations No.19

Government must accord the highest priority to the Inland Water Transport and formulate a National

Waterways Development Programme on the lines of the NHDP and empower the IWAI by broadening its Board by including Secretary, Expenditure, Secretary, Planning etc. to take all investment decisions relating to an approved waterway in order to make it navigable.

Action Taken

Acceptable. The board of IWAI has been expanded in 2001 by providing for 3 full time Directors and 3 Part Time non-official Directors. Activities of IWAI do not warrant its further expansion.

Recommendations No.20

With the corporatisation of ports the setting up of a Maritime Authority to exercise the statutory powers of DG, Shipping and to ensure conservancy in ports and manage light houses, with the disinvestment of Shipping Corporation of India, the shipyards and other PSUs in the Ministry and with the abolition of the Development and the SBR Wings in the Ministry, the Ministry's work would get reduced very considerably.

Recommendations No.21

It should be sufficient for the ministry to have one JS with two Deputy Secretaries to look after all port related matters and one Joint Secretary with one Deputy Secretary to look after residual shipping matters and inland water transport. Transchart should continue although its staff strength should be reviewed. With the reduction in the workload of the Ministry of Shipping and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways the possibility of combining the two ministries once again into a Ministry of Surface Transport should be considered so that an integrated approach can be brought to bear on all modes of surface transport, barring the railways.

Action taken on No. 20 & 21

These are a consequential recommendation rather than substantive one. The strength of the Ministry of Shipping would be examined after the actions mentioned in para 20 are completed. Merger of the two Ministries can be considered at the appropriate time.

[Translation]

Malnutrition

2757. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau has conducted a survey in Bihar in regard to malnutrition in the children of low-income group people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the deficiency of Iodine and Vitamin-A has come into the notice during the survey; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau has not conducted any survey in Bihar in regard to malnutrition in the children of low income group people

(b) to (d) Does not arise, in view of 'a' above.

STD Facilities in West Bengal and Maharashtra

2758. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

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

(a) the number of telephone exchanges having STD facility in West Bengal and Maharashtra as on date, district-wise;

(b) the number of exchanges which are not provided with the said facility and the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which STD facility is likely to be provided in all the exchanges of the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) 4140 Telephone Exchanges in Maharashtra and 1388 Telephone Exchanges in West Bengal are having STD facility as on date. District-wise details are given in the enclosed-statement-I and II.

(b) 500 Telephone Exchanges in Maharashtra are not having STD facility presently. In West Bengal all the Exchanges are covered with STD facility. Details are given in the enclosed statement-III

(c) The remaining 500 Telephone Exchanges in Maharashtra are planned to be covered with STD Facility in a phased manner during 2002-2003

Statement-I**District-Wise Details Of telephone Exchanges Having STD Facility****MAHARASHTRA**

Sl. No.	Name of District	Number of Exchanges Having STD Facility
1	2	3
1.	Ahmednager	254
2.	Akola	83
3.	Washim	51
4.	Amravati	114
5.	Aurangabad	127
6.	Beed	60
7.	Bhandara	32
8.	Gondia	31
9.	Buldhana	82
10.	Chandrapur	69
11.	Dbule	70
12.	Nandurbar	30
13.	Gadchiroli	28
14.	Jalgaon	195
15.	Jaina	63
16.	Kalyana (Thane)	134
17.	Kolhapur	305
18.	Latur	126
19.	Nagpur	134
20.	Nanded	105
21.	Nasik	211

1	2	3
22.	Osmanabad	72
23.	Parbhani	53
24.	Hingoli	33
25.	Pune	279
26.	Raigad	160
27.	Ratnagiri	136
28.	Sangli	303
29.	Satara	204
30.	Sindhudurg	93
31.	Solapur	180
32.	Wardha	70
33.	Yeotmal	90
34.	Mumbai	133
35.	Thane	30
Total		4140

Statement-II**District-Wise Details Of telephone Exchanges Having STD Facility****WEST BENGAL**

Sl.No.	Name of District	Number of Exchanges Having STD Facility
1	2	3
1.	Burdwan	165
2.	Murshidabad	84
3.	Bakura	63
4.	Howrah	54
5.	Hoogly	106

1	2	3
6.	24-Parganas (N)	115
7.	24-Parganas (S)	136
8.	Coochbehar	28
9.	Jalpaiguri	50
10.	Midnapur	151
11.	Nadia	71
12.	Malda	50
13.	Purulia	28
14.	Dinajpur (N)	42
15.	Dinajpur (S)	29
16.	Darjeeling	70
17.	Birbhum	81
18.	Kolkata	65
Total		1388

Statement-III

*District-Wise Details Of telephone Exchanges
not Having STD Facility*

MAHARASHTRA

SI.No.	Name of District	Number of Exchanges not Having STD Facility
1	2	3
1.	Ahmednager	67
2.	Akola	-
3.	Washim	-
4.	Amravati	16
5.	Aurangabad	16
6.	Beed	58

1	2	3
7.	Bhandara	19
8.	Gondia	23
9.	Buldhana	35
10.	Chandrapur	15
11.	Dbule	14
12.	Nandurbar	17
13.	Gadchiroli	10
14.	Jalgaon	18
15.	Jalna	16
16.	Kalyana (Thane)	-
17.	Kolhapur	-
18.	Latur	6
19.	Nagpur	-
20.	Nanded	20
21.	Nasik	18
22.	Osmanabad	16
23.	Parbhani	4
24.	Hingoli	12
25.	Pune	-
26.	Raigad	1
27.	Ratnagiri	12
28.	Sangli	24
29.	Satara	7
30.	Sindhudurg	-
31.	Solapur	48
32.	Wardha	1

1	2	3
33	Yeotmal	7
34.	Mumbai	-
35.	Thane	-
Total		500

[English]

Alternative Road in Himachal Pradesh

2759. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to construct another alternative road from Derch in Himachal Pradesh to Padum to Zanskar and then to Leh;

(b) if so, the details thereof with estimated cost to be incurred on the project; and

(c) the time by which the same will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN.(RETD) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The length of the road between Darcha to Leh is approximately 228 Kms. Rough estimated cost of the project is about Rs. 154.00 Crores.

(c) The project is targeted to be completed by 2010.

Reviewing of Administrative Laws

2760. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether P.C. Jain Commission on Review of Administrative Laws had recommended repeal of about 1382 Central Acts;

(b) the details of the main recommendations made by the Commission which were accepted and implemented;

(c) whether the Government propose to amend the Contempt of Court Act 1971;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) 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) and (b) A Statement is enclosed;

(c) to (e) No, Sir. The provisions of Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 were reviewed recently in pursuance of the suggestion of the PC Jain Commission set up to review the Administrative Laws and it was decided not to amend the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 for the present.

Statement

The Commission on Review of Administrative laws, which was set up by the government in May, 1998 and which submitted its report in September, 1998 has recommended repeal of 1382 Central Laws of different categories on the Ground that these Acts etc. have become either irrelevant or daysfunctional, as follows:

Sl.No.	Types of Legislation	Number
1	2	3
(1)	Amendment Acts	315
(2)	Appropriation Acts (approximately)	700
(3)	Central Acts relating to State subjects	114
(4)	Central Acts (including 11 Pre-Nationalisation Acts and 20 Validation Acts)	166

1	2	3
(5)	British Statutes still in force	11
(6)	War-time Permanent Ordinances	17
(7)	Reorganisation Acts	35
(8)	Laws applicable to High Courts	12
(9)	Personal Laws	12
Total		1382

135 Amendment Acts specified at (1) above have been repealed by enactment of the Repealing and Amending Act, 2001 (Act. 30 of 2001). The issue pertaining to 700 Appropriation Acts specified at (2) above was referred to the Attorney General of India for advice which has been received and the matter has now been referred to the Public Accounts Committee Secretariat for their views. In so far as, 114 Central Acts relating to State List specified at (3) above are concerned, 5 Central Acts relating to State List (List II) have *inter alia* been repealed by enactment of the Judicial Administration laws (Repeal) Acts, 2001. The State Government have been apprised of the position in the matter and further action in respect of the balance Acts is required to be initiated by the respective State Governments. Of the remaining 253 Acts specified at specified at (4) to (9) above, 65 Acts, including four Ordinance, have been repealed as on date. 41 Acts are at various stages of repeal. 20 Acts are under examination to take a decision regarding their repeal or otherwise. Six Acts pertain to the State List on which action is to be taken by the State Governments. Four Acts have been repeated in the list of 166 Central Acts recommended for repeal by the Commission. In respect of the balance 117 Acts, the concerned Ministries/Departments have taken a decision not to repeal them.

A Standing Committee has been constituted on 16 November, 1998 to monitor the implementation of the follow-up action on the report of the Commission on Review of Administrative Laws. It has so far held 23 meetings.

Anaemia Among Children and Women

2761. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state.

(a) whether 3.5 million people in the country are suffering from micronutrient deficiency leading to iron deficiency with anaemia prevalence among children and women; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the nutrition among the lower strata of society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) As per the information available, blindness due to Vitamin 'A' deficiency is 0.04%. Iron Deficiency Anaemia is 74.3% in children (6-35 months) and 51.8% in women.

(b) Government has taken several steps to improve the nutritional status of the population including the lower strata of society such as:

- Increased Agricultural Production.
- Improving the purchasing power of the people through income generating schemes.
- Availability of essential food items at subsidised cost through Public Distribution System.
- Nutrition education to increase the awareness and bringing out 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) wheat Based Supplementary Nutrition programme
 - (v) Pradhan Mantri Grameen Yojna (PMGY)
 - (vi) Mid-day Meal Programme
- Programme for Prevention of Specific Nutrient Deficiency Disorders such as:

- (a) National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme.
- (b) Prophylaxis 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.

IA Hijacking Case

2762. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Federal Bureau of investigation (FBI) of USA has seized certain documents from a house in Kabul pertaining to the hijacking of Indian airlines Plane IC 814 in 1999 to Kandhar;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any request to the U.S. Government to provide the same;

(c) if so, whether the Government have received these documents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (d) Government has seen media reports in this regard. There is no official confirmation from the U.S. Government relating to seizure of documents in Kabul pertaining to the hijacking of flight IC 814 in 1999. At the fourth meeting of the India-U.S. joint Working group on Counter-terrorism in New Delhi on 21-22 January 2002, the U.S. Government has agreed to share all information and evidence gathered in Afghanistan relating to terrorism, including those of concern to India.

Annual Growth Rate of Container Cargo

2763. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the annual growth rate of sea-borne Container Cargo is 12.5 per annum as compared to the international figure of rate 7% per annum;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the special measure taken by the Government to ensure that this growth in the container segment continues through better port facilities;

(c) whether congestion at JNPT and other ports is delaying the growth of container traffic in the country; and

(d) if so, steps taken by the Government to reduce port congestion involving container traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Over 1998-99 to 2000-01 period, annual compound growth rate of about 12.5% has been registered for containers in terms of their number in Twenty Feet Equivalent Unit (TEU). As in the case of other cargoes, the growth of containers is dependent on the general increase in trade volumes. In addition, the containerization of the containerizable cargo adds to the growth of containers. To maintain this trend, the main efforts made are containerization of such cargoes which were not hitherto containerized development of better port facilities for handling of containers, development of Inland Container Depots and improvement of transportation system for carriage of containers.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Conversion of sea water into potable water

2764. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of atomic Energy Propose to implement any scheme in regard to use of any technology to convert saline sea water into potable water on a large scale;

(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) and (b) Two Processes viz., Multi-stage Flash (MSF) and Reverse Osmosis (RO) have been developed by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) for desalination of water from the ocean. A demonstration Plant is being set up at

Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu, which will produce 6300 m³/day of desalinated water from sea water, out of which 4500 m³/day will be produced by MSF technology while the balance of 1800 m³/day will be RO technology.

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

[English]

Generation of Power

2765. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the generation of Power through atomic energy in the country is only three Percent as compared to 17 percent in the world;

(b) the atomic energy generated on daily basis in megawatt by the 14 atomic power stations set up in the country at present;

(c) whether the Government are expecting to achieve the target of 20 thousand megawatts power generation by 2020;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken in this regard?

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

(b) The present total nuclear power generating capacity is 2720 MWe. During the financial year 2001-02 (upto 28.2.2002), electricity generation of about 53 Million units (MUs) per day, on an average, has been achieved.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The present nuclear Power capacity of 2720 MWe is planned to be increased to 9935 MWe by end of XI Plan (31.3.2012) and about 20,000 MWe. by the year 2020. The implementation of this programme would, however, depend upon the availability of financial resources.

(e) The construction work on setting up of Projects, TAPP-3&4 [(2x500 MWe) (being uprated to 2x540 MWe)] at Tarapur, Maharashtra, Kaiga 3&4 (2x220 MWe) in Kamataka and KK 1&2 (2x1000 MWe) at Kudandulam, Tamil Nadu has already commenced. A proposal for setting up Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant 5&6 (2x220 MWe) at Rawatbhata, Rajasthan, is under process for the approval of Government of India. Additional projects are also planned to be taken up progressively to achieve a nuclear power capacity of about 20,000 MWe by the year 2020.

Cellular Mobile Service

2766. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to release an additional spectrum nearly 4 megahertz to mobile phone operators;

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

(c) whether the companies will have to pay an additional spectrum fee to the Government from their annual gross revenue;

(d) if so, the details thereof,

(e) the time by which this decision is likely to be announced; and

(f) the extent it will help mobile companies and also the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The government has decided to assign additional spectrum upto 1.8 MHz+ 1.8 MHz to the CMTs Operators in order to meet the requirements of growth of subscribers. Any operator may apply for additional spectrum after reaching a customer base of 4 lakh or more in a service area, after which the process of allotment would be initiated, however, actual assignment of the spectrum would be made, subject to the availability and co-ordination on case to case basis, after a customer base of 5 lakh or more has been reached in the service area. This additional assignment will be beyond already allocated spectrum of 6.2+ 6.2 MHz. The additional spectrum of 1.8 +1.8 MHz would be assigned in 1800 MHz Band.

(c) and (d) The companies (Cellular Licensees/operators) are to pay spectrum charges with effect from 1.8.1999 on the revenue share basis at the rate of 2% of their adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) for spectrum upto 4.4+4.4 MHz and 3% of AGR for spectrum upto 6.2+6.2 MHz. Further, for this additional spectrum, beyond 6.2 MHz, if assigned for any one or more places in a Service Area, an additional charge of 1% of AGR (total 4% of AGR for the respective Service Area) would be charged.

(e) The order to this effect has been issued on 1.2.2002.

(f) It will help mobile companies to increase their subscriber base and improved quality of the service. With the increase in their revenue, the spectrum charges for the government will also increase.

Demographic Disparities Amongst States

2767. SHRI MANJAY LAL:
SHRI ARUN KUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the data published by the National Commission on Population (NCP) has indicated wide socio-demographic disparities among major States in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the States have been classified by NCP in the two groups i.e. forward and backward States;

(d) if to, the names of the States that comes under each of the above groups; and

(e) the reasons why the States in backward group have not been able to achieve the requisite social transformation so far?

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 (e) The National Commission on Population (NCP) has brought out a publication entitled 'District-wise Indicators' in which 569 districts of the country were ranked on the basis of the following 12 socio-demographic indicators:

1. Percentage decadal population growth rate
2. Percentage of births of order 3 and above (in place of Total Fertility Rate)
3. Percentage of current user of family planning methods
4. Percentage of Girls marrying below 18 years of Age
5. Sex ratio
6. Percentage of women receiving skilled attention during deliveries
7. Percentage of children getting complete immunization
8. Female Literacy Rate
9. Percentage of villages not connected with pucca road (estimated)
10. percentage coverage of safe drinking water and sanitation (estimated)
11. Percentage of Births registered (estimated)
12. Percentage of Deaths registered (estimated)

Using the data relating to the above indicators, a Composite Index was also developed and the States and UTs were ranked on the basis of this Composite Index as given below.

Rank	State	Composite Index
1	2	3
1.	Goa	83.71
2.	Pondicherry	82.70
3.	Kerala	81.88
4.	Chandigarh	79.68
5.	Tamil Nadu	78.06
6.	Delhi	78.01
7.	Punjab	73.88
8.	Karnataka	70.31
9.	Himachal Pradesh	70.02

1	2	3
10.	Lakshadweep	69.89
11.	Mizoram	69.24
12.	Daman & Diu	68.95
13.	Haryana	66.80
14.	Maharashtra	65.58
15.	Gujarat	65.22
16.	Andhra Pradesh	65.13
17.	Tripura	64.17
18.	Andaman & Nicobar	63.89
19.	Uttaranchal	60.52
20.	West Bengal	59.58
21.	Sikkim	58.64
22.	Assam	56.35
23.	Chhattisgarh	55.44
24.	Orissa	55.40
25.	Manipur	54.01
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	51.97
27.	Meghalaya	50.51
28.	Madhya Pradesh	49.33
29.	Nagaland	48.31
30.	Uttar Pradesh	44.09
31.	Arunachal Pradesh	43.58
32.	Rajasthan	43.39
33.	Bihar	39.01
34.	Jharkhand	38.27

A higher value of Composite Index reflects a better overall performance of the State/UT and vice versa. There are many social, economic and demographic reasons for

the comparative backwardness of certain States and UTs, some of which have been highlighted through the indices used for ranking the districts and States in the above publication.

Modern Drivers Training Institute

2768. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received proposals from State Governments particularly the State of Karnataka requesting for sanction and release of Central Grant for providing infrastructure facilities at the Regional Training Institute and establishment of Modern Drivers Training Institute;

(b) if so, the details of such proposals received from State Governments during the last two years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether the Government also propose to encourage establishment of recognised drivers' training institutes on the modern technology to make Indian roads accident free;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposals for setting up a model drivers training institute from the State Governments received during the last two years are given below. State-wise and year-wise

Year	States
2000	Assam
2001	Karnataka

(c) and (d) Central Government has formulated a scheme for setting up a Model Drivers' training Institute as the Tenth Plan. The salient features of the scheme are given in the enclosed statement.

(e) Does not arise

Statement**Guidelines for proposals on Setting up a Training Institute on Driving & Research**

1. The proposal should contain categorical recommendation of the State Government if the proposal is from agencies other State Government.
2. Land for the Institute would have to be provided by the State Government free from all encumbrances and the title of the land will vest in the State Government. In case of lease holding, same shall be on a perpetual lease of 99 years
3. the proposal should envisage self-sufficiency in meeting the recurring expenditure as this shall not be provided by the Central government. However, the initial grant may include a component for the consumable for the first year only
4. The grant of the Central Government shall be one time grant for the capital component of the proposal and the estimates on this account should be based on latest approved CPWD or State PWD Schedule of Rates. However, actual procurement should be made by following tenders procedure to obtain most competitive price quality products. The capital component of the proposal may include modern equipments such as simulators, computers and other modern aids. Under this head, provision of hostel facilities including fitting and furnishing can also be considered.
5. In case of NGO the proposal should invariably contain a project appraisal report/feasibility report by an independent reputed agency and comments of State Government, if any.
6. The project should be completed within the period of the approval form the government of India and submission of U.C. after six months of completion failing which a penalty as suitable may be imposed on the State Government, which may include even debarring the State Government from future grants.
7. The State Government/Grantee Organization shall submit half yearly Performance report.

8. It shall be obligatory on the part of the Institute set up from the funds of Central Government to implement the schemes run by central governments on drivers training on the terms and conditions set out by the Central Government.
9. Initially, the proposals shall be considered for the locations in/abjacent to the State Capital/ major towns and only one proposal from a State shall be considered.

II. WHO CAN SEND THE PROPOSAL:

1. State Government, and/or
2. Any other agencies such as NGO/Automobile associations/Vehicle Manufacturers' Association/ Autonomous Body/Private Vehicle Manufacturers authorized and recommended by the State Governments.
3. In case of the agencies other than State Government, they should be financially sound so as to be able to run the Institute.

III. CRITERIA OF THE ELIGIBILITY IN CASE OF AGENCIES OTHER THAN STATE GOVERNMENT

1. Must be registered with the appropriate legal authority.
2. Must be a clean record holder since inception.
3. must be a public concern or NGO, etc.
4. should have experience of 5 years in the field of Road Safety.

Digital Technology

2769. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the quality of services proposed to be provided by the BSNL by modernising the services to international level;
- (b) whether there is any proposal to incorporate state-of-art digital technology in the BSNL network;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to abolish the rent system of telephone and to calculate all calls for billing

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be finalised; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) BSNL plans to achieve the quality of services proposed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in a phased manner.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. All the exchanges in BSNL network are already modern electronic exchanges. The state-of-the-art digital technologies like Wireless in Local Loop (WLL), Cellular Mobile Telecom Services (pilot project only) have already been deployed for providing telephone services. Other services like Internet, I-Net, Integrated service Digital network (ISDN), Intelligent Network (IN) and Managed Leased Line Network (MLLN) are also being provided to subscribers. New technologies will continue to be inducted in BSNL network in future also. Cellular Mobile telecom service with all India coverage, Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP), Digital Wavelength Division Multiplexing (DWDM) and Broad band access network are also planned to be inducted next year subject to availability of materials.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Not applicable in view of (d) above.

(f) The authority for fixation of telecom tariff is Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). BSNL being a service provider has only to implement the tariff structure as prescribed by TRAI.

[*Translation*]

Mental Health Facilities

2770. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH
DEO:
SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI:

Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state.

(a) the current status of mental health facilities in the country with regard to doctors, hospitals and drug manufacturing;

(b) whether social awareness programmes in this regard are conducted by the Government;

(c) whether Government have conducted any survey of mental patients in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the funds proposed to be allocated for this purpose during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) there are over 18,000 beds for psychiatric patients spread across 37 Government mental hospitals. In addition, there are about 3500 beds located in general hospitals/hospitals affiliated to medical colleges. There are over 3000 qualified Psychiatrists, 500 clinical psychologists, 300 psychiatric social workers and about 600 trained psychiatric nurses in the country. Availability of psychotropic drugs is satisfactory and the cost of such drugs is reasonable/affordable. Under the National Mental Health Programme, the Government has initiated a pilot programme named the District Mental Health programme, which is currently being implemented in 29 districts covering 22 States and Union Territories. Its aim is to identify persons suffering from various mental disorders and epilepsy and manage them at the primary health care centre and district level by trained doctors and with the active support of the families and the community in which the patient lives. The mental health care delivery system is proposed to be upgraded/expanded during the Tenth Five Year Plan period. A number of research projects have been undertaken and major research initiatives are planned for the tenth five Year Plan period.

(b) Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities are also a component of District Mental Health Programme for creating social awareness.

(c) and (d) Epidemiological studies have revealed that 1 to 2% of the population have major mental disorders and 5 to 10% suffer from minor mental disorders.

(e) An amount of Rs. 30.00 crores have been allocated for the year 2002-2003 and final allocation of funds for the tenth Five Year Plan for the National Mental Health Programme is awaited.

[*English*]

Shortfall in Domestic Sector

2771. SHRI Y.V. RAO: will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the Ninth five year Plan software exports have exceeded the targets while the domestic software segment has witnessed a severe revenue shortfall;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD

MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) The projections and actual achievements for Ninth Five Year Plan, for Software exports and domestic industry, are given at enclosed statement the various developments in the country including the growth in PC penetration, proliferation of software applications, Increase in internet usage, lowering of hardware prices, and cheaper bandwidth availability, are expected to result in the healthy growth rate of domestic software industry.

Statement

IXth Plan Projections and actual Achievements

(Rs in Crores)

Year	Projections (Xth Plan)		Actual performance	
	Exports	Domestic	Exports	Domestic
1997-98	5850	3900	6530	4647
1998-99	9250	5850	10940	6182
1999-00	14600	8800	17150	7138
2000-01	23100	13200	28350	9891
2001-02	36500	19800	36855*	11634*

*estimated

Telephone on Demand

2772. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

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

(a) the position of the waiting list of telephone on demand under the National Telecom Policy, 1999 in different States as on date, Statewise; and

(b) the time by which the same is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The position of the waiting list of telephone in different States as on 28.02.2002, State-wise is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The waiting list is likely to be cleared by December, 2002 in all the states except in Karala and in

some pockets of other states which are technically non-feasible. The waiting list in Kerala is expected to be cleared by March, 2003. This is, however, subject to availability of funds and timely availability of materials.

Statement

State/Circle-wise/Waiting List

S.No.	Name of Circle	Waiting-List (as on 28.02.2002)
1	2	3
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	466
2.	Andhra Pradesh	180693
3.	Assam	17709
4.	Bihar	94030

1	2	3
5.	Chhattisgarh	9397
6.	Gujarat	140889
7.	Haryana	107407
8.	Himachal Pradesh	30859
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	46150
10.	Jharkhand	14138
11.	Karnataka	157481
12.	Kerala	722317
13.	Madhya Pradesh	16806
14.	Maharashtra	282525
15.	North East	21581
16.	Orissa	49235
17.	Punjab	112081
18.	Rajasthan	154590
19.	Tamil Nadu	71053
20.	Uttar Pradesh	113235
21.	Uttaranchal	12643
22.	West Bengal	199818
23.	Delhi	28624
Total		2583727

Note: North East includes Meghalaya, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Tripura and Manipur, West Bengal includes Sikkim, Tamilnadu includes Pondicherry, Maharashtra includes Goa, Gujarat include Daman & Diu, & Dadar Nagar Haveli & Kerala includes Lakshadweep.

National Commission for Development of SSI

2773. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Commission for small scale industries is being constituted for all-round development of small scale industries;

(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) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) An apex body at the Central level and Directorate of Industries at the State level already exist for all-round development and promotion of small scale industries (SSIs) in the country.

Border Dispute with Indonesia

2774. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to resolve the border dispute with Indonesia;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether dispute over two islands of Andaman & Nicobar has pending for many decades; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) there is no border dispute with Indonesia. The Agreement on Continental Shelf Boundary signed in 1974 and ratified in 1977 by India and Indonesia de-limits the boundaries in the Andaman Sea.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir. The Agreement signed by India, Indonesia and Thailand concerning the related boundaries of the three countries in the Andaman Sea signed in New Delhi on 22 June 1978 has settled the status of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

(e) Does not arise

[Translation]

Plight of Minorities in Bangladesh

2775. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister during the recently concluded SAARC Summit discussed with his Bangladeshi counterpart about the violent attacks on minorities in that country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government had approached the UN Human Rights Commission in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Commission thereto; and

(e) the number of minorities from Bangladesh fled to India as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Prime Minister had raised the issue during his meeting with Begum Khaleda Zia, Prime Minister of Bangladesh when she had called on him on 4th January 2002 on the sidelines of SAARC Summit at Kathmandu. During the meeting, Prime Minister of Bangladesh had stated that a number of cases had been filed. She also informed that an independent Human Rights Commission was in the process of being set up to look into all reports of violation of Human Rights.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The influx of Bangladeshi nationals has been continuing prior and since the October 2001 incidents as the immigrants enter India for a variety of overlapping reasons including economic compulsions rendering an exact computation difficult.

[English]

**Setting up of Super speciality Hospital
In state Capitals**

2776. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up Super Speciality Hospital in each State capital on the lines of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all State Government have been informed of this proposal;

(d) if so, the reaction of State Government thereto;

(e) whether any fund have been allotted for this purpose; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Study of Data

2777. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US satellite TERRA launched last December under an international programme named GLIMS (Global Land Ice Management from Space) has started sending data on the Himalayan Glaciers, feeding Ganges, Brahmaputra and Indus rivers; and

(b) if so, the arrangements made by the government for studying the same and main objectives of the study?

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 united States (US) has acquired data from its TERRA satellite over different parts of the world. The Advanced Space Borne Thermal Emission and reflection Radiometer (ASTER) instrument onboard the TERRA is being used to monitor the world's glaciers under the GLIMS (Global Land Ice Management from Space) programme. ASTER data has been acquired by the US for most of the Ice and Glacier regions of the world including the Himalayan region. In India, the Jawaharal Nehru University, Delhi is a Regional Centre for the GLIMS programme and obtains TERRA/ASTER data from

the US. The data is available to registered research project teams to study the aerial extent of glacier, location of snow line, velocity fields and location of terminus of glaciers.

Amendment in MTP Act

2778. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 to curb illegal abortions in the country:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Bill in this regard is likely to be introduced in the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Government is taking steps to introduce the Medical termination of Pregnancy Act (Amendment) Bill-2002, in the present session of the Parliament. The amendments seek to (a) delegate powers to a committee headed by the chief medical officer/District Health Officer at district level for registration of private clinics; (b) prescribe Punishments of rigorous imprisonment of not less than 2 years which may extend to seven years for clinics which are not approved for conducting MTPs and also for persons who do not possess the qualifications, training and experience for conducting Medical Termination of Pregnancy as prescribed under the MTP Rules and (c) substitute the expression lunatic with mentally ill person to bring it in tune with the Mental Health Act-1987.

The amendments are intended to make safe abortion services easily accessible to the public and to discourage illegal abortions.

MoU With HCL

2779. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts has signed MoU. with HCL infosys to provide them the network of post offices across the country to market its entire range of computer products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the financial benefits likely to be generated from this agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The department of Posts and HCL Infosys have signed MoU with the intention of development and introduction of the following services for mutual benefit.

(i) Usage of Speed Post by HCL at the all India level.

(ii) Booking of orders for HCL products through Post office network.

(c) Detailed operational agreement based on the MoU is yet to be finalized on the precise nature of service, accounting and pricing matters.

Establishments of Mission in New York

2780. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up a third Mission in New York; and

(b) if so, the constitution and functions thereof, indicating the reasons for setting up the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH):(a) and (b) No, Sir. However, an Indian citizen, Shri. B.K. Agnihotri residing in the United States, has been appointed as Adviser in the Embassy of India, Washington and Ambassador-at-large for Non-Resident Indians/people of Indian origin with the aim to strategically promote better coordination within the Non resident Indians/People of Indian origin as well as economic cooperation, investment and commerce by the Non-Resident Indians/people of Indian origin with India. His office is functioning from New York.

SCP and TSP for SC and ST

2781. SARDAR BUTA SINGH: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the new schemes and programmes being formulated by Ministry of small Scale Industries under SCP and TSP during the Tenth Five Year Plan in addition to the ongoing schemes for enhancing employment opportunities for the educated unemployed SC/ST youth and their economic empowerment of in the field of small scale industries sector specifying the nature/Scope and trager groups of such schemes and programme;

(b) the amount of funds proposed to be requisitioned during the tenth Plan for such schemes/ Programmes; and

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) A new Scheme for 'Development of Industries in tribal Areas' has been included by National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) Ltd. in the tenth five year Plan.

The schemes & programmes of the Ministry of Small Scale Industries are promotional in nature and are intended to accelerate the growth of Small Scale industries in the country. The schemes are uniformly applicable for all entrepreneurs including members of the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). Some of the schemes/programmes in which specific reservation/concessions/preference are given to SCs & STs are:

- (i) Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP)—To cultivate the latent qualities of youth by enlightening them on various aspects of be considered for starting new industry.
- (ii) Management Development Programme (MDP)—To impart state-of-art learning in emerging management techniques/practices to help small scale entrepreneurs for harvesting better profits and substantial share in the domestic/overseas markets.
- (iii) Hire purchase Scheme—To provide machines on hire purchase basis.
- (iv) Training—To impart training in conventional technology trades.

(b) Funds are requisitioned for the whole scheme/ programme and not separately for SCP & TSP component of the scheme.

(c) The targets sought to be achieved for SCs and STs under the various schemes during the tenth Five year Plan are:

- (i) EDP—28125 Persons.
- (ii) MDP—6185 entrepreneurs.
- (iii) National Entrepreneurial Awards— 05
- (iv) Development of Tribal Industries— 4000.

Allocation so Funds Under SCP and TSP

2782. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes/programmes formulated/being implemented by his Ministry under SCP & TSP since their commencement specifying nature, scope and target groups thereof as stipulated in Letter No. 280-PMO/80 dated 12.03.1980 from the Prime Minister's Office addressed to the Minister of Transport among other Ministries/Organisations while commencing SCP/TSP;

(b) the amount of funds requisitioned and procured by his Ministry during VIth, VIIth, VIIIth and Ninth Five Year Plans for such schemes/programmes;

(c) the quantified benefits and targets achieved in this regard; and

(d) and other scheme/programme being implemented by this Ministry for empowerment of SCs and STs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (d) The ministry of Road Transport and Highways has come into existence in November, 2000 after bifurcation of erstwhile Ministry of Surface Transport. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is responsible for the development and maintenance of national Highways and formulation of Motor Vehicles Act/CMY Rules. No schemes/programmes for economic benefits of SCs and STs under Special Component Plan (SCP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) come under its purview.

Abrogation of Indus Waters Treaty

2783. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state.

(a) whether in view of attacks by Pakistani terrorists on Jammu and Kashmir Assembly and Indian Parliament, the Government are considering the option of abrogating Indus waters treaty with Pakistan

(b) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether all ramifications in this regard have considered; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (d) Following the December 13 attack on the Parliament, Government took several measures considered necessary and effective to highlight the need for Pakistan to end support to cross-border terrorism and infiltration. These included the decision to recall the Indian High Commissioner from Islamabad; terminate the services of Samjhauta Express and the Delhi-Lahore bus service with effect from 1st January, 2002; reduce the strength of the respective High Commissions in the two countries by 50%; restrict the movement of those officials and family members who stayed back to the municipal limits of Delhi and suspension of all overflight facilities available to Pakistan or Pakistan Airlines with effect from 1st January, 2002. India has also handed over to Pakistan a list of 20 fugitives from law with the request that they be apprehended and handed over to India.

Government remains firmly committed to countering the threat of cross border terrorism and to preserving India's security.

Major/Minor Ports

2784. DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of major and minor ports under the management of Central Government;

(b) the number out of them are functioning smoothly in terms of loading and unload of goods, movement of vehicles and pedestrians, controlled land use and activities;

(c) whether there is any perspective plan of 5, or 10 years for the ports in the country;

(d) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(e) if not, whether the Government are contemplating to make a perspective plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) There are 12 major ports under the control of Ministry of Shipping and all them are functioning smoothly. The Minor ports are under the administrative control of the State Government concerned.

(c) to (e) The plans for development of major ports are included in the Five Year Plans of the Government for the Port Sector. During the Ninth Five Year plan (1997-2002) the Government laid emphasis on creation of additional capacity so as to overcome the problem of congestion in these ports due to traffic in excess of capacities. As a result the total capacity addition in the major ports during the 9th Plan period is expected to be 124.85 million tonnes, bringing the total capacity as on 31.3.2002 at the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan to 344.40 Million tonnes. As the traffic to be handled by the major ports in the terminal year of the Ninth Five Year Plan is expected to be around 290 million tonnes, capacity is no longer longer a constraint in these ports. During the 10th Five Year Plan (2002-07) it is proposed to enhance capacity and improve productivity with focus on measures aimed at modernisation, rendering cost effective services, enhancement of service quality, commercialisation through corporatisation and increased private sector participation in major ports.

[*Translation*]

Central Assistance to States of IT Training

2785. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether central assistance is being extended to the State Governments for imparting information technology training to the school and college students;

(b) if so, the details of the assistance given to Madhya Pradesh for the above purpose during last three years; and

(c) the norms prescribed for imparting computer training to the students in the schools and colleges in various States?

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

(b) and (c) The Department of Secondary and Higher Education under Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has recently launched a revised Computer literacy and studies in Schools (CLASS) Scheme. Under CLASS, an amount of Rs. 1950 lakhs has been sanctioned as 75% of Union Government Share. The Government of Madhya Pradesh would contribute remaining 25% of the funds required for the scheme. An amount of Rs. 975 lakhs (50%) is being released as 1st

installment to the State Government. The norms prescribed under the CLASS Scheme are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (CLASS)

CLASS project was initially introduced as a pilot project during the year 1984-85 in the wake of the British Aid of BBC Microcomputers. A total of 12,000 such computers were received and distributed to Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools through State Governments. The Project was subsequently adopted as a centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme during VIII Plan (1993-98). During the Eight year Plan the scheme was widened to provide financial grants to institutions, which were provided BBC Micros and also coverage of new Government aided Secondary/Senior Secondary Schools. In all around 5,000 schools including Kendriya Vidyalayas have been covered under this scheme upto the end of 8th Plan Period.

2. In a meeting held on 11.9.1997 between the Secretary (Expenditure) and Secretary (Education) it was decided that the CLASS be phased out in its existing form owing to the fact that the very nature of the scheme was "supply driven" and there was little involvement of teachers and students with the scheme and the progress of the scheme remained slow. It is now proposed to introduce the revised CLASS scheme in a modified form during 2001-2002. A provision of Rs. 74.00 crores has been made for implementation of the revised scheme during 2001-2002 i.e. the last year of the 9th Plan Period. Thereafter the scheme will be evaluated.
3. The scheme has been approved by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) at its meeting held on 18th December 2001. The features of the revised scheme are as under:
 - (i) Each State/UT would formulate a Computer Education Plan (CEP). The CEP would indicate the Steps already taken by the State Government/UTs and the assistance, which they now require.
 - (ii) the Department of Secondary & Higher Education has set up a Project Monitoring and Evaluation Group under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Secondary & Higher Education) at the national level which would consider the CEPs. Funds are being allocated on the recommendations of the Project Monitoring and Evaluation Group.

- (iii) The State Government would contribute a minimum of 25% of the funds required for the scheme. The Scheme also provides for contribution of 25% of funds from the MPLADs in addition or as an alternative to State Government contribution.
- (iv) The assistance of the Government of India would be for following items and upto the limits indicated against each item:
 - PC/Printer/CTV not exceeding Rs. 60,000/-per set.
 - Software/Curriculum/CDs not exceeding Rs. 25,000/-per school per annum.
 - Furniture (1 time) not exceeding Rs. 10,000/-per school.
 - Computer stationery not exceeding Rs. 20,000/- per school per annum.
 - Maintenance-50% of the Cost of the annual maintenance contract (after the period of warranty is over).
 - Internet connectivity, not exceeding Rs. 5,000/-per annum.
 - Teacher's Training—not exceeding Rs. 10,000/-per school per year (for teachers teaching in such schools for which the grants are agreed to be given).

An amount of Rs. 1 crore would be kept aside for the Department of Secondary and Higher Education for development of software, teaching tools, designing training models, evaluation, monitoring and other contingent expenditure.

- (v) Only such schools which have computer education as an elective subject at the secondary stage would be eligible for the grants under the scheme. However, the scheme could be in English/Hindi or the regional language.
- (vi) (a) KVS and NVS would convert one schools per State/UT into a SMART school subject to availability of funds. A grant of not more than Rs. 25 lakhs would be given per SMART school.
- (b) Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas would be given funds at the rate of Rs. 15,000/- per neighbourhood schools to impart computer literacy to not more than ten neighbourhood schools to cover 10,000 such schools over 3 years.

(vii) The scheme would be implemented for one year during 2001-2002 (i.e. last year of the 9th Plan) and would thereafter be reviewed.

(viii) Outstanding dues of States for the old CLASS scheme may be cleared with the proviso as stipulated by EFC.

State-wise Allocation made Under the CLASS Scheme During 2001-2002

S.N.	Name of the State/UT	Amount sanctioned as 75% Union Govt.'s Share (Rs.in Lakhs)	Amount being released as 1st Installment (Rs. in Lakhs)- 50%	No. of School
1.	Maharashtra	900.00	450.00	180
2.	Chhattisgarh	500.00	250.00	100
3.	Dadara & Nager Haveli	70.00	35.00	14
4.	Haryana	500.00	250.00	100
5.	West Bengal	1114.7625	557.38125	300
6.	Punjab	997.50	498.75	200
7.	Andhra Pradesh	1401.1875	700.59375	500
8.	Tamil Nadu	1000.00	500.00	200
9.	Manipur	250.00	125.00	50
10.	Goa	250.00	125.00	50
11.	Uttar Pradesh	1500.00	750.00	300
12.	Himachal	500.00	250.00	100
13.	Sikkim	145.00	72.5	29
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1950.00	975.00	390
15.	Gujarat	1500.00	750.00	300
16.	Meghalaya	295.00	147.5	59
Total		13323.45	6661.725	2962

[English]

Dhaleswari-Bhairabi National Highways

2786. SHRI NEPAL CHANDRA DAS: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on Dhaleswari-Bhairabi National Highways in Hailakandi District of Assam, has been

started by State P.W.D. from middle point of the road instead of BRTF of CPWC starting point of road i.e. Dhaleswari Bridge-point;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the work is being executed as per the specification;

(d) if not, whether any enquiry has been made by the Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ.GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Improvement of Dhaleswari-Bhairabi road (National Highway No. 154) is being taken up in phases, depending upon availability of funds and priority for development of stretches. Improvement of reach from Km. 30.00 to 51.50 of this road has been taken up in the first phase, based on relative condition of road in various stretches of National Highway.

(c) to (e) Ministry has prescribed specification for works. Based on a complaint received, the work has been inspected by our Regional Officer at Guwahati. The State PWD has been instructed to rectify minor deficiencies observed during inspection.

[Translation]

Funds Allocated to States for Maintenance of Roads

2787. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of allocation made to various States for construction of new roads and highways, improvement/maintenance of roads during the last three years;

(b) the State-wise details of the length of roads constructed during the above period;

(c) whether the funds provided have been misappropriated or remained unutilised by any State during the above period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ.GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) This Ministry is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways. The details of allocation made to various States for development & maintenance of National Highways during last three years are given in the enclosed Statements-I, II & III.

(b) The State-wise details of the length of roads improved during last three years are given in the enclosed Statement—IV.

(c) and (d) No case of misappropriation on funds has been reported during above period. The amounts utilized by the States during above period have been indicated in Statements-I, II & III.

Statement-I

Allocation for Development & Maintenance of National Highways During 1998-1999

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	Name of State/UTs	Development		Maintenance	
		Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4879.82	4273.04	4568.40	4069.47
2.	Assam	2661.10	1517.99	2815.51	2282.33
3.	Bihar	3417.35	3238.60	3336.97	3336.97
4.	Chandigarh	82.00	70.82	48.04	45.40
5.	Delhi	1400.00	1225.54	210.00	209.82
6.	Goa	1100.00	1172.54	617.08	617.08

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Gujarat	6628.54	9332.70	3296.94	3296.94
8.	Haryana	7588.50	6913.18	1239.42	1040.32
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2500.00	2500.00	2256.01	2256.01
10.	J.&K.	100.00	6.15	129.65	4.51
11.	Karnataka	3709.01	3772.04	3111.75	3065.34
12.	Kerala	7080.16	8820.63	2090.63	2090.63
13.	Madhya Pradesh	8247.73	7932.47	3945.04	3787.80
14.	Maharashtra	11382.63	11659.74	4957.67	4957.67
15.	Manipur	700.30	828.29	365.59	365.59
16.	Meghalaya	1060.50	911.03	625.80	620.50
17.	Nagaland	200.00	210.87	382.90	382.90
18.	Orissa	9726.82	8711.02	2761.15	2760.77
19.	Pondicherry	100.81	86.30	64.18	18.06
20.	Punjab	7148.88	7672.10	1538.81	1440.83
21.	Rajasthan	4605.81	4620.18	3718.19	3642.29
22.	Tamil Naud	3921.37	3652.38	3740.00	3597.85
23.	Uttar Pradesh	12649.35	10722.86	6128.44	6071.00
24.	West Bengal	10150.94	8394.40	2757.83	2757.83

Statement-II*Allocation for Development & Maintenance of National Highways During 1999-2000*

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	Name of State/UTs	Development		Maintenance	
		Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5707.87	3736.51	6897.26	5067.65
2.	Assam	4239.32	2769.61	5420.00	3068.35

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Bihar	6117.52	5950.16	11907.64	9059.08
4.	Chandigarh	100.00	73.93	141.50	118.30
5.	Delhi	700.00	422.13	139.84	133.27
6.	Goa	1700.02	1670.19	1426.69	1048.64
7.	Gujarat	8851.90	8683.39	3820.17	3660.72
8.	Haryana	10000.00	9046.65	2011.70	1544.73
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4000.00	3502.72	2726.24	2428.44
10.	J.&K.	100.00	0.91	302.36	23.99
11.	Karnataka	6113.84	6846.09	8445.04	6815.98
12.	Kerala	12837.07	10808.59	5309.00	4769.37
13.	Madhya Pradesh	12334.80	11546.69	6573.14	6038.04
14.	Maharashtra	17808.08	16662.16	8648.63	8528.70
15.	Manipur	1014.15	894.90	876.08	584.60
16.	Meghalaya	1785.28	1372.61	1305.89	814.84
17.	Mizoram	300.00	282.90	780.00	538.41
18.	Nagaland	800.00	886.17	924.63	1021.63
19.	Orissa	9228.02	9198.19	5638.24	4713.20
20.	Pondicherry	319.46	281.27	269.00	152.27
21.	Punjab	5300.10	4233.38	1635.80	468.77
22.	Rajasthan	5214.02	4311.94	7820.00	6336.13
23.	Tamil Nadu	6754.08	5348.20	13479.66	12160.40
24.	Tripura	50.00	0.00	24.00	24.00
25.	Uttar Pradesh	12647.45	11776.30	10179.49	10118.81
26.	West Bengal	8818.02	8072.55	6260.00	4756.96

Statement-III**Allocation for Development and Maintenance of National Highways During 2000-2001**

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	Name of State/UTs	Development		Maintenance	
		Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11188.26	10781.93	5413.75	5097.60
2.	Assam	5253.64	4877.01	4778.92	3749.75
3.	Bihar	6927.56	6014.41	6448.55	4945.92
4.	Chandigarh	144.00	139.57	44.54	27.75
5.	Chhattisgarh	1227.80	472.08	1180.00	884.97
6.	Delhi	483.00	0.00	82.00	82.00
7.	Goa	2300.00	2138.45	605.53	561.67
8.	Gujarat	9099.97	8675.49	2457.79	2182.89
9.	Haryana	10100.00	9290.11	1953.49	1466.93
10.	Himachal Pradesh	4415.00	3889.36	3351.53	3350.99
11.	J.&K.	250.00	51.59	284.42	83.42
12.	Jharkhand	2200.00	1188.78	960.84	771.81
13.	Karnataka	8104.00	7451.90	4683.83	4583.98
14.	Kerala	8978.03	4390.91	3340.03	3340.03
15.	Madhya Pradesh	13472.11	12649.59	8634.19	8034.34
16.	Maharashtra	21236.20	19631.80	4295.00	4295.00
17.	Manipur	851.31	535.31	824.49	687.62
18.	Meghalaya	1708.34	1562.73	1016.71	875.16
19.	Mizoram	1000.00	994.52	981.43	753.41
20.	Nagaland	1500.00	1489.52	361.25	358.17
21.	Orissa	10046.89	8388.97	4776.99	4047.26
22.	Pondicherry	200.00	146.65	182.10	123.20

1	2	3	4	5	6
23.	Punjab	5365.00	3817.01	2085.10	1537.32
24.	Rajasthan	8720.00	8403.34	4104.10	3878.02
25.	Tamil Nadu	10342.21	8256.09	5380.57	4896.25
26.	Uttar Pradesh	14949.76	13938.82	6076.50	5579.02
27.	Uttaranchal	199.35	123.88	459.30	409.19
28.	West Bengal	12800.00	10824.28	5374.80	2295.26

Statement-IV

*Length of roads improved during last three years
1998-99 to 2000-2001*

SI.No	Name of States/UTs	Length of roads (in Km)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	897.66
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Included in BRDB
3.	Assam	61.61
4.	Bihar	246.15
5.	Chandigarh	12.15
6.	Chhattisgarh	Included in Madhya Pradesh
7.	Delhi	34.65
8.	Goa	19.50
9.	Gujarat	468.96
10.	Haryana	322.90
11.	Himachal Pradesh	134.27
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	Included in BRDB
13.	Jharkhand	Included in Bihar
14.	Karnataka	284.20

1	2	3
15.	Kerala	127.10
16.	Madhya Pradesh	264.89
17.	Maharashtra	441.35
18.	Manipur	30.44
19.	Meghalaya	38.00
20.	Mizoram	18.00
21.	Nagaland	55.00
22.	Orissa	366.80
23.	Pondicherry	13.33
24.	Punjab	68.81
25.	Rajasthan	282.60
26.	Sikkim	Included in BRDB
27.	Tamil Nadu	465.66
28.	Tripura	Included in BRDB
29.	Uttar Pradesh	1007.83
30.	Uttaranchal	Included in Uttar Pradesh
31.	West Bengal	357.99

In addition to above Border Road Development Board have improved 289.77 kms during last two year.

[English]

Rural Industries in Maharashtra

2788. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rural industries-set up in the villages of Maharashtra by the Khadi Gramodyog Commission and the number of People working in them, District-wise details;

(b) the present position of these industries and the number of industries earning profit and those incurring losses out of them;

(c) whether there is any scheme to provide assistance to industries incurring losses;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) The district-wise information with respect to rural industries is not maintained centrally. However as on 31.03.2001, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), under the Rural employment Generation Programme (REGP), has given financial assistance in the form of margin money to 14,241 projects, generation 1,30,486 employment in the State of Maharashtra.

(b) Information in respect of profit/loss of individual units is not maintained centrally.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Khadi and Village industries Commission (KVIC) Provides one time financial assistance in the form of margin money for setting up such village industries, in addition to assistance in the form of technological, training and marketing support. There is no scheme to provide additional financial assistance to loss making units.

Marketing Company for KVIC

2789. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the employment potential of Khadi and Village Industries;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to lay emphasis on promotion of Khadi and Village industries during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the steps taken in that regard;

(d) whether any marketing company is proposed to be created for KVIC; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is already implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) throughout the country for the development of Khadi and Village Industries. It has been decided to continue the REGP during the 10th Plan period i.e. upto 31.3.2007, as well. The target for the 10th Plan is to generate additional employment opportunities for 2.0 million persons. Besides the REGP, the KVIC is continuing with its other promotional activities for the KVI sector during 10th Plan period. Moreover, for the development and promotion of Khadi sector, the Government of India has announced a package on 14.05.2001. The main features of this package consist of a Rebate Policy for five years, option of rebate and Market Development Assistance (MDA), Insurance Cover to Khadi artisans, emphasis on improvement of Khadi products, creation of Packaging and design facilities, measures to promote marketing, brand building, cluster development etc.

(d) and (e) The proposal for setting up a Marketing Company under companies Act 1956 for marketing Khadi and Village Industries products is under consideration of the Government.

Development of SCs and STs

2790. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state the special steps taken under the mandate of Art. 46 of the Constitution to promote the economic interests of the SCs and STs by way of establishment and maintenance of small scale industrial units through State sponsored/ aided schemes and programmes so as to enhance employment opportunities to educated unemployed youth from SC/ST communities and to economically empower them?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): The Government is implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) and the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) throughout the country to enhance employment opportunities and to empower economically the unemployed educated youth of the country including communities belonging to SC/ST. The REGP is being implemented through Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and the PMRY is being implemented through District Industries Centres. Under the REGP, back-ended Capital subsidy in the form of Margin Money is provided at the rate of 25% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs and 10% on the balance project cost upto Rs. 25 lakhs. The beneficiary is required to invest his own contribution of 10% of the project cost. For weaker sections viz. SC/ST/OBC/Women/Physically Handicapped/Ex-Servicemen and Minority Community beneficiary/Institution and for Hill, Border and tribal areas, North Eastern Region, Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Island, Lakshadweep, the Margin Money grant is 30% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs and 10% of the remaining cost of the project upto Rs. 25 lakhs. In case of SC/ST and other weaker Sections beneficiary's contribution is 5% of the project cost. This scheme is being implemented through Public sector banks, Regional Rural Banks etc.

Under the PMRY, 80% of the project cost comes as loans and rest 20% is subsidy from the Central Government and margin money contribution from the beneficiary. The Scheme envisages 22.5% reservation for SC/ST and 27% for Other Backward Classes (OBC).

Cancer Research Institutes

[Translation]

2791. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE:
SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI:

Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state.

- (a) whether the Government have established any Cancer Research Institutes/Centre in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the extent to which these research institutes/Centres have succeeded in the cure of this disease;
- (d) whether any new vaccine has been prepared for the treatment of cancer;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the further efforts being made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Under the National Cancer Control Programme this Ministry has recognised 19 Regional Centres in different States/UTs. Annually an amount of Rs. 75.00 lakhs is provided to each of these institutes to purchase equipment to carry out research activities in the field of cancer. Apart from research activities, these institutes also serve as referral centers for treatment of cancer. The list of Institutes recognised by this Ministry to function as Regional Cancer centres is enclosed as statement. Efforts are on to recognise one Regional Cancer Centres in each States/UTs and also to provide grant-in-aid under other schemes of the National Cancer Control Programme to fill up the geographical gaps in the treatment of cancer.

(d) to (f) The modalities of treatment of cancer are radiotherapy/surgery and chemotherapy. No new vaccine has been prepared for the treatment of cancer.

Statement

List of RCC

Kamla Nehru Memorial Hospital,
Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh.

Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute,
Kolkata, West Bengal

Kidwai Memorial Instt. of Oncology
Bangalore, Karnataka

Regional Cancer Institute (WIA),
Adyar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Acharya Harihar Regional Cancer,
Centre for Cancer Research & Treatment,
Cuttack, Orissa

Regional Cancer Centre,
Thiruvananthapuram

Gujarat Cancer Research institute,
Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

MNJ Institute of Oncology,
Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh

Pondicherry Regional Cancer Society,
JIPMER, Pondicherry.

Dr. B.B. Cancer Institute,
Guwahati, Assam

Regional Cancer Control Society
Shimla, Himachal Pradesh

Cancer Hospital & Research Centre,
Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.

Indian Rotary Cancer Institute,
(A.I.I.M.S.), New Delhi

R.S.T. Hospital & Research Centre,
Nagpur, Maharashtra

Pt. J.N.M. Medical College,
Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

Tata Memorial Hospital
Mumbai, Maharashtra

Indira Gandhi Institute of
Medical Sciences,
Patna, Bihar.

Acharya Tulsi Regional Cancer
Trust & Research institute (RCC)
Bikaner Rajasthan

Regional Cancer Centre,
Pt. B.D. Sharma Post Graduate
institute of Medical Sciences,
Rohtak, Haryana

[English]

National Highway Development Projects

2792. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Highways Development Projects (NHDP) undertaken by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) so far;

(b) the investments are made by World Bank, ADB and Private Managements in these projects, project-wise details thereof; and

(c) the details of utilisation of these investments/funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ.GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) The national Highways Development Project (NHDP) undertaken by NHAI has following two components:

(i) Golden Quadrilateral. Four/six laning of National Highways connecting the four metro cities of

Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata. (Total length 5846 Km. after realignment).

(ii) North-South & East-West corridors: Four/six laning of Highways connecting Srinagar to Kanyakumari (including Kochi-Salem Spur) and Highways connecting Silchar to Porbandar, (Total length 7300 Kms approximately).

the NHAI is also implementing projects for improving connectivity to the major ports and a few other projects with the total length of about 1000 Kms.

(b) The details of externally aided projects are given in the enclosed statement-I. Details of projects involving private investment are given in the enclosed statement-II.

(c) The details of Cumulative expenditure upto February, 2002 on the above project are as follows:

(i) World Bank aided projects	: Rs. 320.91 crores
(ii) ADB funded projects	: Rs. 1475.13 crores
(iii) on projects involving private Investment	: Rs. 297.27 crores

Statement-I

S. No.	Agency	Total length (in Kms.)	Loan Amount US dollars million
1	2	3	4
1.	World Bank (WB)		
	(a) World Bank-III (TNHP)		
	NH-2 (Sections in the States of U.P., Bihar & Jharkhand)	477	516

1	2	3	4
	(b) World Bank—GTRIP		
	NH-2 (Sections in the States of U.P., Bihar & Jharkhand)	421	589
2.	Asian Development Bank (ADB)		
	(a) ADB III		
	(i) NH-8 (Gurgaon-Kotputli)		
	(ii) NH-2 (Raniganj-Panagarh) (Barwadda-Barakar)	333	245
	(iii) NH-9 (Nandigama-Vijayawada)		
	(iv) NH-5 (Vijayawada-Eluru)		
	(b) ADB-IV		
	NH-8 (Surat-Manor)	176	180
	(c) ADB (WTC)		
	NH-4 (Tunkur-Haveri)	259	240

Statement-II*BOT Toll based Projects*

S. No.	Stretch	NH No.	Length (Km)	Project Cost (Rs. crores)
1.	ROB at Kishangarh	8	1	18
2.	Durg bypass	6	18	70
3.	Tada-Nellore	5	111	760
4.	Vijayawada-Nandigama	9	35	
5.	Vivekananda Bridge	2	6	600
6.	Jaipur-Kishangarh	8	90.38	644
7.	Satara-Kagal	4	133	530
8.	Delhi-Gurgaon	8	27.7	555
	Total:		454	3302

BOT Annuity based Projects

S. No.	Stretch	NH No.	Length (Km)	Project Cost (Rs. crores)
1.	Rajamundry-Dharmavaram	5	53	206
2.	Dharmavaram-Tuni	5	47	232
3.	Tuni-Ankapalli	5	59	283
4.	Tambaram-Tindivanam	45	93	375
5.	Panagarh-Palsit	2	65	350
6.	Palsit-Dankuni	2	65	432
7.	Maharashtra border-Belgaum	4	77	332
Total:			459	2210

Selling of Foreign Exchange

2793. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the facility for buying and selling of foreign exchange will be made available in some of the identified post offices in the country;

(b) if so, the foreign currencies which will be made available in post offices;

(c) the time by which this scheme is likely to be launched; and

(d) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) A proposal to provide facilities for buying and selling of Foreign Exchange from identified post offices is under consideration and a decision will be taken based upon technical and commercial feasibility.

IT Parks in Cochin

2794. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Kerala to set up new technology park at Cochin; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the same will be set up?

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

(b) and (c) As per the information made available by the Department of Commerce Ministry of Commerce and Industry, financial assistance amounting to Rs. 2.5 crores has been approved for module-I of the proposed project of the State Government of Kerala for setting up an Information Technology (IT) Habitat at Kochi. The project will be implemented by Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA), the apex body of the State Government Besides the above, Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), an autonomous society under the Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology had received a proposal for setting up of Satellite Earth Station/Data Link facility in KINFRA Park at Cochin. With the support of KINFRA by way of built-up Space, STPI has set up a Network operation Center (NOC) at Cochin and necessary infrastructure facilities including datacom equipments have been made available. The NOC is operational.

*[Translation]***Supply of Substandard Stationery**

2795. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether sub-standard stationery is being supplied in several Ministries at higher rate;

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

(c) whether the quality norms are ignored even in the items supplied from the Kendriya Bhandar;

(d) if so, whether any officer has been found guilty in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) No,

Sir. Kendriya Bhandar supplies stationery items to Government departments etc. as per specification raised by the Customers in their indent. Random testing of Goods is also carried out wherever it is felt necessary.

(d) and (e) Question does not arise.

*[English]***Maintenance of National Highway in Kerala**

2796. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned for maintenance and strengthening of National Highways during the eighth and Ninth Five Year Plan Period in the State of Kerala; and

(b) the details of amount spent during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) The amount allocated to the State of Kerala and the amount spent for maintenance and development of National Highways during the Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plan are as under:

(Rs. In Crore)

Period	Development		Maintenance	
	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure
Eighth Five Year Plan	188.79	182.53	54.45	54.45
Ninth Five Year Plan	479.00	363.62	153.44	142.43
		(Upto Jan., 2002)		(Upto Jan., 2002)

Scheme for Agro Based Industries

2797. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any special schemes for setting up agro-based industries in small towns;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to set up such industry in the pilgrim town of Palani in Dindukal district of Tamil Nadu; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) to (c) The Government is already implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). Entrepreneurs from any part of the country are free to prepare project proposals under the REGP and approach the branch of Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks etc. in their localities or offices of State KVI Board of the KVIC for assistance. Under the REGP, the unit can be set up in any rural area or an urban area having a population of less than 20,000. The KVIC does not set up units of its own. Therefore, the KVIC is not considering to set up any such unit of its own.

Golden Quadrilateral Project

2798. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target date has been fixed for completion of Golden Quadrilateral project and for construction of the four lane Corridors linking Silchar with Porbandar and Srinagar with Kanyakumari;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the fund earmarked for these two projects separately;

(d) the progress of these two projects as on date; and

(e) the measures being taken to complete the projects within the stipulated time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. The details are given in the enclosed statement.

(e) Following measures are being taken to complete the projects within the stipulated time:

- (i) Prompt decision making and faster payments.
- (ii) Bonus for early completion and penalty for delays.
- (iii) Lean officer-oriented organisation.
- (iv) Tapping private sector efficiencies by outsourcing project preparation, construction supervision and maintenance.
- (v) Leveraging Information Technology.

Statement

Project	Target date for substantial completion	Funds earmarked (Rs. crore)	Present Status			
			Total length (Kms.)	4-laning completed (Kms)	Length under implementation (Kms.)	Balance length to be awarded (Kms)
Golden Quadrilateral	December, 2003	25055 (At prices of year 2000-2001)	5846 (after realignment)	1063	4690	93
North-South & East-West Corridors linking Srinagar to Kanyakumari and Silchar to Porbandar	December, 2007	30000 (approx.) (At prices of year 2000—2001)	7300 (approx.)	717	644	5939

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5287/2002]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy of Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Tourism for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5288/2002]

(2) A copy of Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Tourism and Culture (Department of Culture) for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5289/2002]

MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Coir Board, Kochi, for the year 2000-2001, together with Audit Report thereon under sub-section (4) of section 17 of the Coir Industry Act, 1953.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) on the Audited Accounts of the Coir Board, Kochi, for the year 2000-2001.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5290/2002]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Mumbai, for the year 2000-2001.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Mumbai, for the year 2000-2001.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5291/2002]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Mumbai, for the year 2000-2001, together with Audit Report thereon.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) on the Audited Accounts of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Mumbai, for the year 2000-2001.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5292/2002]

(7) A copy of Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5293/2002]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5294/2002]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5295/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): Sir, on behalf of Kumari Uma Bharti, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5296/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): Sir, on behalf of Shri Sharad Yadav, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Labour for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5297/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956:—

(i) S.O. 81 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th January, 2002 seeking to acquire land for building four laning of National Highway No 4 (Harihar to Maharashtra Border) in the District of Belgaum in the State of Karnataka.

- (ii) S.O. 118(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th January, 2002 seeking to acquire land for building four laning of National Highway No. 4 (Chennai-Ranipet Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (iii) S.O. 119 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th January, 2002 authorising Additional District Magistrate (Land Acquisition), District Chittorgarh, Rajasthan, as the competent authority to acquire land for Udaipur-Mangalwar-Chittorgarh Section on National Highway No. 76 and Bhilwara Chittorgarh Section on National Highway No. 79 in the State of Rajasthan.
- (iv) S.O. 120 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th January, 2002 authorising the Additional Deputy Collector/Special Land Acquisition Officer of Collectorate, Pratapgarh as the competent authority to acquire land on National Highway No. 2 for Allahabad Bypass in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (v) S.O. 121 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th January, 2002 authorising the Additional District Magistrate (Land Acquisition), Bhilwara District, for widening of National Highway No. 79 in the State of Rajasthan.
- (vi) S.O. 122 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th January, 2002 authorising Special Land Acquisition Officer, Himmatnagar, Gujarat to acquire land on the National Highway No. 8 (Ratanpur to Gandhi Nagar Section) in the State of Gujarat.
- (vii) S.O. 123 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th January, 2002 seeking to acquire land on National Highway No. 4 (Chennai-Ranipet Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (viii) S.O. 124 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th January, 2002 seeking to acquire land for Chittorgarh-Bhilwara Section of National Highway No. 79 in the State of Rajasthan.
- (ix) S.O. 125 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th January, 2002 seeking to acquire land for four laning of National Highway No. 8 between Surat to Manor in the State of Gujarat.
- (x) S.O. 126 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th January, 2002 seeking to acquire land for four laning of National Highway No. 4 in the District of Belgaum in the State of Karnataka.
- (xi) S.O. 164(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th February, 2002 seeking to acquire land for four laning of National Highway No. 4 between Harihar to Maharashtra Border in the District Haveri and Dharward in the State of Karnataka.
- (xii) S.O. 1223 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th December, 2001 notifying the fee on mechanical vehicles for the use of stretch between Bhubaneswar-Cuttack-Jagatpur section of National Highway No. 5.
- (xiii) S.O. 129 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th January, 2002 notifying the fee on mechanical vehicles for the use of two lane Durgapur Expressway between Dankuni and Palsit in the State of West Bengal.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 5298/2002]
- (2) A copy of Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for the year 2002-2003.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 5299/2002]
- 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): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—
- (1) A copy of Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Space for the year 2002-2003.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 5300/2002]
- (2) A copy of Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Planning for the year 2002-2003.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 5301/2002]
- (3) A copy of Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and the Union Public Service Commission for the year 2002-2003.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 5302/2002]

- (4) A copy of Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Atomic Energy for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5303/2002]

- (5) A copy of Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Small Scale Industries for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5304/2002]

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by the Government on the assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during the various sessions of Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth Lok Sabha:—

NINTH LOK SABHA

1. Statement No. LI Second Session 1990

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5305/2002]

2. Statement No. XXX Seventh Session 1991

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5306/2002]

TENTH LOK SABHA

3. Statement No. L First Session 1991

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5307/2002]

4. Statement No. XLII Fourth Session 1992

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5308/2002]

5. Statement No. XXVIII Eighth Session 1993

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5309/2002]

6. Statement No. XXXIII Ninth Session 1994

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5310/2002]

7. Statement No. XXXI Thirteenth Session 1995

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5311/2002]

ELEVENTH LOK SABHA

8. Statement No. XXVII Second Session 1996

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5312/2002]

9. Statement No. XXV Third Session 1996

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5313/2002]

TWELFTH LOK SABHA

10. Statement No. XXII Second Session 1998

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5314/2002]

11. Statement No. XVII Fourth Session 1999

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5315/2002]

THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

12. Statement No. XV Second Session 1999

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5316/2002]

13. Statement No. XIV Third Session 2000

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5317/2002]

14. Statement No. X Fourth Session 2000

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5318/2002]

15. Statement No. VIII Fifth Session 2000

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5319/2002]

16. Statement No. VII Sixth Session 2001

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5320/2002]

17. Statement No. IV Seventh Session 2001

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5321/2002]

(Vol. I, II and III)

18. Statement No. II Eighth Session 2001

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5322/2002]

- (2) A copy of Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5323/2002]

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Textiles for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5324/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963:—

- (i) G.S.R. 904(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th December, 2001 approving the Visakhapatnam Port Employees (Grant of advances for purchase of conveyance) Amendment Regulations, 2001.
- (ii) G.S.R. 905(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th December, 2001 approving the Madras Port Trust Employees' (Appointment, Promotion, etc.) (Amendment) Regulations, 2001.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5325/2002]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under Major Port Trust Act, 1963:—

- (i) G.S.R. 928(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th December, 2001 containing corrigendum (in English version only) to the Notification No. G.S.R. 798(E) dated the 23rd October, 2001.
- (ii) G.S.R. 925(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 2001 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 204(E) dated the 21st March, 2001.

(iii) G.S.R. 906(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th December, 2001 containing corrigendum (in English version only) to the Notification No. G.S.R. 650(E) dated the 4th August, 2000.

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kandla Dock Labour Board, Kandla, 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 Kandla Dock Labour Board, Kandla, for the year 2000-2001.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5326/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing, Mysore, 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 All India Institute of Speech and Hearing, Mysore, for the year 2000-2001.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5327/2002]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna, 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 Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna, for the year 2000-2001.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5328/2002]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, 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 Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2000-2001.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5329/2002]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kamla Nehru Memorial Hospital, Allahabad, 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 Kamla Nehru Memorial Hospital, Allahabad, for the year 2000-2001.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5330/2002]

[Translation]

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Profit and Loss Account and Balance Sheet (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Telecommunications for the year 1999-2000, together with Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5331/2002]

[English]

12.02 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Eighth and Ninth Reports

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (Eluru): Sir, I beg to present a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the following Reports of the Committee on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme:

* (1) Eighth Report on the 'Proposal to amend Guidelines on MPLADS'.

* (2) Ninth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Second Report of

*Presented to Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha on 20 December, 2001 under Direction 71A of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha when the House was not in Session. Hon'ble Speaker ordered the printing, publication and circulation of the Reports under Rule 280 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

the Committee (13th Lok Sabha) on Member of Local Area Development Scheme on 'Proposals to amend Guidelines on MPLADS'.

[English]

12.03 hrs.

JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON THE FUNCTIONING OF WAKF BOARDS

First and Second Reports

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK (Pondicherry): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the First and Second Reports of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Functioning of Wakf Boards, on the Lakshadweep Wakf Board and the Pondicherry Wakf Board respectively.

[Translation]

12.04 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE

Fifteenth Report

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar): Sir, I beg to present the Fifteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Defence on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report of the Committee (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2001-2002.

[English]

12.05 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

APPROVAL OF USE OF ETHANOL AS OXYGENATE IN PLACE OF ETBE

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): Sir, as the hon. Members are aware, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has

been making efforts to encourage the use of ethanol blended petrol (gasohol). I had made a *suo-motu* statement in this august House in December 2001 on the success of the pilot projects and extending the use of gasohol to the entire country.

Simultaneously, the Ministry was also considering the feasibility of the use of Ethyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (ETBE) as oxygenate in petrol. ETBE is rated as a better oxygenate compared to Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE).

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas had constituted a Committee of Experts under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.J. Chopra, Executive Director, Centre for High Technology. This Committee has concluded that the blending of ethanol with petrol is a better option as compared to blending of ETBE from the various aspects, namely, operational, financial, environmental, technical, logistics, etc. in addition, ethanol is a biodegradable product and can technically be blended upto 10 per cent in gasoline without effecting major changes in petrol engines. It has high octane number and better thermal efficiency. The committee has stated that blending of ETBE can be done at refineries only which involves huge cost for setting up of ETBE plants. Each such plant would cost about Rs. 100 crore as against about Rs. 30 to Rs. 40 lakh for creating ethanol blending facilities at depots. This approach of using ethanol is less capital intensive and decentralised as depots are located all over India.

The decision to use ethanol as an oxygenate would, on the one hand, lead to its increased use and would also result in phasing out of the use of MTBE. In India, MTBE is being used as an additive to the petrol at two refineries—Mumbai refinery of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., and Koyali Refinery, Gujarat of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. There has been a growing concern about the use of MTBE as oxygenate in petrol as it is reported to result in water pollution when it seeps into the ground water and gives unacceptable odour to the water. Incidentally, the US Senate has recently approved the phasing out of MTBE over four years.

Presently, ethanol is being blended in petrol in three pilot projects launched at Manmad and Miraj in Maharashtra and Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh. Further, blending at three more locations in U.P. (Gonda, Kanpur and Najibabad), two in Punjab (Bhatinda and Pathankot) and one in Andhra Pradesh (Rajahmundry) are planned. Government has already taken a decision to extend the

blending of five per cent ethanol with petrol throughout the country in two phases. The first phase would cover the sugarcane growing States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. The rest of the country would be covered in the second phase. To promote the use of ethanol in petrol, the Finance Minister has announced in the budget for the year 2002-03, an excise duty concession of Rs. 0.75 per litre on petrol blended with ethanol.

Use of ethanol (five per cent) in petrol leads to better combustion and significantly lower emission of pollutants. For five per cent blending of ethanol with petrol on all India basis, about 500 million litres of ethanol would be required. The decision to use ethanol had been made in view of the advantages of use of ethanol accruing to the oil industry, sugarcane growing farmers and the environment. I am certain that the entire country would reap the benefits of this far-reaching decision.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5332/2002]

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Madhusudan Mistry has got a problem in his own constituency. He has talked to me and I am allowing him.

...(*Interruptions*)

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (Jalore): Sir, I have also got an issue to be raised in respect of Gujarat ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only 26 Members have given notices to speak and all of you will be given a chance. Shri Madhusudan Mistry may speak now.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, all of you may please sit down quietly. Please sit down. I will give chance to all of you. Shri Paswanji, you may also please sit down, I will also give you chance to speak.

[*English*]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, I thank you very much for giving me the floor to speak.

Today, Gujarat is in a highly volatile and explosive situation. Ever since claims are being made that the Chief Minister of Gujarat has controlled the violence in 72 hours and the statement was made in this House by the Home Minister, not a single day has gone without a killing. Yesterday, in a town called Modasa in my own constituency, when the girls were returning from school after finishing their examinations, they were teased. The rumour spread, violence started and two people were killed in police firing. For the whole night, looting, arson and burning of shops continued. I got telephone calls at 12.40 at night and the burning of shops went on right up 4 a.m. in the morning. Two people were killed in Baruch. After the statement was made in this House, there was violence in Ahmedabad and Vadodara. And to show that Gujarat is returning to normalcy, the State Government had, in fact, suspended examinations for the students only in two centres and they were allowed to be held in the rural areas as per schedule. The students are not in a state of mind to appear in the examinations. The worst thing is that, in Baruch, when one of the students was returning in an autorickshaw after finishing the examination, he was pulled out and assaulted. Subsequently, he died. Yesterday also, a girl was killed. She died in a hospital in Ahmedabad. She was first taken to Madausa, then to Himmatnagar and later to Ahmedabad.

I have a strong apprehension that this Government in Gujarat will not be able to control violence because it has liquidated its police force's authority ...*(Interruptions)* People have no fear for the police. ...*(Interruptions)* They destroy shops in front of the police itself to create violence. This is what is going on there. And that is one of the reasons why everyday violence is continuing unabated with the connivance of the State itself which has not apprehended ever a single person of the VHP and Bajrang Dal who were involved in violence in the entire State ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I demand that the Home Minister should be here to answer on this issue. In fact, we have no confidence in the State forces. Let there be Central forces deployed at all sensitive places in Gujarat ...*(Interruptions)* The situation is highly explosive where the Muslim community, as a minority community, is not safe. ...*(Interruptions)*

I also demand immediate arrest of all those involved in the violence ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

You are not aware what is going on there.

[English]

You simply do not know what is happening there. It is all due to politics of votes. ...*(Interruptions)* I want that all those persons mentioned in the FIR and belonging to the VHP and Bajrang Dal should be arrested. ...*(Interruptions)* This Government is yet to show a single person arrested from the FIR lodged so far. Sir, it has created a crisis of confidence among the people of the minority community. This Government simply do not want to arrest anybody instigating violence in the State. I want that the Centre must intervene and this Parliament must send some people to apprise of the whole situation and bring it under control. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, even today, there are 13,000 people living in the camps in my constituency after violence broke out on the 28th. There is hardly any security provided in those camps, forget about the facilities or amenities provided by the State itself.

They have been left to fend for themselves. ...*(Interruptions)* I want the Home Minister to come here. In fact, I contacted him. ...*(Interruptions)* Central forces should be deployed and the culprits should be brought to book to restore confidence among the minority community. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is one more Member who wants to speak on the same matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you have given notice, I will call you.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, the hon. Minister should come here to assure the House. ...*(Interruptions)* Only two days are left in the first half of the Session. ...*(Interruptions)* The Government has the responsibility to assure the House that the situation will be controlled. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri E. Ahamed, one more Member is there to speak on the same matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (Jhabua): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, People are migrating from there ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bhuria, if you interrupt like this, how can others get chance?

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I should also be given chance to speak. ...*(Interruptions)* It is not appropriate to allow only them to speak. ...*(Interruptions)* I have also given notice.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You will be given chance to speak if you have given notice.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government, particularly of the Minister to this important matter. ...*(Interruptions)* There is no relief measures to victims of Ahmedabad violence. In spite of the fact that the Prime Minister had assured this House that relief work will be undertaken and arrangements will be made for Ahmedabad riot victims, nothing has been done. ...*(Interruptions)* There are twelve camps and each camp has more than six thousand to seven thousand victims. ...*(Interruptions)* All these people are being given relief only by the communities. The State Government is giving only some rice and wheat. ...*(Interruptions)* They are not providing anything, no shelter, no food and no other facility. ...*(Interruptions)* There is no provision for health arrangement. There is no sanitation. ...*(Interruptions)* This is going on in this democratic India. ...*(Interruptions)* Hon. Prime Minister has assured this House that this Government will be making arrangements and there will be a Committee to look after that. ...*(Interruptions)* Hon. Members of Gujarat where victims are camped are also answerable. They have no courtesy to go and visit those areas. ...*(Interruptions)* You go and visit the camps. ...*(Interruptions)* I have visited the camps. ...*(Interruptions)* I have seen what is going on there. ...*(Interruptions)* They do not have food. ...*(Interruptions)* They do not have even mattresses to sleep. ...*(Interruptions)* They do not have basic amenities. The condition is very much miserable and it is very much pathetic. ...*(Interruptions)* On the one side the killing spree is going on. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri E. Ahamed, please conclude now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED: On the other side, these people are not able to go back to their houses because they do not have houses and their houses are destroyed. ...*(Interruptions)* If they want to go back to their relatives, they are not being allowed by the police. Curfew is there. ...*(Interruptions)* Even if they go back, they are being attacked. ...*(Interruptions)* The minorities there in Gujarat are being attacked. The minorities are being killed. ...*(Interruptions)* The minorities are being harassed. They are also being arrested by police. ...*(Interruptions)* They are also citizens of this country. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Deputy-Speaker, you direct the Government to respond to this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, whatever is going on in Gujarat at present. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DILEEKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI (Ahmednagar): The Congress Party is instrumental in all that ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, various reasons are responsible for Gujarat riots. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have allowed me to speak, please ask him not to interrupt ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir the RSS Convention which was held in Bangalore ...*(Interruptions)*. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, just see the ruling party....*(Interruptions)* They are engineering riots in Gujarat. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are 26 names in the list. All the hon. Members, who have given notices, will be getting a chance. But if you are just standing up and speaking like this, nobody will get the chance. I will have to dispense with the 'Zero Hour'.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, it has been written in the *Indian Express* today that no one, who massacred the people in Ahmedabad, has been detained under POTO till today. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a big conspiracy behind the Gujarat riots. 42 people were shot dead in the

Parliamentary Constituency of hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs. *...(Interruptions)* The situation cannot become normal till the Chief Minister of Gujarat is removed. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If this will be the state of affairs in the House, we have to dispense with the Zero Hour. All the Members want to make their points in this manner.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: 26 Members are in the list. Every member can get the chance to speak if every one keeps quiet in the House.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is because of them that communalism is spreading its tentacles. The country cannot survive in this situation. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Raghuvansh Ji, I have not given you the floor even then you are speaking continuously. There is no limit.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, why do not you ask him to sit down. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All this is not going to be a part of the records.

*...(Interruptions) **

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the resolution passed by RSS in Karnataka is just like threat. Through this resolution the RSS has threatened the Muslims to live life in a subdued manner. *...(Interruptions)* Propagators of RSS have stated. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This matter was raised yesterday. You have not given any notice in this regard.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not do like this. You have not given notice, even he has not given. No one has given notice in this regard.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: They want to divide the country. *...(Interruptions)* We will not allow them to divide the country again. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no notice either from you or from Shri Mulayam Singh in this regard. Both have not given notice.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have given notice in this regard. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not proper to speak without giving notice. You as well as Shri Ramjilal Suman have not given notice. Shri Akhilesh Singh has given notice. I will allow him.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have given notice for adjournment motion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No notice is considered during Zero Hour.

Shri Akhilesh Singh.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you allow Zero Hour to be continued or not?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have said to listen to me after question Hour. You had given ruling. *...(Interruptions)* The country was divided once earlier but this time we will not allow them to divide the country. Threat given by the RSS. *...(Interruptions)* It will be met. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not proper to speak without giving notice.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a senior Member of their party has spoken about partition of the country in Rajya Sabha. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions) **

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, do you want to say something?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given the floor to Kunwar Akhilesh Singh.

...(Interruptions) *

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Except the speech of Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, no other speech would go on record.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the proposal passed by RSS has created in the entire country. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have not admitted your adjournment motion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Raghuvansh Prasad, you have not given any notice.

Kunwar Akhilesh Singh.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Let the Government make a Statement on the issue. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, do you want to reply?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I cannot compel the Government to make a statement.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the Government wants to make any statement, it can make.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Let the Government update the House with the latest statement on Gujarat. ...(Interruptions) The Government is not even taking cognisance. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I called Kunwar Akhilesh Singh. Please do not interrupt like this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, I would take serious note of your disruption of the proceedings.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, have you given the notice?

...(Interruptions) *

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Why did you not given notice?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Several people have been killed there but not a single person has been arrested yet. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Besides, you have not given notice. ...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The unity and integrity of the country is being challenged. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record, Shri Kirti Jha Azad.

...(Interruptions) *

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I want to know from the hon. Members as to whether they want the 'Zero Hour' or not.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I am appealing to all of you that I am trying to accommodate everybody. There are 26 notices given by the hon. Members on important matters. We have six hours for our General Budget discussion. I do not know as to whether we would be in a position to complete it if we go at this rate. If all of you patiently hear as to what each of the hon. Member wanted to say on important matters, we would be in a position to clear it by one o'clock. Otherwise, it would be difficult to complete it. There is no use in shouting and counter-shouting. We cannot except results under such circumstances.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, some solution should be found out to the Gujarat problem. People are being killed there. There is no law and order. The situation is not normal and the Government are doing nothing there. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SANJAY PASWAN (Nawada): He is speaking deliberately so that discussion on Bihar could not take place. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what is the use of continuing like this? I think you can better adjourn the House now. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not know.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have not even given a Notice for speaking and you are continuously speaking. What right do you have to tell him anything.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Kirti Jha Azad, will you please resume your seat? I am trying to persuade him to sit down. You are only adding to my trouble.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.00 p.m.

12.37 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.02 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha reassembled at two minutes past
Fourteen of the Clock.*

(SHRI P.H. PANDIAN in the Chair.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House would now take up Matters under Rule 377. Now, Shri Y.G. Mahajan.

14.03 hrs.

[Translation]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to extend Godavari Express up to Bhusawal in Maharashtra.

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN (Jalgaon): Mr. Chairman, Sir, due to change in the time of Sewagram Express which leave from my constituency Jalgaon (Maharashtra) in the morning from Mumbai, the people of this area are facing lot of problems. People here can be facilitated in going to Nasik Road and Mumbai if Godavari Express running between Kurla-Manmad be extended to Bhusawal. Godavari Express leaves for Kurla from Manmad instead of Bhusawal. And that is why the Railway administration does not require any additional resource for this effort, nor any change is required in the present time of departure of the train. Bhusawal is a Division Station and 4 additional platforms are being made here. Sufficient staff is also available here. I, therefore, through you, request the hon. Minister of Railways to issue orders for appropriate action to extend Godavari Express to Bhusawal.

(ii) Need for early construction of a rail over-bridge at Palanpur, Gujarat.

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY (Banaskantha): Mr. Chairman, Sir, 30 years back, an overbridge was constructed in the headquarters Palanpur of my constituency Banaskantha, but now after thirty years, the traffic has increased a lot which causes unnecessary traffic congestion and accidents occur daily. The Government of Gujarat had sent a proposal for widening this over bridge and after the approval of the proposal, two crore rupees have also been provided to the Railways as 50 percent of the cost expenditure. Just two years back, but the said railway over bridge has not been constructed so far, due to which, on the one hand, the cost of this over bridge is increasing and on the other hand people are facing problems, which is not in the public interest. Therefore, through this House, I request that the construction work of the said over bridge be started immediately.

(iii) Need to utilise the expertise of traditional nomadic groups who use the rare herbal and medicinal plants for healing.

[English]

DR. SANJAY PASWAN (Nawada): Sir, I would like to draw through you the kind attention of Minister of

Health and Minister of Science and Technology towards the pathetic conditions of vast group of traditional healers, who have been treating and providing relief to the physical and mental ailment of society. They are not having any formal degree but they are enriched and enlightened in form of their heritage and legacy which needs to be preserved, propagated and popularised. There are vast number of nomadic groups, who are engaged in searching and compiling the rare herbal and medicinal plant of indigenous origin. In the modern world there is a high demand of such Indian herbal plant and herbal therapy all over the world. I request you, Sir, that our Government should make an 'Address Bank' of such persons with this type of expertise, identification of such nomadic groups, survey of such type of traditional healers and thereafter the rehabilitation of all such groups for the preservation of this type of ancestral knowledge-based therapy of Indian origin.

(iv) Need to develop 'Kesaria' in East Champaran district in Bihar as a tourist resort.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (Motihari): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is an important ancient site named "Kesaria" located in the east Champaran district at the northern bank of river Ganga in Bihar. This was a place of worship called as Kamla, Padma, Rasa and Pundu in the ancient times. This place is abound with ancient ruins and remnant of monuments of Dhmekha, Stupa, Ashoka pillar, Rock inscriptions (Shilalekh), Grihalekh, Tarai Lakh constructed by Emperor Ajatshatru and Ashoka, which are concealing the culture and civilization and also glorious past of India and in fact they are waiting for spectators. "Kesaria" in eastern Champaran was once a part of the ancient Lichhavi republics. It was the capital city of emperor Chandra Gupta, Ashoka and many other kings and emperors. It is also the birth place of Amarpali, the famous court dancer of Bajji (Vaishali), which was having a very important position at that time. Even Lord Buddha lived here for some time and gave his last sermon here.

I therefore, request the hon. Minister of Tourism to make arrangements for development of this area from tourism point of view and preserve the highest stupa of world.

(v) Need to clear the proposal of Bihar Government for setting up of more power plants to enhance power generation and rural electrification.

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai): Mr. Chairman, Sir, after division there is only one power station of NTPC in

'Kahalgaon' in the entire Bihar. 63 percent of its total installed capacity of power generation has gone in Jharkhand. Therefore, it has become necessary that additional power generation capacity be created in the remaining Bihar and the capacity of existing power generation plants be increased. There is a need for expansion of Muzaffarpur Thermal Power Plant and Barauni Thermal Power Plant. If Central Electricity Authority executes the project of Muzaffarpur Thermal Power Plant and a Super Thermal Power Plant in the private sector in Nabinagar, only then power generation capacity of 10,000 megawatt can be created in Bihar and power problem which is one of the main obstruction in over all development, could be done away with. Besides, there is also a need to strengthen the present Transmission and Distribution System as also establish a new Transmission and Distribution Network. It is extremely required in the rural electrification particularly.

I, through this august House, would like to draw the attention of the Government towards resolving the power problem in Bihar State immediately and also request to take action on the proposal sent by the Government of Bihar to the Central Government regarding rural electrification in Begusarai Parliamentary constituency expeditiously.

(vi) Need to provide financial assistance to Government of Madhya Pradesh for construction of canal under Ban Sagar Dam Project.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI (Rewa): Mr. Chairman Sir, the Ban Sagar Project in Rewa division is almost complete and generation of power has also started from it, but the construction work of the canals-kyote, Poorva and Sihawal originating from this project has not been started. Due to which the farmers of Rewa, Sidhi, Satna and Shahdal districts are not getting the facility of irrigation. The construction work of these canals is beyond the capacity of State Government. Therefore, the Government of Madhya Pradesh has been demanding for sufficient assistance from the Centre continuously for this purpose. The Madhya Pradesh Government has not been provided required funds from the Central Government so far for the construction of the said canals due to which, the farmers are not getting proper benefit of irrigation facilities and cost expenditure is also increasing.

I request the Government to allocate the necessary funds immediately for the construction of these canals at Ban Sagar.

(vii) Need to set up a regulatory authority to control the activities of TV operators to safeguard the interest of general consumers.

[English]

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (Nagar Kumool): Sir, most of the Cable TV Operators operating in big cities are monopolising their areas and charge arbitrarily without any reasoning. They do not allow cheaper services by new operators in their area of operation demarcated by them. Consumers are not allowed to change for a better operator who gives better services at reasonable rates. Such operators are hiking charges almost every month on the plea of enhanced rates of paid channels. Now, they are again asking increase on account of professional service tax imposed on them in the current budget. Although, the budget has not yet been passed, they are demanding extra payments.

I, therefore, appeal to the hon. Minister of Information and Broadcasting to look into the problems of consumers and standardise charges which should be publicly announced early and consumers should have the option of selecting channels which are not available now. I request the Government to control the activities of cable TV operators through a regulatory authority immediately to save helpless crores of TV viewers who are in their clutches now.

(viii) Need to ensure involvement of Members of Parliament in Implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhlishahar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana and Employment Assurance Scheme announced by Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.

Under Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana, the Government had given an assurance that the proposals of the local Members for the construction of roads having a cost upto 2 crores rupees would be taken into consideration. However, the same is not being done in my Parliamentary constituency Jaunpur and Pratapgarh (Uttar Pradesh). Probably, many other MPs are also having the same complaint. The same is true in case of Employment Assurance scheme.

Therefore, through you, I urge upon the hon. Minister of Rural Development, Government of India to ensure

the participation of Members of Parliament in the centrally sponsored schemes. The fund allocation under above mentioned scheme should not take place, till the Members of Parliament recommend it.

(ix) Need to withdraw the move to make disinvestments in Neyveli Lignite Corporation.

[English]

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North): Sir, the Government has a proposal to make disinvestment of Neyveli Lignite Corporation. It is a unique undertaking with an integrated project of coal mining and power generation. It has earned a total profit of Rs. 4515 crore in the last 25 years and its profit last year was Rs. 725 crore. During this year, it has earned a profit of Rs. 950 crore as of now. Moreover, the electricity that is generated through their power stations are sold to the Southern region, namely to the States of Kerala, Karnataka, Pondicherry, Andhra Pradesh at a very cheap rate, at Rs. 1.65 and to the State of Tamil Nadu at Rs. 1.14. Whereas the power generated from the private sector is sold at Rs. 4.50 to Rs. 5.50. so, if the NLC is privatised, then the economy of all the Southern States would be affected as their budget for power would go up, and their financial position would further worsen. NLC has also got very ambitious projects in hand like Mine-II and Mine-III Expansion, and Thermal Power Station TPS-III 2 x 500 MW power, with their own resources, without depending on the Budgetary Support.

Therefore, I would urge upon the Government not to make any efforts to disturb the capital structural arrangements of this undertaking, as that would unnecessarily create trouble not only in the power sector but also would affect the entire economy of the Southern States.

Sir, may I make a submission? The hon. Coal Minister as well as the hon. Finance Minister are available here. The entire staff are on strike in Neyveli. The power generation has come to zero unit. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have to read whatever that is given in writing.

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI: Sir, I would request the Minister to respond. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): I have asked the CMD to discuss it with the Union. You have rightly said that the power generation has come down. That is why, we are not

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getting the electricity. Once it is restored, they will get it. So, I have asked the CMD today itself that they have to talk to the Union people. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not a procedure.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, the Minister has responded to it. I support his intervention. But for every Member, who raise the Matter under Rule 377, equal intervention from the Treasury Bench is expected. There is a discrimination. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister has given a positive response.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I fully appreciate the Minister. But the Treasury Bench should respond to other Members when they raise their Matters under Rule 377. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, are you going to disinvest NLC?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, you should not have said so to me. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

You must appreciate it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I have appreciated you. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: As it is a very important matter, that is why I have intervened.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You do not have any fault in this regard. I said, the Government should give reply on every matter. Investment Minister is not here. He is not present in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Because the Minister has committed a positive reply. I am not expunging it.

(x) **Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Maharashtra for construction of a wall along the bank of River Krishna at Karad in Satara District**

SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL (Karad): There is an urgent need for construction of a wall along the bank of River Krishna and Koyana near confluence of these rivers at Karad, Satara District in Maharashtra to protect the *samadhi* of Late Yashvantrao Chavan, former Deputy Prime Minister of India.

I request the Union Government to provide financial assistance to Government of Maharashtra in this regard.

(xi) **Need to Construct a Road Connecting Pakbada at National Highway No. 24, Moradabad with National Highway at Kashipur, U.P. and declare it as a National Highway.**

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH (Moradabad): Sir, the Government can save crores of rupees being spent on petrol and diesel if a new road is constructed at National Highway No. 24 near Pakbada crossing Gangan river. Moradabad Haridwar road including a new bridge over Ram Ganga river. Finally meeting with National Highway at Kashipur, U.P. thereby reducing the distance between Kumaun region in Uttaranchal and Delhi. Moradabad city would have inhabitation across the Ramganga, and it will lead to the development. It will be beneficial for thousands of villages. The road distance between Uttaranchal and Delhi will get reduced to 30-40 kilometres. In the national interest, this national highway should be constructed at the earliest. It would also reduce the distance upto border, which would prove useful for Army in the hour of need, this new highway is also essential in view of national security.

14.20 hrs.

[English]

GENERAL BUDGET, 2002-03—GENERAL DISCUSSION

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT (GENERAL), 2002-03

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL), 2001-2002 AND

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS (GENERAL), 1998-99—*Contd.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we are resuming the General Budget discussion.

Shri Kharabela Swain.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, from the core of my heart, I congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for presenting such a courageous Budget. A derailed economy. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Budget needs finance. It needs no courage.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, thank you for your observation. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, since you were in the Chair, I must not comment. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, I said it in the lighter vein.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has tried to put the derailed economy back on the rails. He has done it with exemplary courage. He has shown exemplary courage in not trying to show fiscal heroism. He has not found this occasion for making glorious promises.

Rather, basically he has gone for the do-able things, which could be done, which could be achieved.

When the debate started yesterday, I listened with rapt attention to, at least, two of the hon. Members from the Opposition. They are Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar and Shri Rupchand Pal.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Subodh Mohite ji too spoke.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I listened to the speech of Shri Subodh Mohite also. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar said that the Budget was full of potholes and everything was wrong in the Budget. The hon. Finance Minister who has presented his fifth Budget was wrong everywhere. He was wrong five years back. He was also wrong last year. He is also wrong this year. He did not say a single word of praise for the hon. Finance Minister. He said that in everything and everywhere he had gone wrong. But, at least, I wanted a single sentence of suggestion for how to go right. Yes, he had gone wrong everywhere. It is all right. But how to set it right? How to bring back the economy to the rails? How to stimulate growth in India? He did not have a single suggestion. I am not surprised because Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar is as confused as his Party is.

For the last 50 years, when Congress Party ruled over this country, what was their economic target? How did they want that growth should be stimulated in this country and the lot of the poor people in this country should be changed? What did they want? The Congress people basically wanted that everybody in this country should get everything free. Everything should be subsidised. You give IRDP loan through loan *melas* and ask them not to refund the money. You, in the name of rural electrification, put electric poles in every village and ask them not to pay. You give rice two rupees a kilo, ask the blackmarketeers to take 70 per cent of that rice and sell it and become millionaires. You give kerosene two or three rupees a litre and ask the adulterators to adulterate 70 per cent of that subsidised kerosene by mixing it with petrol and diesel. This was the policy of the Congress Party for the last 50 years. That is the basic reason why the country has been impoverished. This is not the way to boost the economy of this country or boost the economic conditions of the poor people. This is only the way to make a poor person perpetually poor. You make him permanently poor so that every time he will come to the Government with a bowl in his hand and say,

[Translation]

De de Allah ke Naam per, De de'

[English]

That is what they wanted the people to become and the people have also become like that.

Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar said and the way he spoke was that the only Vikramaditya's golden era in India was late Shri Rajiv Gandhi's era. This was the only golden era. Everything was so good; everybody was so happy and prosperous. May I ask a simple question? If that was so good, if during the four year's reign of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi or during the regime of late Shrimati Indira Gandhi, the economic growth was the highest in India, then why was it that the people of this country kicked them out of power?

If that was so good, why did they lose many elections? They had to wait for somebody's assassination to come back to power because the economic condition was bad. It was wrong. The policy *per se* was wrong.

I listened with rapt attention to Shri Rupchand Pal. He indulged in the same old Leftist rhetorics. There was nothing new; not a single sentence was new. I would give you some examples.

I would give an example of his practical ideas. He said, 'Why do you not use the massive food stock for rural infrastructure?' He wanted that rice should be given to the workers and that they would prepare or construct rural infrastructure. If he were a practical man, I would just simply put a question. Excepting building *kutcha* roads or digging some ponds what construction work could be got done by giving rice to the people? Can you get a *pucca road* or a school building built by giving them rice?

We have the example of the Employment Assurance Scheme. Under the Employment Assurance Scheme, seventh per cent of the cost was supposed to be labour component and thirty per cent only was to be the cash component. Tell me, if you build a school building, a clubhouse or a hospital, would the labour component be seventy per cent? It would hardly be ten per cent to twenty per cent and the cash component would be eighty per cent. You require steel, cement and other things for such a construction. So, you require cash; you do not require rice for doing this. It is simply not possible that you could build rural infrastructure by distributing rice to the poor people. It is simply not practicable but he asked why the Finance Minister did not do that because it sounds very good.

Basically, what do all hon. Members say? They raise two or three questions—why there was an industrial slowdown, why no employment was generated and why there was a demand recession. These were the three basic questions put by hon. Members. With regard to employment, I have a basic question. Can employment be generated by creating unproductive jobs? How are you going to generate employment? It is by stimulating growth that you can create an environment for self-employment. There is no Government in the world that could provide jobs to everybody. It is simply not possible.

Hon. Member Shri Rupchand Pal several times referred to China. Last year, a delegation of MPs had gone to China. Shri Tiwari is sitting there. He also came with us. When the Leftists were invited to come, they said they would not go with us. They refused to go because they knew pretty well what was happening in China. They knew that they would be embarrassed if they went there and so they deliberately refused to go. They are now giving the example of China. Do they know how do the Chinese employ their people? Do they know how much of FDI they have attracted to their country? Do they know that even in the retail sector they have allowed foreign direct investments? Let them go to China and see it for themselves. The people of

Hong Kong, Taiwan, Germany, America and Japan have virtually invaded China. Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh said that Shri Subodh Mohite also said something about this. He said that our hon. Finance Minister had prepared this Budget under the pressure of the World Bank. He said that the hon. Finance Minister had raised the cost of LPG cylinder by Rs. 40 and increased the price of kerosene by Rs. 1.50. So, he said that it was done because of the pressure of the World Bank.

Is it true that only those people who speak in the name of poor are the *rashtrabhakts* and we are all *dalals* of the World Bank? We are also from a political party. Did not the middle class people vote for us? Shall we not go for vote again? Do we not have the interest of that community in our heart? But how are you going to do that? I am bringing to your notice one point with regard to LPG cylinder. They say that it is going to affect the poor. Which poor person of the country is utilising the LPG cylinder? Is there anybody in this country belonging to salaried class who is getting less than Rs. 10,000 salary now? Why should the Government provide subsidised LPG cylinder to somebody who is getting more than Rs. 10,000 as salary? This is my basic question. I am just raising it on the floor of this House. There are five crore LPG connections in this country. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): Shri Swain, will you yield for a minute? When you say that LPG is used by people above Rs. 10,000, request your hon. Finance Minister to reduce the price of kerosene oil which is used by all the common people.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I have already told that 70 per cent of the subsidised kerosene is being utilised for adulterating petrol and diesel. There is a huge black-market in the country which is flourishing only because of the subsidised kerosene. So, I do not want that the price of kerosene should be reduced in any way. ...*(Interruptions)*

Now I am coming to the point. Let us, for the sake of argument, say that there are five crore LPG connections in this country. Let us, for the sake of argument say that no house is having more than one LPG connection. Let us say that there are five crore households which are having LPG connections. If one household consists of five persons, then it will be safely presumed that 25 crore people of this country are benefited by LPG cylinders. What about the rest of the 78 crore people? Why should 78 crore people subsidise for the need of 25 crore people only? That is the basic question I am asking. Why should we give this privilege only to 25

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

crore people? It should not be given. I am opposed even to the reduction in the price of LPG cylinder by Rs. 20, that has been declared. I am personally opposed even to that.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): The people will give reply to this. Then they will have to sit in opposition.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, the *janata* has already given its verdict several times and they will show the way to the Congress people in future also. Let them sit there for another 10-20 years. We are just bringing this country to the right direction and we will do it and our Finance Minister and our hon. Prime Minister would lead the country in the right direction. Let them not be perturbed about that.

Now I come to the question of agricultural subsidy. People say that so much of subsidy is being given in USA, in Europe and in other countries, so why should we not give subsidy in our country also? In Europe and in America, hardly two to three per cent of the people resort to agriculture. There, agriculture is not a culture, it is agri-business. It is basically a business. One person who is not having three to four thousand acres of land, never goes in for agriculture. It is not like a part of life as we have in this country. So, whereas only three to four per cent of the people in other countries are agriculturists, in our country it is 70 per cent. And we say that you give all the subsidy to the farmer. Sir, we always insult the farmer by saying that he is poor, he is helpless, he does not have anything. We insult him because it is the same farmer who has produced extra quantity of 32.4 million tonnes of wheat and 48.39 million tonnes of rice, which is being stored in the FCI godowns of India. Is it not the same farmer who has done it, whom we say that he is poor? If he is really that poor, if he is really that helpless, how is it that he has produced so much of grain? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, this wonderful thesis should be sent to the World Bank. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not yielding, Shri Dasmunsi. You must make him to yield.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): He should be inducted in the Cabinet Sir, as assistant of the Finance Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is this? Everybody is getting up. Shri Chakraborty, please sit down.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, do you expect the so-called senior Members to behave like this in this House? Kindly ask him to at least keep quiet. I am making a speech and it is going on record. The Press people are there. If he wants to say something against me, if he feels that I have said something wrong, he should go to the people and tell them that BJP people are saying like this, so let them not vote for us in the next election. But I have a right to say and I am saying. I shall put forth the point of view of my Government. I am entitled to do it. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, when they were speaking, I did not utter a single word. So, I would request you to please ask them to keep quiet. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, his speech should be circulated in the form of pamphlets to all BJP constituencies. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, now let me come to the point of Voluntary Retirement Scheme. I am opposed to what Shri Subodh Mohite said. He is not here. After speaking, he just vanished yesterday. He said, why has this Voluntary Retirement Scheme been brought. Nobody wants voluntary retirement. If you voluntarily retire somebody, he or his wife is going to commit suicide. That is what he said. But the hon. Finance Minister is here. When the bank people, specifically the State Bank of India people, were asked to apply for voluntary retirement, so many people applied for voluntary retirement that the bank authorities had to stop it. They said that we are not going to receive any further applications for that. Is it not true? Can you show me a single person who has committed suicide because he has been given voluntary retirement, taking so much of money, then going to the private sector and occupying another job there also? Are they going to commit suicide? They are the most benefited persons who have taken this voluntary retirement from the Government. So, just spreading canards that the BJP Government has taken away subsidy for fertiliser, subsidy for kerosene, subsidy for gas cylinder, subsidy for agriculturists, so, it is anti-farmer, it is anti-middle classes people and it is anti-everything, is all basically untrue. Whatever we are doing, we are just doing for the good of the people. It may not be visible today but it will be visible after one or two years. Let the same Opposition Members who are criticising us, who are passing sarcastic remarks against us, go and see for themselves the Quadrilateral National Highway project,

which has been declared by our hon. Prime Minister. Here is Shri Khanduri—he is sitting here. The *Business Today* and all other magazines have written that everybody should learn a lesson from the Ministry of Surface Transport which Shri Khanduri heads about project implementation.

They should learn from the Ministry of Surface Transport and the Department of National Highways and see for themselves. What they could not imagine for the last 50 years, the hon. Minister has achieved it. You see in what speed the National Highway is being built. The same is also criticised with regard to the *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana*. I agree that sometimes the advice of the MPs are not taken into consideration. My advice has not also been taken into account. I agree. But kindly go and see in what way this scheme is being implemented. There is some specification as to how it should be built—there will be a concrete base and on that there will be tar—so that the road will exist for twenty years and it will not be damaged. You go and see for yourself.

I dare say that in Orissa, because we have not implemented the specifications in toto, the Vigilance Department officials from the Centre went there and suspended one BDO and some of the Junior Engineers. This can happen elsewhere also. It has happened in Orissa. This has come in the newspapers. We know it pretty well. The Government is also very specific about this project. I can say that this is one of the infrastructure-building measures which is going to boost the rural economy.

Sir, I will conclude in five minutes. I now come to the last point. A question was asked as to why there is a demand recession and why is there a recession in the industrial sector. The hon. Minister of Finance gave four types of tax rebates to the middle class people last year in his budget. That is why the collection of revenue was much less. What did he expect? He expected that it would boost the demand so that it would give a boost to the industrial sector also. But this has never happened. Therefore, the hon. Minister of Finance did not have any other go but to go in for the rural sector and the agricultural sector. He has given so much of incentives to the rural sector, to the milk-producing sector and the foodgrains production sector that there will be money in the pockets of the farmers in the future.

If there is a boost to agricultural sector, there will be an automatic boost to the industry and there will be a

growth in the industrial sector and the industrial sector growth is directly or indirectly linked to the employment generation. These are all inter-linked. I mean to say that he has gone in a very right way by just trying to boost the economy of the rural sector.

With regard to the cut in the interest rate for small savings, everybody says that the senior citizens of this country are going to lose because they have put their money with the hope that much of money will come to them as interest. But I am asking a very basic question. Kindly go to any developed country in the world. Which country gives 12 per cent rate of interest to anybody for any small savings? In the U.S. they had cut the existing interest rate six times last year. Now the interest rate is 1.5 per cent in the U.S. The basic economics says that the small-scale savings interest rate should be synonymous with the rate of inflation. The rate of inflation in India, for the last five years, is only 4.5 per cent. If the rate of inflation is only 4.5 per cent, why should there be an interest rate of 12 per cent? It has been reduced to 9 per cent now.

The hon. Members of the Opposition were asking for two contradictory things. They said: Why have you reduced the subsidy; and why have you not reduced the fiscal deficits. How could these two things be inter-linked? On the one hand you said 'go on giving subsidies' and on the other you said 'go on just giving more and more interest to everybody'. How could the fiscal deficit be reduced? How is it possible?

I would rather congratulate the hon. Minister of Finance who has been able to reduce the Government cost by Rs. 10,000 crore last year. I congratulate him for that.

But that is not sufficient. I agree. One of the hon. Members, Shri Subodh Mohite was saying that some Minister's PA had a car and he moved around. For that reason, he had to pay Rs. 3 lakh. Who was the Minister? He also belongs to the same Ruling Party. He is also having two Ministers in this coalition Government. Why did he not tell who is the Minister, who has utilised it? Merely saying that and making wild allegations that there is some Minister's PA who took the car and spent the entire money of the nation, will not help. Is this the way we are going to cut the expenditure of the Government? Is it the main expenditure? The main expenditure is interest burden and you cannot reduce it. Even if you desire, you cannot reduce interest burden because interest burden is fixed and you are paying such a high rate of interest on small savings. So, his arithmetic is correct.

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are the harbingers of growth. So, he has gone for giving a boost to them.

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

The Finance Minister's economy is correct that he has reduced the interest rate. I would request him to reduce it further also. He can bring it to eight per cent. Sir, I will request him to do this.

Sir, I just congratulate him for two more things.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Has he no time-limit?

MR. CHAIRMAN: If he has talked for longer time, it will be deducted from the time of his party and other Members will be penalised. The time is allocated to each party...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, it hurts them. They do not want to listen to the truth. They do not want that anybody should speak the truth in this House. That is why, they are perturbed. It understand that...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, let him speak for full time of the BJP. It will help us.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, finally, I come to the conclusion.

I congratulate the Finance Minister for having given Rs. 500 crore for the urban development. He has given this amount of Rs. 500 crore for the purpose of reform-linked assistance to the States. He has kept Rs. 14,000 crore for the States who are going in for reforms in every sphere of life. Any State, which will go for reforms, will get more money. That is one of the most innovative ideas which has been taken up by the hon. Finance Minister. That is why, I congratulate him.

I also congratulate him for going for so many things. He has understood the importance of the ports. He has understood the importance of tourism. He has understood the importance of...

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are eight hon. Members from your party who want to peak.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I will complete it within two minutes.

He has understood the importance of food-processing because food-processing and tourism are capable of providing enormous employment in this country. He has understood that and given weightage to those sectors. I congratulate him for that also.

Finally, the airports, the housing sector, the growth in tourism sector, the steel industry, and textile sector

I will just give one or two suggestions to him and conclude. With regard to the reforms in the power sector, I would say that Orissa was the first State which went in for power sector reforms and it has almost failed. The major problem there is that the money is not being collected from the people. Now, the general impression of the people is that the successive Governments have let off the corporate houses for their default in payment. The common man feels like this while the industry feels that it is the common people who are not paying the money. So, what is to be done? If you fail in Orissa, no other State will go in for power sector reforms. So, Kindly go there and just see that the power sector reforms—Orissa is harbinger in that regard—do succeed.

Sir, I will make one more request to the Finance Minister that if he has gone for widening of the service tax net, why has he not brought the doctors and lawyers under the net of the service tax?

Why do you not go for it? Kindly go for that because they really are the money-earners of the society. They are capable of just paying it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken half-an-hour.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Lastly, my suggestion is please go for the labour reforms also because this is one of the reasons for which the industry is not growing as it should be. Please go for it. It requires courage, and you have that courage.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI JOYTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (Guna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I would like to place on record our deepest condolences on the passing away of our late Speaker, beloved Shri Balayogi. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Finance Minister said in his Budget statement:

"This is a proposal to revive demand, promote investment, accelerate economic growth and enhance productivity. This is a Budget for consolidating, widening and deepening the reform process."

Nothing could be farther from the truth. I now proceed to elucidate this. The economy, Mr. Chairman, Sir, is in a decelerating phase and urgent steps are required to restore the momentum. Developmental objectives and economic prosperity are measured not only in terms of

GDP or *per capita* income growth, but also in terms of human well-being index. Let us briefly examine some of these.

According to the World Bank figures, almost 433 million Indians live on less than Rs. 50 per day. Fifty per cent of our children between the ages of one and five in rural areas are undernourished. In the growth of competitiveness index measured among 75 countries in the world, India stood at the forty-eighth position in the year 2000. Our ranking has been further lowered to the fifty-seventh position in the year 2001. We, today, have 17 per cent of the world's population. However, we share only a half per cent of the world's trade and only 1.1 per cent of the world's GDP. Compared with China, our literacy rate is 50 per cent of theirs. At the same time, our population growth is 50 per cent greater than theirs. We, today, have the unique distinction of adding more than the population of an Australia every single year to our country, more than 16 million people, Mr. Chairman, Sir.

I would now like to move and talk a little bit about the macro economic picture. Here, we are faced with the greatest political irony—while we are fastly moving towards a Hindu rate of growth, we are witnessing a secular decline in our economy. Our growth rate—today, the comparison being made of 5.4 per cent against a backdrop of 2.4 per cent in the world as an average—is rather misleading. The relative comparison I firmly believe, is much more important than the absolute one. With a US\$ 400 *per capita* income rate and the size of our resources, a five per cent GDP growth rate, Mr. Chairman, Sir, is nothing to be proud about, when countries like Taiwan and Korea around us have a *per capita* income growth rate and a *per capita* income of more than US\$ 10,000 per person. Our GDP growth rate in the 1992-96 period grew from 5.1 per cent to 8 per cent.

In contrast, in the last three years of the BJP Government we have seen a slithering of this growth rate from 6.4 per cent to a nadir of 3.9 per cent last year. The growth in the Ninth Plan at 5.4 per cent is the same average, Mr. Chairman, Sir, as the growth in the Sixth Plan which was almost twenty years ago. The Central fiscal deficit today at 5.7 per cent—which again I firmly believe once the last figures come in—would be closer to 6.1 per cent. It is rather alarming. This, combined with the States deficit will reach a total deficit figure of close to ten per cent, a rather alarming figure indeed.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today our revenue deficit is coming close to four per cent of GDP. This deficit is consistently

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met with higher borrowings. So much so, today, the Debt Re-service payments constitute close to 70 per cent of our tax revenue. National debt today, Mr. Chairman, Sir, is 85 per cent of GDP, just a notch below Pakistan's 105 per cent. These are all issues that we should be aware of. It comes as a little surprise then that our sovereign debt today is rated just marginally below the Junk Bonds. We could be easily heading for an economic Debt Trap or, even worse, hyper-inflation and economic collapse.

Our prime lending rate today is a matter of great debate. Our PdRs today stand at 12 per cent. This needs to be examined in the backdrop of a 1.1 per cent inflation rate which thereby implies that today in the economy one is facing a real rate of interest do beyond 10.5 per cent. At this real rate of interest it is inadvisable for new investments to come in, let alone upgradation of old facilities.

Sir, our FOREX reserves today are something that we are very proud about. They stand at about 50 billion dollars. However, these reserves consist mainly of flight capital, unlike China that consists mainly of trade surpluses on the current account. Our debt and our Foreign Institution Investment constitute 95 per cent of these FOREX reserves. At the first instance of pressure either on our foreign exchange or on our debt, this would be the first capital to get flight out of the country. In any case, Foreign Direct Investment which is the real Harbinger of true growth today is at four billion dollars per annum in India, whereas in China, our neighbour, we have a rate of Foreign Direct Investment of 40 billion dollars per annum. So, net-net, what is our position today? Interest payments consume 51 per cent of our total revenues, add to that Defence—26 per cent, followed closely by pay and pensions at 14 and seven per cent. This totals to 98 per cent of our revenue. These are completely pre-empted. This implies that in future all developmental expenditure, all capital expenditure must come from extra borrowings, an alarming situation indeed.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I now would like to briefly talk about the Budget. Last year our expenditure rose by 12 per cent and we had a commensurate rise in tax revenue of about four per cent. Our fiscal deficit can either be lowered by decreasing expenditure or increasing revenue. It has been forecast that our tax revenue would rise by more than 20 per cent this year. As industry contributes more than 80 per cent of our tax revenue, this implies that industry must grow at more than eight per cent in this coming fiscal year, a fact that cannot be denied by any one of us, is an impossibility. The last figures that

[Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia]

came in for the last quarter of 2001 shows that industry grew at a miserable rate of 2.3 per cent. Industry which is touted as an engine of growth is now spattering and there are concerns about the competitiveness of Indian industry on the world stage.

15.00 hrs.

The Increase in agricultural production, which by itself has declined from a 4.4 per cent growth rate to 2.1 per cent, is just not enough to generate this growth. Therefore, the only other avenue that we can look at is an increase in investment. The average gestation lag in the economy for investment to really reap fruit is about two and a half years. And in the last two years, Mr. Chairman, Sir, the investment growth rates in India have been between 23 and 24 per cent of GDP as opposed to 36 per cent of GDP in China. For an 8 per cent GDP growth rate which is what we require, the ICOR, or the Incremental Capital Output Ratio, that is required from an investment point of view is beyond 32.6 per cent. In addition to this, savings has to increase at a rate of 30 per cent which today is at a miserable level of 23 per cent.

Now, let us look at some of the data. Public investment in this Budget has increased by Rs. 9,700 crore which is only 0.4 per cent of GDP. So, it is quite clear that this increase in investment cannot come from the public side. So, the only other area we can turn to is really the private sector. And the private sector, given the incentive by only a higher depreciation cover of two per cent interest rates will not be able to bring about this required 8 per cent growth in investment.

Tax revenues and disinvestments, Mr. Chairman, Sir, were the two main areas of shortcomings in the last year's Budget. Unfortunately, the hon. Finance Minister is relying on these two very areas to bring about an increase in revenues for the next Budget, fiscal year 2002-03. The disinvestment target that has been set of Rs. 12,000 crore was last pierced only in the year 1994-95. On the other hand, tax revenues of GDP, which have been targeted at 6.8 per cent, was only pierced in the year 1996-97. Just how little financial flexibility the Government possesses can be judged from the fact that this year, in spite of recessionary economy we are looking at a raise in income tax. This is indeed, a unique spectacle. Consumption growth today has fallen from 6 per cent to 2.9 per cent. This is the time, Mr. Chairman, Sir, to lower taxes, to spur consumption, to spur savings and, therefore, to spur growth.

India's tax GDP ratio today is one of the lowest in the world. We are talking about a tax to GDP ratio of

about 8.5 per cent. The Budget proposes to further burden the taxpayers, instead of increasing tax compliance. The hon. Finance Minister has made statements to the effect that we do need to increase the tax compliance. But the implementation of these proposals is yet to be seen.

Now, let us take a little while to examine the expenditure side. Our Defence budget has been increased by a measly 5 per cent to Rs. 65,000 crore. This is in an environment, Mr. Chairman, Sir, where we are facing dire external threats. The need of the hour is to modernise our armed forces, to provide necessary equipment to our soldiers who in their quest to defend our motherland are laying down their lives. In addition to this, still lives are continuously lost whether on the mountain caps of Kashmir or on antiquated fighter planes due to obsolete equipment. It is shocking to see that out of the Rs. 20,000 crore devoted to capital expenditure last year, close to 15 per cent, which is Rs. 3,000 crore, remained unspent. Of the Rs. 65,000 crore in the Defence budget, 70 per cent goes towards revenue expenditure and only the balance 30 per cent towards capital expenditure.

I now rest my case by quoting the hon. Defence Minister while he was explaining China's 17 per cent increase in their defence budget this year. He said: "Ultimately, it is economic strength that will decide our military strength." Therefore, in the face of 15 per cent rise in expenditure and a commensurate only 8 per cent to 10 per cent rises in revenues for the next fiscal, we should all be prepared for a much higher fiscal deficit which I think should be closer to a 6.8 per cent rate of GDP.

This indeed is a very worrisome situation!

I would like to briefly now talk about capital market reform. Equity flotations in the market were down by 80 per cent. The hon. Finance Minister stated his intention of trying to "Boost investor confidence and strengthen market integrity." He clearly did it so through the imposition of dividend tax in the hands of the investors. This has been particularly detrimental for the common man and especially our senior citizens, who along with dividend taxation, a cut in rebate, a cut in interest rates and a ceiling of Rs. 2 lakh on relief bonds, have no investment avenue to turn to.

Last year, the market capitalisation of the BSE Sensex fell by Rs. 1,00,000 crore, hitting our small investors. This year, in response to the Budget, the very next day, the BSE Sensex fell by another four per cent.

I would now like to briefly talk about the disinvestment policy. The Government has changed its policy from a sale of shares to strategic sales. However, what we should keep in mind is whether we are selling the complete stake of the Government in a particular company or 26 per cent or a higher per cent stake. We must avail and must garner a controlled premium. The evolution and a communication of a transparent disinvestment policy is still awaited. The question that we have to ask is how is the reserve price fixed for companies. Is it done on a discounted cash flow analysis or is it done on an acid valuation model? Is this process consistent? Or does it change on a case to case basis? The answers to these myriad questions still remain mired under heaps of papers while our precious *Navratnas* are continuously auctioned.

Finally, the hon. Finance Minister has stated that the funds raised from disinvestment will be used to enhance the social sector, sectors such as education, sectors such as health care, etc. Till date, we cannot see a clear implementation of a corpus fund being put together or an implementation of this policy. Instead, today we are witnessing capital receipts from disinvestment being withered away or revenue expenditure. We must be thrifty with our resources and invest them wisely in the social sector, be it in building infrastructure, be it in augmenting the social sector, reducing indebtedness or in productive capital formation.

The country requires a reform package with a human face. The Government will have to move away from its half-hearted approach and piecemeal approach and develop a much more targeted package, a package that addresses the competitiveness of Indian industry on the world stage today, a package that addresses the concerns of the weaker sections of the society. The Government today still has a very-very important role to play. But it has a role that is very different from the one envisaged in the past. There are many social areas where its role will have to increase. Let us now examine some of these.

I would like to first take up agriculture. The hon. Finance Minister in his Budget speech talked about "freedom to the farmers", when in fact, the Governments policies of procurement and pricing has led to only a growing suicide rates of farmers.

[Translation]

Today, we remember Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri. He had given a slogan. What was it? His slogan was "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan" But what is the condition of our soldiers and our farmer after this budget, is known to us.

It was late Shrimati Indira Gandhiji who executed and implemented the Green Revolution. Today we, the Indian citizens, are very proud on the world stage because we have a surplus of food stocks. But the credit to that also must go to our *annadata*, our farmers and our labourers, who toil on the soil.

It was under the stewardship of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi in 1988 and 1989 that agricultural production was given a major fillip through the introduction of technology missions. It was in that period and a result of those policies, Mr. Chairman, Sir, that agricultural production reached a record growth of 16.3 per cent. And, this had an immediate effect on the economic condition of the country. The economic growth rate again reached a record level of 10.6 per cent, a growth rate that has never been pierced ever since. So, the farm sector is critical to the growth of this country.

Real public investment in agriculture has fallen by over 20 per cent since 1994-95. The maintenance of the irrigation systems and canals is in a major state of disrepair and the major agricultural research that is required as a fillip to agricultural production today is absent.

Today, agriculture in our country is going through a resource squeeze. On the one hand, diesel and fertiliser prices, that constitute 70 per cent of input prices, are rising, on the other, the procurement and pricing policies are making it even more difficult for the common farmer to repay his loans resulting in suicides.

The hon. Finance Minister in his Budget speech talked about diversifying crop patterns, the need for a diversification. There is no argument on that score. Mr. Chairman, Sir, but the key issue here now is implementation. It is indeed true that our country today has a surplus production of wheat and rice and we must shift our attention to ensuring that there is a growth in the production of oilseeds and pulses of which even today India is a net importer. However, when one looks at the Budget one sees that as far as oilseeds are concerned, the Plan outlay has reduced by 44 per cent, from Rs. 84.7 crore to Rs. 44.52 crore. At the same time, the Plan outlay for pulses has reduced from Rs. 35 crore to Rs. 19 crore, a drop of over 46 per cent. So, what exactly is the Government's policy, is open to conjecture.

I would now like to talk briefly about management of food economy. Clearly, the Government today has no

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action plan to tackle the issue of burgeoning food stocks. The Food Corporation of India today holds a surplus of 60 million tonnes as opposed to a buffer stock requirement of 70 million tonne. The Hon. Finance Minister chose to remain silent on the road map to liquidate this excess bufferstock other than stating that he was waiting for a report from a Committee on the subject. Unfortunately, this is, here and now a problem. This is problem that can be transformed into an opportunity. The surplus stocks imply a huge carrying cost of approximately Rs. 6,000 crore per annum to the exchequer. It is shocking that we are faced with a situation wherein food stocks are being kept in the open and are rotting due to lack of storage capacities. One wonders what the Government's policy is going to be in the coming wheat season, which is upon us, in terms of pricing and procurement. It is shameful Mr. Chairman, Sir, that in a country which is in a food surplus situation, we are still faced with a stark reality of starvation related deaths. This fairly and squarely places the blame on the PDS system and the policies of the Government that puts even the necessary sustenance out of the reach of the Below Poverty Line families. The existing food stocks could have provided a massive Food for Work Programme to create employment and build infrastructure. Instead, all that has been done has been that there has been an increase of Rs. 371 crore in this Budget. These surplus stocks could have been used to target the 6000 villages, one per cent of the six lakh villages in the country, which face starvation related deaths. But here again is an opportunity that has been lost.

The next social sector that we must look at is education.

Today, Rs. 4900 crore has been given for elementary education which is a grossly low figure even by the Government's own estimates which puts the figure at Rs. 14,000 crore. Assuming that there are 150 million children in the age group of 6 to 14 years, this works out to a meagre Rs. 1.50 per student per day. The nutritional support programme for primary school children has been given a marginal hike to Rs. 1057 crore from Rs. 1031 crore.

Sir, the question that I would like to put is how can the Centre and the States implement the Supreme Court order to providing free mid-day meal to all students with this amount of an outlay? The outlay to four IIMs, which are the pillars of institutional excellence today in the country, has been reduced from the revised estimates of Rs. 102 crore to Rs. 72 crore in the next fiscal year. During 1991-95, the Congress Government had committed

6 per cent of GDP to education by the year 2002. At that point of time the level of commitment to education was at 4 per cent. Since then, today that level has come down to below 3 per cent. I do understand that there is a Centre-State inter dependency on this issue. But we must develop a targeted programme and a targeted package that raises this to the 6 per cent level that was committed by us in Copenhagen, Beijing, and also in Bali. Sir, we are a knowledge based society. The world is a knowledge based society today. Until this knowledge percolates down to the grass-root level, India will not prosper and India will not grow.

I would like finally to spend a few minutes talking about employment. With both industry and agriculture flogging today, it is not surprising that unemployment is rising in the country. Average growth of job seekers in the nineties grew at about 2.6 per cent per annum. In contrast to this, average employment growth in the last four years of the BJP Government has reduced to a negative 0.075 per cent. Therefore, net-net there has been no job creation. In the last four years, we have added 2.8 to 3 million to the category of educated unemployed. Almost, a third of our population today—285 million people-live in urban areas. The number of cities with the population greater than one million has increased to 35. Our cities are choking with pollution and the infrastructure is under tremendous pressure. This calls for not only a re-thinking on urban reform but also it is a call, it is a herald, and it is a harbinger that we need to take industrialisation to the rural masses. Gandhiji believed not in mass production. Gandhiji believed in production by the masses. What should concern our policy-makers today is not the dollar amount of capital inflow into the country but what should concern the policy makers today is the number of jobs that each one of these dollars provide. We have to look at sectors where the capital to labour ratio is very low.

Today, China has successfully implemented the concept of rural industrialised States. They have created Special Export Zones that span 500 to 750 kilometers, all in the rural hinterland. Our SEZs in Kandla and Santa Cruz are only small islands in comparison. Employment through such schemes and such zones can be provided to the rural population, thus, stemming the migration from the rural hinterland into the urban areas. So, net-net with the 1.9 per cent growth in population and 26 per cent, I believe is the figure of our population still live below poverty line, we cannot create new opportunities at 1.5 per cent growth rate. We cannot uplift these masses. So, where exactly is the country headed? Where are we headed? The frequent changes and tinkering with policies

undermine today the Government's credibility. We have seen this with the taxation on dividend. We have seen this with the excise duty changes on branded tea or garments; and we have seen this with the change in the tax holiday status given to software companies. Far from a dream budget

[Translation]

At present, this budget has given us less happiness, and much more sorrow.

[English]

Sir, the whole budgetary system today has become unworkable. The future generations will end up paying heavily for this. The country today needs a vision and the country needs a blueprint for progress. This needs to be communicated to the people and they need to be taken in confidence. India is a country that proudly rises and responds bravely to challenges. We did so in 1991. People are willing to pay a lean and efficient Government that delivers. The hon. Prime Minister earlier this year had announced a year of implementation. The key word here is delivery and the key word here is implementation. The key word here is execution. Words that seem to ring hollow with the present Government.

I, now, end in my late father's words that still ring through. He said:

"The country must be told that there is a plan of action and that there is light at the end of the tunnel. They must be assured of a bright future, especially our economically weaker sections and the millions that still live below poverty line. They must never ever be lost sight of."

As the noted economist, Amartya Sen said:

"Reforms cannot work alone. We need to keep in mind the politics of poverty."

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this preceding speech which is very good from a very young man leads me to the hope and the optimism that there is bright light at the end of the tunnel. Now, let me come to my points.

Sir, I shall only confine myself to a singular aspect of the Budget. The Budget has two sides. I do not say that it has two faces but two sides. One is the Annual Financial Statement which is the constitutional document

and the other one is the speech of the hon. Finance Minister Part 'A' of his speech comprises of policy statement or the assurances and Part 'B' explains us how far the arithmetic and figures in the Annual Financial Statement are credible.

Sir, the hon. Finance Minister Shri Yashwant Sinha has presented his fifth Budget consecutively here in this House; perhaps one short of Dr. Manmohan Singh. Dr. Manmohan Singh had presented six Budgets consecutively in this House. I do not want to go back to the past and shall confine myself to the period of Shri Yashwant Sinha only. One aspect which disturbs me very much, with which not only I am very much concerned but also the whole House and the whole articulate section of the country is concerned and the Hon. Finance Minister himself is no less concerned, is the deficits in the Budget. Economists all over the world have been saying that generation of continuous deficits impairs growth and is rather hostile to growth. If a nation continuously goes with revenue deficits, it creates an atmosphere which is hostile to growth. That is known everywhere.

Last year, when the Finance Minister presented the Budget, it was acclaimed as one of the best Budgets. Nine out of ten persons, perhaps with the lone exception of Shri Sitaram Yechury, have approbated it. In 1986, as far as I remember, Shri V.P. Singh had presented a Budget which was acclaimed as the best Budget by Shri Nani Palkiwala and many others also. Then came the dream Budget of Shri P. Chidambaram and the last one to have got such an acclaim was the Budget presented by Shri Yashwant Sinha last year. These Budgets have been praised by everybody in this country.

But, unfortunately the last year's Budget ended in a fiasco. I give you only the deficit figures. You shall see the deficits are growing year after year. Every year in the last five years the deficit has been increasing and the gap between the BE and RE has been widening. In actual terms the deficit is much higher than the budgeted estimate.

I would like to place before this House some figures. In 1998-99 the revenue deficit in the BE was projected to be Rs. 48,068 crore, which accounted for 2.7 per cent of the GDP. In actual terms it became Rs. 66,975 crore in the RE, which accounted for 3.8 per cent of the GDP. In 1999-2000 in the BE the revenue deficit was Rs. 54,147 crore and actually it became Rs. 67,596 crore which was 3.5 per cent of the GDP. In 2000-01 Rs. 77,424 crore was the budgeted revenue deficit, which became Rs. 85,234 crore at the RE stage, accounting

[Shri Trilochan Kanungo]

for 4.1 per cent of the GDP. In 2001-02, the revenue deficit in the BE was Rs. 78,821 crore and at the RE stage it went up to Rs. 91,733 crore and nobody knows what will be the actual. In 2002-03 in the BE the revenue deficit is projected at Rs. 95,377 crore.

My point is simple. I have got no concern with the fiscal deficit. The moment you contain revenue deficit, the moment it becomes zero, fiscal deficit will not be a burden so long as it is investment in productive works. It generates more and more wealth. Fiscal deficit means the total borrowing of the Government in the year. I do not bother about that. I bother about the revenue deficit about which the Finance Minister categorically told in paragraph 76 of Part 'A' in his Budget speech last year.

"I am deeply concerned of the burden, (debt and interest) which is being placed on future generations by our extravagance. I cannot allow the situation to continue."

In paragraph 77, again he told:

"I appointed the Expenditure Reforms Commission last year and introduced the Fiscal Responsibility Bill in the last Session. The Bill seeks to reduce the fiscal deficit to 2 per cent completely eliminate the revenue deficit over the next five years."

If during the last five years, the revenue deficit could not be decreased by one rupee, then how can the assurance that within five years to come, the revenue deficit would be nil? A deficit of Rs. 97,000 crore would become nil! That is the main question before the Finance Minister to answer. Unless and until revenue deficit has been contained, I tell you that all these slogans, promises and policy formulations that he read out in Part 'A' of his speech have absolutely no relevance. Therefore, the House has the right to know what exactly the Finance Ministry is planning to do. I do not want to use the words 'that he has failed'. But he has not achieved anything. He has not done anything to contain the revenue deficit, let alone achieving something. He has not achieved anything in containing the revenue deficit, fiscal deficit and primary deficit. This is a matter of serious concern and the Finance Minister ought to remember and react on this. I am aware that it is easier said than done. But it has to be done. It may be difficult but not impossible. My request is not only to the Finance Minister himself but to the whole Government, the whole House and all the political parties also. The leaders should sit together and find out a way as to how within five years of time this revenue deficit of the Budget could be contained so that a right planning for the future can be made. Unless

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that is being done, in concrete terms, all these pronouncements and policy formulations will become futile.

I want to tell one interesting thing to you. A lot of things have been told about agriculture. Some are telling that it is an agriculture-oriented Budget. So far as agricultural workers are concerned, in the *Economic Survey* of 2000-01, there is a paragraph on Unskilled Agricultural Labourers. There was also a Table in the *Economic Survey* up to 2000-2001 such practice was there. The matter was raised in one of the meetings of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Finance as to why the agricultural labourer is being called unskilled labourers. Which of the agricultural labourers are unskilled? Please define them. Surprisingly this year, 2001-02, the *Economic Survey* does not contain that paragraph at all. Absolutely, there is no mention of unskilled agricultural labourers in it. The Table was removed.

This has happened. This has been removed completely from the *Economic Survey*. I do not want to go into further details. I can now come back to receipt losses for which States have also lost this year form statutory devolution of taxes.

All States have lost, but poorer States lost more. Due to loss of tax revenue, Orissa alone is losing Rs. 600 crore during 2001-2002. How can the backward States manage their heavy burden of responsibilities? Time and again, we have been demanding and we have been pressing-if this is done, the State to which Shri Yashwant Sinha belongs to will also be a beneficiary—for revision of coal royalty. This has not been revised for the last five years. The backward State of Orissa alone has lost Rs. 1200 crore on that account. Other States are also losing, except West Bengal. Had West Bengal been deprived of that, it could have been revised long back. I am telling you this with a heavy heart that as a guardian, as a level player, the Parliament and the Central Government should see to it that backward States come up. They are not getting their rational, reasonable, and legitimate claims. The States of Orissa, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are suffering from backwardness. You will be surprised to know that in Orissa alone 120 per cent of their own revenue is spent on loan repayment and interest payment every year. How can it manage? The Central Government has a role. Not only that, the Central Government has a responsibility for this. As you know, articles 293 and 294 have given a responsibility to the Centre. The State cannot borrow even a rupee without the permission of the Centre. In the plan allocation the Centre's assistance is 70 per cent by way

of loan. Since they are given at high interest rates, the States are suffering, particularly the States that have very low revenue base. The poor and backward States are suffering. This is where the Central Government has failed. It has failed to play the level playing role. I do not want to go further...*(Interruptions)*

As our Party belongs to NDA, we have to support this Budget. We will support the Budget. The Opposition has to support the Budget, because the Budget is to be passed. The difficulties have not been removed. The elements which ought to have been removed, have not been removed; and the elements which should have been looked into have not been looked into. I am particularly concerned with deficits. Unless and until, the revenue deficit is brought back to zero level, the situation will not improve. The fiscal deficit could be more. There could be more global borrowing. Unless this is done, the country will not progress and the country will not prosper. We may use high sounding words, but it would not do any good to this country.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA (Kanakpura): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I would say that I would like to concentrate only on agriculture. I know the time limitation. But I would like to mention about the fiscal performance in only one word. The hon. Finance Minister himself, while addressing the FICCI, had shown his anger. Now, I am not going to take the *Economic Survey* for the year 2001-02, which has been placed on the Table of the House, to quote the figures that have been printed in it.

Mr. Finance Minister, on 1st March, if I am correct, while addressing the FICCI, you have expressed your dissatisfaction about the performance of the industrial sector. You said that even though you give a tax concession of about Rs. 16,000 crore, the industry is unable to yield the necessary revenue to the Government, and the total revenue loss is about Rs. 20,000 crore compared to the target you have fixed. That is your own expression about the performance on the fiscal side. I do not want to deliberate on this issue any further. I am straightaway coming to the agricultural sector.

Mr. Finance Minister, you tried to do something to help the farmers. I have gone through it very carefully. You have announced several benefits according to your Budget proposals. You have indicated what you intend to do for the year 2002-03. I would like to know whether all these things are going to help the farmers and the rural economy. Rural development and agriculture go side by

side. There is no difference about it. Some of the figures that have been given by the Government or the Ministry concerned, which is in charge of Rural Development, vindicate the position. It has been said that two lakh villages do not have access to potable water. The figures are your own figures. It has further been said that 90 per cent of the rural households do not have proper sanitation facilities and 40 per cent villages do not have school buildings. These are the figures given by the Ministry of Rural Development.

I have gone through the speeches made by several Finance Ministers. I do not want to blame you alone for all the problems the country is facing today. At the same time, I do not want to say that the country has not progressed. In the last 53 years, the country has made some progress. But that progress has not been evenly distributed. There are certain economists who say that growth should be evenly distributed and there should be a consensus in this regard. The point is that the gap between the rural and the urban people has widened. There is some growth in the last 53 years compared to the pre-Independence era. We have made some progress. We cannot say that we have not done anything. Whether it is the Congress regime or non-Congress regime, we did make some progress. We also made certain mistakes. I mean, the policy-makers, the planners and the economists have made certain mistakes. There are certain genuine mistakes which we have committed.

According to the Plan, we might not have derived the results. The buffer-stock is more than 55 or 58 million tonnes. The food production last year was about 210 million tonnes. What is the situation prevailing in the rural areas even then? I do not want to comment on what our young friend from Orissa has mentioned in his speech. Why people are dying in hunger in Orissa? It has been reported in the Press, and the same was raised in this House, though I was not here. Why farmers are committing suicide when there is mass food production and buffer-stock at our disposal? This matter is the concern of the entire House. It is not a question of this party or that party.

Sixty-five per cent of the total workforce comes from agriculture. Whatever we may talk about the industrial sector, service sector, manufacturing sector, but nobody can deny that the agricultural sector is a sector which is going to provide more than 65 per cent of the work to the rural masses.

On all fronts, whether it is plantation crop or cash crop or traditional crop, the farmers today are not getting the remunerative price. If I say something good about

and
Demands for Excess Grants (General), 1998-99
speech. You would find what I have done for
farmers.

[Shri H.D. Deve Gowda]

your decision, that does not mean I am wholeheartedly supporting some of the decisions made by this Government. You have taken a decision to remove the restriction on transporting the agricultural produce from one State to another State freely. Taking into consideration the needs of the farmers, you have taken this decision. This is one of the areas where I should say that the Government has done its best.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: I am coming to that.

"A special OTS scheme for small and marginal farmers will be announced by RBI to cover loans up to Rs. 50,000."

The other thing is that this year you have increased the allocation to the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme by Rs. 800 crore, that is, from Rs. 2,000 crore to Rs. 2,800 crore. There is an increase of about Rs. 91 crore for the Agriculture Extension and Research Scheme. In the case of NABARD, there is an increase of about Rs. 500 crore to strengthen its financial activities. I do not want to oppose the idea of giving certain concessions to the industrial sector. I would just like to quote for the benefit of this House this:

This has been announced in 1998. What you have said is that a one-time settlement scheme for small loan accounts with outstanding principal up to Rs. 25,000 as on 31st March, 1998 is already in operation for the non-agricultural sector. But this year, you said that up to Rs. 50,000, the RBI is going to announce. That is the Budget proposal. My primary concern is that today farmers are committing suicide not because of the shortfall in production but because the loaning process is not according to their expectation. You have set a target of extending credit facilities to the farmers to the tune of Rs. 62,000. Would you kindly give the break-up figures for this? Have the cooperative banks, commercial banks and the rural banks reached the target? I have read that your target is Rs. 62,000 crore. But has it actually gone to the farmers? Let me know as to what are the actual disbursement details.

"20-year loans to be converted into 50-year ones."

You have said this, according to the Press report. Further:

"After IDFC, IFCI and Indian Bank, the Government has decided to bailout the country's largest and smallest development finance institutions: the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) and Industrial Investment Bank of India (IIBI). Unlike IFCI and Indian Bank, the Government's support this time is not financial. Instead, the institutions have been permitted to rollover their 20-year loans into 50-year ones."

You have set a target of issuing 2.1 crore *Kisan* Credit Cards this year. Would you give the break-up of this? How many *Kisan* Credit Cards were issued by the nationalised banks, rural banks, commercial banks and the cooperative banks? Please enlighten me because I was not able to get those figures. Wherever I go, I would not hesitate to tell that I come from farmers' community. We do not belong to any higher strata of society.

Why can you not give the same benefit to farmers? The Non-Performing Assets, according to the latest information, would be Rs. 60,000 crore. Out of this, how much belong to the farmers or the farming sector? Please let us know as to what is the burden on the farmers. The entire Rs. 60,000 crore belongs to the non-agricultural sector. Maybe, a portion or maybe Rs. 10,000 crore or so belong to the agricultural sector. I do not know. Please enlighten me. Why can you not give the same benefit to bailout the farmers? You must try to explain this.

I am particularly concerned about those people who are suffering in the villages. I rose to the highest level, the Prime Minister of this country from an ordinary *panchayat* member. Let us go to any village—not only to Kalahandi district where from our hon. friend who has just made an eloquent speech comes—in Orissa State of our country and see the conditions there. Let us to go his home State and see the condition of villages in some of the districts there. I have seen them with my own eyes. We do not need the figures of National Sample Survey Organisation or Lakadwala Committee Report to defend our argument. Let this House constitute a Committee and let that Committee visit a few villages in every State of our country and see the conditions prevailing there. We might have provided one *kuchcha* road, not an all-weather road, a school building, electricity connection and water supply to our villages, but we have

In the Budget itself, you have said:—

"A one-time settlement scheme for small loan accounts with outstanding principal balance up to Rs. 25,000 as on March 31, 1998 is already in operation."

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): You please read the next line from my Budget

to see whether the water supply will be provided for all the 12 months of the year, even when the ground water level goes down during the drought season. Let us go to any village in our country and see the housing conditions there.

Sir, whatever may be our achievement, I am ashamed to say that our rural areas are still in a very pathetic condition. I am not going to make a comment that this Government is only responsible for this since they are in power for the last four years. Let all of us sitting here—whether we are from the *Bharatiya Janata Party* or the Congress Party or 'X' party or 'Y' party—make an introspection and realise the miserable conditions prevailing in our villages. We should also see the luxury that we are seeing in the urban areas. I would like to make an appeal to the Finance Minister that we must collectively try to find a way out for this. We should not be under the impression that there is no money in this country. Money is available; it is concentrated in the hands of a few people, but we are unable to touch them. We are scared to touch them. Yesterday, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar mentioned the names of four or five industrial houses. I am not going to say that only the industrial houses have exploited the entire wealth of the nation.

Sir, I am not an economist. But during the short tenure of 10 months when I was the Prime Minister, I told the Finance Minister that we should introduce the Voluntary Disclosure Scheme. He did not agree with me and said that the Government was not able to get even Rs. 200 crore in the past when such a scheme was announced during the tenure of Shrimati Indira Gandhi. He said that the Government could get only about Rs. 780 crore or so and that the Government had to take the blame from tax-payers. So, he asked me as to we should again incur such a displeasure from the tax-payers. I have persuaded the Finance Minister by saying that, after the introduction of economic reforms, a lot of black money has accrued in the hands of so many people and so, we should try that scheme once again. Then he requested me to talk to our friends from Left Parties. When I talked to the former Chief Minister of West Bengal Shri Jyoti Basu,—I must be fair to him—he readily agreed to go ahead with the scheme.

16.00 hrs.

Everybody doubted that there would not be much revenue in that. An amount of Rs. 33,000 crore was declared. You have got a revenue of Rs. 10,800 crore.

There is no need to go with a begging bowl to the foreign investors with all our concessions to appease

them. I do not think this country is poor. It is roaring with wealth. Our taxation system is not working in the direction in which they have expected. It is for them to think over how they should generate the resources. I can say it in my own way—even though I am not an economist—how the resources can be generated, provided the House agrees. I can understand how problematic it would be to arrive at a decision in a coalition Government. It is not so easy. We can easily criticise in this type of political atmosphere. It is not the BJP alone that is responsible. Everybody has contributed to the end of one-party rule. We have all contributed towards that whether 'x', 'y' or 'z'. There is no need to have a debate on this issue. In a coalition, unless there is a conscientious decision for taking certain radical steps, it is very difficult to generate the resources or to find out the area where we can improve the position of our resources.

Disinvestment is not your theory. It is not your responsibility. The previous Government introduced the economic reforms. I was a Member sitting in that corner during those days. My friend, Dr. Manmohan Singh the then Minister of Finance, is here. He announced certain decisions in this very House. In my opinion, at that time, it was going to hurt the farmers. I sat on *dharna* for the first time in my life. I protested. Nobody in the House supported me. This is going to damage the agriculture sector. Do not make a mistake because the World Bank is putting pressure on us. The IMF is putting forward all types of conditions. I had no other option.

I am not going to say that Shri Manmohan Singh is dishonest. He is one of the honest, well-read and known economists. I am not going to dispute all those issues. But my concern was that he had no knowledge of the rural masses. He has no knowledge how the farmers—the villagers—even today are not having the basic facilities. We feel ashamed when you go for votes. We would beg votes with folded hands. Then, we would forget it. We discuss here about the industrial growth, the service sector, and the manufacturing sector. That is going to be the remedy for all the problems that are prevailing today.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. You have taken 25 minutes.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: That is why I am going to confine myself to agriculture. I do not want to deal with other issues. Some people say that I am always pro-agriculturists. We cannot forget them...*(Interruptions)* I am a farmer. I am not going to be ashamed myself while saying that I am a farmer. Even now, I am a farmer...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN (Coimbatore):
Everybody is proud of farmers...(Interruptions)

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: Then, everybody should forget the party lines. We should try to take decisions collectively. I am willing to extend my support to the Government if it comes forward with the relief measures.

Sir, on the question of disinvestment, I am not going to question now, which route the Government is going to follow. In a short span of two-three minutes I can elaborate. They have taken a decision, even though the economic reforms were there. We have classified nine public sector undertakings as *Navratnas* during our period. Let us not disinvest. Where is the need for that?

Shri Maran was there at that time, as Industries Minister. All right, as the Prime Minister said, the loss making public sector undertakings alone cannot attract the investors or the multi-nationals or whatever the argument the Prime Minister gives, I am not going to question that. But in a situation like this, everybody attacks the Government's policy about the disinvestment.

The land value itself in some of the ITDC hotels is being questioned. I can give the facts and figures prevailing in the market and how these ITDC hotels were being sold. A property worth Rs. 10 crore is sold for Rs.2 crore. Who is the evaluator? What is the system that they want to follow? Why not there is a transparency in this? Why you people unnecessarily take blame? If anybody talks corruption, you can talk about corruption from 1952, as I told in this very House, during V.K. Krishna Menon's time, the jeep scam and I quoted it there from that seat.

I do not want to attribute motives. But the issue is why can it not be transparent? Let us discuss the disinvestment policy in this House because the Supreme Court has also upheld the BALCO case. I do not want to question the decision of the Supreme Court, because based on the Government's policy decision they might have taken a decision. But let us rethink about this issue. We are not getting the real value of the public sector undertakings that we are going to disinvest.

Sir, one more problem is about the plantation crops. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you also come from a State where coffee and tea is grown. Today, more than 80 per cent of coffee is exported by our country. They have imposed customs duty. I would like to know why do we want to import coffee when we are exporting more than 80 per cent. In what way it is going to benefit the coffee growers.

They have to bail them out from the present crisis; about Rs. 900 crore is the loan component and every year they have to pay Rs. 130 crore as interest. More than 75 per cent of the small coffee growers, having one hectare, two hectares or three hectares of land, who come under that. I personally refer this case to the hon. Minister that when he gives his reply, please announce certain relief to these coffee growers. I want a categorical assurance from the hon. Minister as to how he is going to bail out the farmers.

The hon. Minister has announced amendment to Milk and Milk Products Control Order and he has now opened it up. Is it going to help the milk producers? This is the one area in which Dr. Kurien has put in all his efforts. We call him the father of milk movement. Once you allow the private sector to operate in this, that movement will be affected.

During my period, from small scale sector I took away the ice-cream manufacturing and gave it to the cooperative sector. Now they have taken a decision. My own fear is this sector is going to suffer in future. When you allow the private people or the multinationals to operate in a big way, this is going to be a major decision of this Government, which is ultimately not going to help the milk producers.

Sir, we are importing about 4000 tonnes to 5000 tonnes of butter oil at Chennai Harbour. They are getting it at the rate of Rs. 75 per litre. Butter is being sold at the rate of Rs. 115 or so per kg. They are selling the adulterated *ghee* at the rate of Rs. 105 per kg. Is it not going to adversely affect the milk-producers? The hon. Minister has to think over it. I want a categorical assurance from the hon. Minister as to how he is going to bail out the farmers. Removing the restrictions alone is not going to help, again the middlemen will play a major role. The diversification of agriculture is not going to bring back the farmers to overcome the problem.

Dr. Balram Jakhar, the then Agriculture Minister, sitting there announced, in 1992 the diversification of agriculture, 'if one per cent food production is going to increase, there is a glut in the market'. Because of paucity of time, I do not want to argue more, but I tell you that today the worst hit is the agricultural sector. I would urge the hon. Minister not to allow them to die, commit suicide. Show me one industrialist who has committed suicide!

They want to bail out IDBI, they want to bail out ICICI, they are giving so much of benefits to these people.

Sir, I would dwell on one more point and that is about kerosene. During my period, we were also facing the same problem, about Rs. 18000 crore of oil deficit. When the matter came before me, I said, except kerosene, I am ready to accept the proposal made by the Department. I said I am not going to increase even a paisa on kerosene. At that time, the cost of crude oil per barrel was 28 dollars. When this Government came to power, it might have gone up to 32 dollars or 34 dollars. Now, it has again crashed to 18 dollars or 19 dollars. When the cost of crude oil has come down by 50 per cent? They want to reduce the cooking gas rate.

Yesterday, our Telugu Desam friends were telling that 40 lakh people have benefited by the scheme which has been launched by Shri Chandrababu Naidu and they decided to pressurise the Government for this. Maybe they will put some pressure on the hon. Finance Minister! But who is going to lobby for the kerosene users. They are all small people living in the huts. Again, the cost of kerosene has been increased by 75 paise or something like that. Petrol is not used by the hut dwellers but kerosene is used by them. So, I would urge upon the hon. Finance Minister to reconsider this increase in cost of kerosene.

Again, what little they have given for the agricultural sector, it has been taken away by increase in the cost of fertilizer. On the one hand they have given some benefit and on the other hand they have taken away that benefit. So, I would urge upon the hon. Finance Minister to reconsider that surcharge on fertilizer. The price of kerosene has to be brought down and with regard to loans what benefits have been to the industrial sector as a non-agricultural sector, the same benefits should be given to the agricultural sector, from 20 years to 50 years, it can be rolled back. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to give the same benefit to them.

Please give the same benefit to them. As one time concession, now, through Reserve Bank, you assured the House up to Rs. 50,000. Are you going to see that you implement it? If you implement it, it is well and good and I will compliment you.

I hope that the hon. Finance Minister would look into some of these issues which I have raised and see that some remedial measures are taken to bail out the farmers and the suffering rural masses in this country.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak. I am waiting from yesterday to speak on the General Budget.

Sir, if I totally support this Budget, then my heart will beat. If I oppose this Budget, then also somebody can say, "You are in NDA and you are saying something." I feel that I should say the truth. There is no harm in making observations or comments or giving opinions, where people may gain from them.

Before speaking anything on the Budget, I would like to tell the hon. Finance Minister that I am not speaking against him personally or against any individual. I would like to quote Rabindranath Tagore: "Give me the strength never to disown the poor or to bend my knees before insolent might."

I am not convinced about this Budget when there is confusion among us also as to whether it is a positive or a negative Budget and I will say that it is directionless. I know the financial position of the Government. The Government is passing through a very critical time. Not only our country but also several countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh and other countries are facing the financial crisis. India cannot say what the dictator country can openly say about the financial emergency. India is a democratic country. Though our financial position is not only so bad today yet we are also facing this situation since long. But, Sir, in the name of reforms, the Government cannot take it for granted that only the poor class, the middle class and the common people would suffer. That would not solve the problem.

We have talked about the statistics in regard to the financial situation and the financial condition. Every hon. Member has given his opinion. What we feel today is that in the broadest sense, if there is a will, there is a way. The main will of us is lacking today. If there is no political will and if there is no political reform, this country cannot go for economic reform because the system, the option, the thinking and the vision have to be changed.

Secondly, I would request this House through you, Sir, that in the political system, in the electoral system, in the administrative system and in the judicial system, reform is very much needed. We are a poor country but we are a developing country. Is it not a fact that every year in the name of election we spend a lot of money? I would request the hon. Finance Minister to think about the electoral reform, keep some money for State-funding and go straightaway for State-funding of the election so that the big houses and the political parties cannot go for black-money. When you are going to adjust that black-money, then the poor people and the common people are going to suffer because they take this money from them.

That is why, I think, both political will and political reforms were needed. What I have seen in this Budget

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

from the common people's point of view is this. Due to increase in the prices of kerosene, domestic gas and fertilizer, the service class, the retired people, the unemployed youths and the small-scale industries are the victims. But this country should not forget that we are having 100 crores of people in this country. We should not sacrifice ourselves to satisfy only 100 individuals. That is why, my request would be that you only concentrate on my few suggestions.

Regarding domestic gas, yes, the Government has reduced the price by Rs. 20. Since the last 10 years, there has been an increase of 400 per cent in the prices of domestic gas. It is not a fact that only the urban rich people use domestic gas. It is used by everybody in this country, especially, the urban, semi-urban and even the rural area people. There are so many rural villages where, of course, there is development. They are also using this gas. You cannot touch the kitchen. If you touch the kitchen, that will be very quising. That is why, I would request the Finance Minister to reconsider this. You have reduced it by Rs. 20. That is okay but it is not enough. Earlier also it had been increased. So, it should be reduced fully. It would be our request.

Secondly, let me come to kerosene oil. I heard some friends saying this and I am really shocked to learn that the poor people do not use the kerosene oil because it is adulterated and all these things. I am surprised to know this. If there is an adulteration, who is responsible for this? The Government machinery is responsible for this. It is not the poor people. You cannot increase the price of kerosene oil. Somebody is saying people do not use kerosene oil. Yes, it has been used by common people the poor and the poorest of the poor in this country.

How do we reduce the price of foreign liquor? How do we increase the price of fertilizer, kerosene oil and domestic gas? I am really surprised. You increase the price of foreign liquor more and more. Who can purchase foreign liquor? Those who have the capacity to purchase foreign liquor can give more money. But the poor people cannot purchase it by giving Rs. 1.50 more per every litre, which has been increased in kerosene oil. In the case of domestic gas, there has been an increase of Rs. 20.

Regarding fertilizer, I congratulate the Finance Minister when he said that this is a farmers Budget. Sixty per cent of our people are agricultural people. Now you increase the fertilizer price. They are feeding you. You are biased towards them. Do not do it. You have

increased the prices of essential commodities through freight rate in the Railway Budget also. I do not want to say about that. My Party people will speak. All the essential commodities have been touched. Here also, essential commodities like fertilizer, domestic gas and kerosene oil have been touched. Where will the common people go? I may be wrong because I am not an economist. I do not know about the ABC of economy.

But, from the grass-root, what we feel is that there are so many taxes. The Central Government puts taxes. Of course, the people have to pay the taxes to the Central Government. The State Government puts tax. Municipality puts tax, and corporation is putting another tax. How many times a single individual has to pay tax? There must be some uniform policy for that. I would request the Finance Minister to see that there must be some uniform policy on tax reforms.

Some States are imposing sales tax on essential commodities also. So, I would request the hon. Minister of Finance to request the State Governments to reconsider the tax on essential commodities because it hits the common people.

The lowering of interest rates on savings and investments is most unfortunate, especially in the case of small saving instruments. There are many people who take voluntary retirement under the VRS. You would appreciate that in our country, the retired people, housewives, teachers and even rickshaw pullers invest their money in fixed deposits, NSCs, UTI or in such other small saving instruments. Last time, the interest rate was reduced by 1.5 per cent. This time, it has been reduced by 0.5 per cent. For crores of people, after retirement, this is their only source of money for giving their children. It is with this money that they educate their children and also carry on their livelihood. So, I would request the hon. Minister of Finance to give a re-thought and not to reduce the interest rates on small saving instruments. When people invest their money in Government institutions, we should encourage them more and more to invest in Government organisations.

It is unfortunate that only the common people have to suffer when there are many people who have black money. On the one side, we are going in for disinvestment in all our public sector undertakings. At the same time, can you just place a White Paper in the House listing out the people who have taken money from banks and financial institutions and have not returned their loans till date? They are also getting fresh loans. Who are defaulters? I think, this is not proper...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: We agree with her...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: They are the defaulters and they are the captains of big industrial houses. So please produce the list of these defaulters...(Interruptions)

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: If you agree with her, the headache of West Bengal is over.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: She is pleading our case very efficiently...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: I am raising the views of the common people. I think, everybody would support me because these are not my views but whatever I am speaking are the views of the common people...(Interruptions)

Only to satisfy blacklisted industrialists and big industrial houses, one hundred crores of people of this country are made to suffer. Why is it that there is more taxation for the common people? Why is it that there is not much taxation for the blacklisted industrialists? I would like to know whether the Government is going to announce the list of defaulters, specially the business houses who are the captions of the big business houses...(Interruptions)

I will not change my side. My side is all right for me and it suits us. Please let me say what I want to say. I would request you not to disturb me.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: We are only encouraging you. We are not disturbing you but are supporting you.

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: That is why, she is afraid.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: They do not allow me to speak, when I am speaking. You are going to waste my time by disturbing me. Thank you very much.

Let us see what the blacklisted industrialists do when they open an industry. They insure the company. The next day, they close the company down. They take a loan from the SBI, then from the UTI, sometimes from IRBI, IDBI or the RBI and such other financial institutions. These people, who are the defaulters, they are doing crimes. It is a crime to spoil the country's money but there is no law to take action against these culprits.

I am sorry to say that they want to adjust this money to reduce the tax on foreign liquor to give them more money. They have not given any attention to the small-scale industry. Small-scale industry is supposed to be generating employment through job-oriented programmes. In our country, there are more than three crore registered unemployed youths. I have been saying from the beginning that there must be a Government programme 'Berozgarī hatao'. I appeal to the Government, through you, Sir, that a Special Session must be convened to discuss the matter of unemployed youths and how to sort out the problem of unemployment—not for POTO but for unemployment problem—because it is the main problem in this country.

Regarding the five per cent surcharge, why should it be for all? They should know that in our country, poor people are there, people below the poverty line are there, common income-tax payers are there, common employees are there, and, at the same time, wealthy people are also there. I am not going to say the least about those who are wealthy people. Sometimes you do dieting for health. Why do you not do dieting for austerity in economy? Observe austerity first. Charity begins at home. From the Government side, what steps have they taken to save money through austerity measures? In the name of Government programmes, how much money does the Central Government spend on advertisements? I am not talking only about the Central Government, I am talking about the State Governments also. Their fund management is so poor that the debt rate is going up too high. In my State, I know that there are accumulated debts to the tune of about Rs. 62,000 crore. If they are to go on like this in this country, then who will pay this debt? I do not know what will be the situation in this country. Regarding surcharge, my request would be that there must be some policy. It is not that we are saying it only today; on 7th of March, for record, we have given a letter to the hon. Prime Minister to reconsider this, and I am quoting from that. We have said that for security, every citizen of this country has the responsibility to help the motherland. Yes, you impose one per cent surcharge on every taxpayer, but impose ten per cent surcharge on big business houses, on the corporate sector. There must be some policy. There must be some standard. There are so many people living below the poverty line in this country. That is why we say that you help the people living below the poverty line. Somebody was saying that no salaried class person is earning less than Rs. 10,000. Yes, they are earning. You have increased domestic gas prices by 400 per cent over the years, but tell me whether their earning also has been increased like that? Do you want them to lead their life honestly or do you want

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

them to indulge in cheating or corruption. Are we going to help the common people of this country or are we going to help only those who do not matter?

I am making a request with regard to the fertiliser price, with regard to the kerosene price, with regard to the domestic gas price and also with regard to the postal rates. The postal rates have gone up too much. Common people cannot have access to Internet or to mobile phones or to cellular phones. They use only postcards and envelopes, and their rates have also been hiked. Why? I would request the hon. Minister to think about this matter seriously so that the common people are not affected.

They have reduced the tax on expensive hotels. I am making one suggestion. Those who are able to stay in hotels, let them pay more tax. The common people do not stay in hotels. You impose more tax on them. I know you are helping the tourism industry. Set up youth hostels to help the Tourism Department. There is no problem in that. But if you reduce the hotel tax, I do not think this will help the country.

Sir, the Federation of Indian Publishers have given me a letter saying that the tax is being increased in regard to book publishing industry, sometimes from Rs. 200 to Rs. 1,600. I submit that books are knowledge and they are the foundation of knowledge. I would request you that you should not increase tax on the books being published.

Our next request to you is regarding public sector disinvestment. The Government is planning for disinvestment of every public sector unit. Of course, I know that there are some problems. We appreciate the modernisation plan and the comprehensive plan of action. But it does not mean that every public sector unit has to be closed down. You think of IISCO. It is the pride of our country. Its modernisation programme is pending since long. Yesterday one hon. Member from Tamil Nadu was speaking about Tuticorin. I support that. There are some projects which are pending since long. There is no action in such cases.

In my State, there are maximum number of public sector units existing. There are units like NTC, NJMC, several jute mills, Jessop, Burn Standard, Braithweight, MAMC, Cycle Corporation, Tyre Corporation, Bengal Ammunition etc. There are so many industries. You are closing down everything. Somebody said the U.S. had not given concession to the taxpayers but they take care of social security. We have to think from our point of

view. Our country is not the United States or Pakistan. Our country is India. India will fight for India. That is why our request to the hon. Minister of Finance would be to please reconsider the matter and do something.

On the one side there is unemployment and on the other side the common people are going to be victimised. You are saying about VRS also and that everybody wants it. No, it is not the case. They are compelled to take VRS. They are not willing to take VRS. What do we do? The unfortunate part of this country is that you are pressurising the workers to take VRS but you are not pressurising the politicians to take PRS 'Political Retirement Scheme'. You are only interested in VRS for workers. If the people are ousted, then for whom will this Government work? In a democracy Government means it is a Government for the people, of the people and by the people. But, if the Government pressurises the common people, the middle class people, the poorest of the poor people, what then would be the definition of the Government? That is why our request to the hon. Minister of Finance is that he should not take this personally but I would give him the views of the common people and he may reconsider this proposal. This proposal now hits the common people. Our BJP friends know it. They also sometimes raise these issues. Our Allies in the Coalition also know it who raise these issues and even Opposition Parties also know it. If we can do something conscientiously at least for the poor, I think the country will be benefited and will be grateful to you. Otherwise it will be very difficult.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Madam, the time allotted to your Party is 12 minutes. I have given you 10 more minutes. Please conclude.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: I know it. I am sorry to say that in this House somebody speaks for two hours and there is no restriction. Only when we speak for the people, then there is a restriction. I am sorry to say this. We will speak for the people and we will continue to speak for the people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, please speak for the people.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, what is my fault? I am not getting an opportunity to speak as an Ally of NDA. I am getting an opportunity to speak from my Party's time. You cannot curtail it. When you curtail my time, please see that though my Party is a small one, kindly do not forget that we represent one crore and 42 lakh people of this country. Please do not forget that. Our Party may be a small Party.

MR. CHAIRMAN: In the BAC meeting it was decided to give 12 minutes to your Party. I have given you ten more minutes. You please speak for the people.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Thank you, Sir. I abide by the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I only reminded you. You speak for the people.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: No, Sir. I will abide by the Chair and conclude my speech. But I want to say that you can stop me here but you cannot stop me outside.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY (Ramanathapuram): Thank you, Sir for giving me this opportunity. Fully conscious of the time constraint, let me make my presentation as quickly as possible and as briefly as possible. Hence this should mean that I should not be interrupted often.

But I am very much sure that this Chairman will be very considerate when I make my presentation which are relevant, which are important and which are most useful.

Sir, yesterday and today, we had enough from the Treasury Benches as well as from the Opposition. There were highlights on the one side. The ills and evils and the failures highlighted by the Opposition side were stoutly countered by pat and praise from the NDA side. Now, let me straightaway ask the basic criterion in the presentation of the Budget. I must be explained whether the definition of the Budget either from the modern angle or from the conventional angle has been well-founded and whether the budgetary principles have been complied with. I have got my own doubt. A Budget should be balanced; a Budget should match; and the income and expenditure should be almost equal. One should not be excess or short over the other. This is the first basic principle. The second principle is that the estimates that they are making should be realistic, exact and rational. The third principle is that there should be a target and there should be an achievement. There should be a promise and there should be a performance.

Kindly bear with me. I will refer to certain details and figures. Our hon. Finance Minister has got the greatest credit of presenting five Budgets, including the current one. In the first Budget i.e. in his Interim Budget, the promise given was that the bottlenecks in the infrastructure sector would be removed. Then, what is the performance? The bottlenecks still remain. Then, the second promise given on that year is to revitalise the capital market and improve the fiscal situation. Fiscal situation has worsened. Then, we will come to the next

Budget. The promise given is that the Industrial Development (Regulation) Act, IDRI will be amended so that the primary focus is shifted to the development of industry. This is yet to be done. That is the performance. Again, the promise given is to amend the Recovery of Debts due to the Banks and the Financial Institutions Act, to strengthen its provisions. It is yet to be done.

Then, I come to the third Budget. The promise given is to strengthen the India's role in the world economy through the rapid growth of export and higher foreign investment. Both are not realised. Then, the promise given is to establish the credit framework and fiscal discipline without which other elements of India's strategy could fail. The achievement is that the fiscal mess remains. They aimed at fiscal deficit of 5.1 per cent, but unfortunately, it has increased to 5.7 per cent. That was the achievement.

Now, I come to the last Budget. The fiscal deficit they aimed at was 4.7 per cent, but it has gone up to 5.7 per cent. So, the achievement was like that.

Then, I come to the promise given to amend the Industrial Disputes Act and Contract of Labour Act, for removing the external rigidity for which the performance is yet to be seen. The other promise given is of introducing a legislation to facilitate foreclosure and enforcement of the securities in the case of default. This is, again, yet to happen. What I am trying to say here is that what all promised earlier, have not been achieved.

From the way in which I have narrated, it is clear that nothing has been obtained. Kumari Mamata Banerjee talked about political will. There could have been a political will, but unfortunately, there is no skill to execute that political will. From the earlier examples of the big gap between promise and performance, I have got the greatest doubt whether what has been stated in the present Budget could be obtained at all. My doubt is all the more aggravated for the simple reason that the country as a whole and the States in particular are passing through the greatest financial crisis. In that situation, in that process, it may be said that the rate of economic growth has fallen and the fiscal deficit has gone up in spite of having huge foreign exchange reserves, in spite of having a huge stock of foodgrains and the privatisation process is being very much transparent. Despite all these things, your fiscal deficit is going up.

The easy part of economic reform has already been executed; the rate of industrial growth, currently pegged at 2.3 per cent, is an all-time low in the decade. In this

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situation, how he is going to achieve what all he has projected in his Budget? In such critical situation, one may try to say that the Finance Minister cannot do anything much better than the present Budget. My question is, then who else can be responsible for this? He is not only the author of this Budget but also the earlier four Budgets. Not only that, the BJP lead, the NDA Government, headed by Shri Vajpayeeji, has been in power for the last four years. Four years is quite enough for a Party to do something concrete. They are responsible because they have presented all the Budgets during the last four years. Ruling side may immediately ask me, "Are there no highlights or any positive measures?" In this connection I am reminded of the famous Thirukkural couplets:

*"Gunam Nadi, Kutramum Nadi
Avatrul Migai Nadi, Mikka Kolai."*

It means, "to decide an issue, one should think of the *pros* and *cons*, the pluses and minuses, and whatever be the overweighing factor, then a decision must be made accordingly."

I am certainly aware that it has got certain highlights also. I am sure, the Treasury Benches occupied by the NDA partners will be happy to note that we are conceding certain important aspects. I very much agree that he has gone on the right lines on one issue, that is, agriculture. Seventy per cent of the entire population of our country are agriculturists. He has touched upon this issue very well and he has done something concrete in the field of agriculture. Many people have praised him saying that it will be a kind of 'third revolution'. He has touched upon infrastructure development also. As such he has taken a right step. One more interesting thing I am able to note is that in the process of disinvestment, he is able to anticipate receipt of about Rs. 12,000 crore. It will be a new source of income, which was not available earlier.

One more point which I really appreciate is about the reform-linked assistance to States. The States' financial position is in doldrums. In order to encourage the States to have a healthy economy, they are going to give them reform-linked assistance. This is a very good move.

He has initiated some other positive measures. Though I do not know whether these positive measures will really improve the rate of our economic growth or not, I am sure, the economic imbalances will certainly be set right and some improvements can be made while correcting the economic imbalance.

Sir, I have been watching from the very beginning that the Chairman has been very considerate to almost all Members, irrespective of Parties, and has allowed them enough time to make their submissions. But I am not duly allowed to speak. The Chairman has not been very considerate to me today. I have to make more observation still.

Sir, we have seen the dream Budget of the hon. Finance Minister earlier. Many economists, experts and consultants have called this Budget as a dull Budget. Why? There could have been umpteen number of reasons for that. I would not venture to elaborate on them as I can understand the uneasy feelings of the Chairman for want of time. I would touch upon one or two points.

Sir, the Budget increased tax burden on the middle class. I would like to refer particularly to the hike in the prices of LPG cylinders and kerosene. Not only myself, but the entire House, even the Members belonging to the allies parties of the NDA Government have said that the prices of LPG cylinders and kerosene should be reduced fully and rolled back totally. The Members of this House demand a complete roll back of the prices.

Sir, in this connection I would also like to mention about another aspect. There are about 30 handloom weavers in the State of Tamil Nadu and they are dependent on hank-yarn. Not only for the handloom weavers, hank-yarn is an important input, a raw material, for the textile mills also for making finished products. Unfortunately, for the first time in history, the hon. Finance Minister has levied an excise duty of eight to nine per cent on this. I have not been able to understand the concept behind levying of excise duty for the first time on this item. I would like to have a specific reply to this point from the hon. Finance Minister.

Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has proposed to levy taxes on cable operators, on travel agents, on imported coffee and all such areas. So, all these sectors would be charged heavily. Levy of additional tax and re-introduction of dividend tax will only make the demand static and would never allow the demand to grow. There cannot be investment unless you generate demand. Thus, the individual tax-payers, the housewives, the middle class, the pensioners, the life insurers, the cable operators, almost all segments of the society are unhappy and are dejected. What you need is the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people. But where are the greatest number of people that are going to be happy with this Budget? Now you may shoot up with a question whether I have any suggestion to make to the

Budget?...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I would finish within five minutes.

Sir, as far as the measures are concerned, I would restrict myself to the core points only. Firstly, how are you going to contain fiscal deficit? Fiscal deficit is the greatest problem for the Finance Minister. A minor improvement in the fiscal deficit would generate a lot of funds for infrastructural development. How to do that? When you want to improve upon your resources, you have to control your expenditure. When you are so much worried about controlling expenditure, you should think of a special exercise and a separate exercise of "expenditure reform". This is my suggestion.

Secondly, the most shocking area is that you are paying a substantial amount of your resources by way of interest. I am told that you are paying 25 paise a rupee you earn by way of interest payment. How are you going to control that? Then, there is a question of consumer demand and investment. You can think of certain new areas of economic reform like the labour market, the agriculture sector, privatisation of State Assets.

Sir, how far the policy of LGP—liberalisation, globalisation and privatisation—has had its impact on the Indian economy? It is a debatable point. Industries have sunk and workers are being thrown out of job. How is the Government going to protect the industry? The Government has to take steps to safeguard the livelihood of lakhs and lakhs of these employees. Giving training for alternative jobs may be thought of.

Out of the total tax revenue collections of the Centre, 29.5 per cent is being shared with the States. Out of such collections Rs. 3,300 and odd crores should have been given to Tamil Nadu as its share. This was the commitment of the Central Government. Based on that, Tamil Nadu made commitment in its Budget. But on account of short fall in the collection of Central Taxes, there was a shortfall of Rs. 572 crore in the share to Tamil Nadu. As a result of this, Tamil Nadu is not getting the money it was promised. Therefore, Tamil Nadu has requested the Central Government to give that amount by way of open market loan. But the Centre has not permitted the Tamil Nadu Government to even raise the entire amount as loan. On the other hand, the Centre has given Rs. 200 and odd crore only that is nearly 50%. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar on the other day stated in the House that the Government was giving relief to Punjab farmers who have been affected by the flood. Why should this not be done in the case of farmers in the Cauvery belt who have also been damaged by flood? Why should they be discriminated?

Under MPLAD Scheme, the Government is giving only Rs. 2 crore per MP while the States have increased the amount given to their MLAs by lakhs and lakhs of rupees. An MLA representing one Assembly constituency in Tamil Nadu is being given Rs. 82 lakh. A Lok Sabha Constituency comprises six Assembly Constituencies. So, the amount to be given to a Member of Parliament should be at least Rs. 5 crore. We are handling six Assembly Constituencies. How can we do justice to such a vast area with just Rs. 2 crore? The situation now is that an MLA is able to do better work in his Constituency than a Member of Parliament!

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi): Every Member of this House, including the Minister, supports this suggestion...*(Interruptions)* Sir, some of the Members who never go to their Constituencies may feel that this amount is enough. Members who work for their Constituencies find it very difficult to manage with.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I also appeal to the Finance Minister to take the sentiments of the Members into consideration.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Finally, I want to thank you, Sir, for your reaction in regard to the Sethusamudram project the other day. However, now we are told that there is some possible objection from the Ministry of Environment. I would request you, Sir to kindly get over if any difficulty and see that the project is implemented speedily.

17.00 hrs.

(SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL *in the Chair*)

*SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN (Dharmapuri): Hon. Chairman, Sir, with the zeal to restructure our Indian economy and with a long term perspective to usher in a bright future for the country, hon. Finance Minister has come with a Budget for this year. On behalf of our party Pattali Makkal Katchi and on behalf of our founder leader Dr. Ramadas, I congratulate him and welcome this Budget.

In order to improve the agriculture sector and the lot of the farmers who form the backbone of our country, certain measures have been spelt out in this revolutionary Budget. Giving a boost to our agro-economy, agricultural marketing and giving a fillip to our agro-based small scale industries, he has aimed at increasing our agricultural production and boosting our exports. These reforms would directly benefit our agriculturists and will lead to Third Green Revolution.

**Translation of Speech originally delivered in Tamil.*

[Shri P.D. Elangovan]

Infrastructure development pertaining to agriculture sector and the enhancement of funds from Rs. 64 thousand crore to Rs. 75 thousand crore for distribution of loans to agriculturists are commendable. The agricultural credit facility would cover more farmers especially the self-help groups in the rural areas. Creation of Agricultural Insurance Corporation and increased allocation for new irrigation schemes and Agricultural Research are praiseworthy. Stress on laying rural roads and brining about modernised power distribution would benefit the agricultural sector. I would like to appreciate them as welcome features.

In order to ensure employment generation Swarna Jayanthi Swarozgar Yojana and Jayaprakash Rozgar Yojana have been introduced through this year's Union Budget. You have also set apart 50 lakh tonnes of food grain for the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana. These are quite enthusing and appreciable features of this Budget.

Nation's essential infrastructure like surface transport, highways, power sector, ports, civil aviation and communication are sought to be strengthened to assume international standards. The commendable power sector reforms and the insistence of the Centre to adopt the reforms regime and the Centre's efforts to impress upon the State Governments are quite encouraging. The fund allocation for developmental work and empowerment of local administration as carried out by the State Governments are sought to be streamlined. These are important measures to usher in a prosperous future. A seven point Urban Development Plan with an exclusive fund and the proposed impetus aimed at Tourism Development are welcome features of the Budget. Infrastructure Development gets an allocation of about Rs. 37,919 crore and on this score I would welcome again the budget.

In order to put back on the rails the slowed down industrial sector with a reduced growth rate several incentives have been proposed in this year's Union Budget. Enhancement of credit facility available to small scale industries and small entrepreneurs are steps in the right direction to revitalise the sagging small scale sector. Incentives and liberal availability of loan facilities to small scale sector have been announced in this Budget. The ceiling on loan amount has been raised to Rs. 5 lakh from Rs. 2 lakh. The move of the Government to extend loan upto Rs. 5 lakh to small entrepreneurs even without security are widely acclaimed measures.

Manufacturers of cloth and the garment industry have got the excise duty levied on them reduced. There is a reduction in the corporate tax levied on the foreign sector from 48% to 40%. Incentives that have been provided to steel industry would result in increased production and boost up sales. The banking sector reforms have positively reflected in the increased commercial activity. These are widely appreciated features of this year's Budget.

An allocation of Rs. 100 crore has been made to reform and strengthen the cooperatives and improve credit facility. Improved housing and viable measures to mobilise funds for the same promises a bright future in store.

The 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' introduced through this Budget provides for free and compulsory education to all children between the age of 6 and 14. Enhancement of allocation for primary education from Rs. 4000 crore to Rs. 4900 crore is a move to lay a better foundation for a prosperous future. When we seek to implement this scheme care must be taken to cover children from rural areas and children hailing from the below-poverty-line group of the society. Children especially girl children must have education upto middle school level and watchfully we must overcome the dropout rate. Compulsory education must be provided to physically handicapped children also. The Centre has identified 146 educationally backward districts to pursue vigorous literacy programmes. I do not find any district from Tamil Nadu figuring in the list. I would like to point out that literacy rate is poor in Dharmapuri and Udagramandalam districts in Tamil Nadu. I urge upon the Centre to include these districts also in the targeted-area-literacy-programme. Education must get further enhanced allocation of funds and the Government must taken upon itself the responsibility.

As a social security measure a new pension linked insurance scheme called 'Jan Raksha' has been announced. We also find several schemes for the welfare of women, children, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as salient features of this Budget. Efforts to give a new thrust to Indian system of medicine, science and technology, entertainment industry are heart warming moves of the Government.

Increase in import duty on rubber, tea, coffee and some of the plantation sector produce would protect the interests of our plantation cultivators. Sethu Samudram project, Hogenekkal drinking water scheme, Hogenekkal hydro-electric plant project are pending for long in Tamil Nadu. I urge upon the Centre to ensure fund allocation and the much needed financial resources. Tamil Nadu is one among the few States that earn more for the Union

treasury through revenue collection. Hence I urge upon you to provide for increased allocation to education, human resources development, rural development, health and highways.

Disinvestments of public sector units have not yielded desired results. Expected profits have not been met. Workers have not been assured of their socio-economic security. Hence we urge upon the Union Government to go slow and take adequate care in disinvestment and privatisation of public sector units. It must be made a point not to hand over to the private sector the profit making public sector units. It is only through these viable public sector units that we could secure the 12th position in the industrial map of the world. In Tamil Nadu, Salem Steel Plant has been already privatised. Now the profit making Neyveli Lignite Corporation is about to be privatised. On behalf of our party Pattali Makkal Katchi-PMK-I would like the Centre to reconsider the move and rescind the decision.

Withdrawal of subsidies to the farming sector, some of the reform measures in the banking sector and certain policy changes in the wake of globalisation and liberalisation have hit hard the agricultural sector. With the inadequate returns the buying power has diminished. Unemployment problem is on the increase. This is showing up in the slow down of industrial growth and the fall in economic growth rate.

According to a UNDP report, as for Human Resources Development, India is placed in the 100th position among 137 countries. This is far from enthusing and rather disturbing. This year 2002 is observed as 'the year of quality education' and this should be the commencement of a new chapter in providing quality education.

Rise in poverty and unemployment and the increase in number of people falling below poverty line in the last 10 years is a cause for concern. Even at a time when we have huge stock of food grains like wheat and rice in our godowns, we come across hunger and related deaths. On behalf of our party PMK I urge upon the Centre to take concrete steps to put an end to starvation deaths.

In order to reduce Government expenditure, Centre has decided to cut 12,200 Government jobs and this would only aggravate unemployment problem. Educated unemployed youth may lose hope and faith and may be disillusioned. They may not be enthused to be enterprising. There is no guarantee that the private sector would ensure

social justice and empowerment of the depressed classes like the Scheduled Castes and Backward Class. When privatisation is at full swing, the Government may take steps to make it mandatory for the private sector to have reservation in jobs.

Parochialism spreads a virus in the society. As a cancer social disparities arise out of social and economic inequalities. The widening gap between the haves and the have nots and the rich and the poor are causing despair. India may be emerging as a rich country but the number of poor people is also on the increase. Our economic growth rate is pegged down to 5.4%. The factors for this deceleration and stagnation must be identified. Unless they are eased out industrial growth might remain impeded. At a time when cash flow must increase there is a danger of the current trends yielding negative results.

Rise in kerosene price, increase in LPG cylinder price, removal of subsidy on fertilisers like urea would affect the poor and the middle class as well. Farming community may be put to great hardship. Hence I urge upon the Government to withdraw this move at this juncture.

Considering the fact that liberalisation may affect and might even wipe out our small scale sector, the Government must provide for adequate safeguard mechanism to protect them.

With the unassailable hope that the Government would continue with positive measure to ensure our nation's progress and prosperity, I welcome this Budget on behalf of our party Pattali Makkal Katchi—PMK—I extend my support to the Union Budget.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak. Sir, there two elements which govern the society. One of them is a law and the other one is the finance. These are the key elements. The laws are implemented by creating machinery which needs finance. The law treats every citizen of this country equal. But we find a lot of inequality as far as the income is concerned.

Sir, I understand that the Budget is an instrument to reduce that income disparity which is prevailing; to reduce the income gap between different sections; to reduce the regional imbalances if they are in the country; and it is presumed that the State would act as a trustee while allocating the resources be it finance or be it natural resources. It have learnt analysing the Budget very late. Ever since I have learnt to analyse the Budget and whenever the Budget is presented in this House and in

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

my own State from where I come, I always wonder where the construction labour in this Budget. What they have to do with this? What agricultural labour has to do with the Budget which number not less than ten crores in this country? There are millions and millions of self-employed people in this country. What they have to do with the Budget? There are tribals, dalits, OBCs, small and marginal farmers, forest labourers, and other labourers. What they have to do with this Budget? All of them live below the poverty line.

Sir, when Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar was presenting his comments on the Budget I also wondered about the basis on which the allocations are made in the Budget. I was trying to correlate that basis with the millions of people who are living below the poverty line in this country. The Finance Minister is not here. Two years before, he said in his Budget Speech that 320 million people are living below the poverty line and this year the *Economic Survey* says that 260 million people are living below the poverty line. So, it is a reduction of almost 60 million people in just a span of two years. Last night I read the entire report of the Lakadadala Committee. I was rather surprised because Lakadawala Committee Report while drawing the poverty line had taken 2400 calories as the basis while ICMR norms for people who are doing hard work keep it between 2700 calories and 3400 calories. I was told that we provide our soldiers food worth nearly 4500 calories. Now the very basis of food intake and the money one requires to purchase this food is linked again with the employment and the minimum wages. Now, one has to see whether all these criteria which have been taken by the expert group really cover the ground realities or not. We have only one organisation called the National Sample Survey Organisation which carries regular surveys in this country. Normally, those data are being used by the academicians of this country. Survey after surveys show that there is reduction in poverty. It is never said that the poverty has stagnated.

In a State like Gujarat, we had drought, we had an earthquake and we had a cyclone also. In these natural calamities many people have lost their home and hearths. But, it is assumed that once a person or a family crosses the poverty line, they never slip again below the poverty line. So, there is something wrong in arriving at the figures of the people living below poverty line. I am stressing this point partly because the entire allocations made in the social sectors and all the schemes which have been drawn are all targeted towards removal of poverty through employment generation. That is the basis and therefore the very basis has to be corrected. I was just wondering

whether this House should discuss it once and for all and decide the methodology or criterion of calculating the number of people living below poverty line.

The second point I would like to make is the question as to how people who are living below the poverty line are dealt with. The answer given to us is that they should be provided with social security and work. The work being provided to them is being calculated in terms of man days. I was looking at the whole concept of man days. I found specially in my own constituency in Gujarat that the work done by a land levelling machine like a tractor is taken into account. They take the total amount spent on such a scheme and divide it by the minimum wage and whatever number comes is taken as the man-days of work done. So, the man-days of work does not in fact suggest that money has really gone into the pockets of the poor. There are a lot of other components which have been built into the calculation of man-days and as a result it does not give the correct picture. The picture is distorted to that extent.

The next point is about the strategy that we have to deal with the people who are living below poverty line. As I mentioned, they increase the social sector spending. But the *Economic Survey* says here that from 1997 to 1998 taking up of schemes in the social sector has not increased more than one per cent. It has been ranging between 1.36 per cent and 1.7 per cent. So, the social sector spending has been stagnated. Therefore, on all the major schemes in the social sector and for rural development we are spending only 1.1 per cent of the GDP. The strategy itself does not allow people to come up above poverty line. I have my own doubt whether the money allocated in this Budget too would really make any difference in bringing the people have poverty line.

Last time when the Finance Minister had presented the Supplementary Demands for Grants, I made a point that when the Budget is presented the BE are on the higher side, specially in respect of the rural development schemes. But when you see the RE in a number of schemes the amount has been slashed. If you look at all those highlights in the RE you will come to know the exact picture. Take for example the rehabilitation of scavengers. Sir, Rs. 74 crore was allocated in the BE which has been reduced to Rs. 8.21 crore at the RE stage. In respect of welfare of SC schemes, Rs. 43 crore was allocated in the BE and at the RE stage it was reduced by 1.9 crore. There are a series of schemes I can go on narrating. I do not know the reason why they go on reducing the amount shown in the BE at the time of revising the estimates. They do not give the reason

why they reduce the allocation once they have made in the Budget.

Even in respect of schemes like *Annapurna, Swarna Jayanthi Gram Swarojgar Yojana* they have reduced the allocation. There are other examples where there has been a cut of Rs. 170 crore, Rs. 150 crore and Rs. 140 crore, etc. It is done because the Revised Estimates never come for strict scrutiny. As a result of this, it has become a much easier instrument to reduce the allocation. If you want to do it, you can certainly do it.

Now, that leads me to another point especially as far as certain sections of the society are concerned...*(Interruptions)* I have calculated a table. From that table, I want to mention that out of our total budget, we spend nearly 28.61 per cent on interest, nearly 15.84 per cent on Defence expenditure, 9.7 per cent on subsidies, 4.81 per cent on grants to States and UTs and 11.75 per cent on other non-Plan expenditure which makes to nearly 70 per cent of it. We have very little amount left, in fact, for the schemes and programmes related to the poor. There is a reason for it. What happens is that, since non-Plan expenditure goes on increasing, we have no alternative but to simply borrow money. As a result, it is mounting on the interest part. Borrowing has reached to an extent whereby we spend nearly 61 per cent of the total disbursement towards debt service obligations, that is, loan repayment and interest payment. Sir, I am referring to the C&AG report which I got last night.

I draw the attention of the Finance Minister that C&AG Report, year after year, says in article 292 that this Parliament has to fix a limit on borrowing. And year after year, the PAC has made its observation that we have never ever fixed a limit on borrowing. As a result, we go on borrowing money which ultimately results in payment of more and more interest which, in turn, results in shrinking of the money to be allocated to the various schemes.

Sir, please allow me to speak for one or two more minutes. I have not taken more time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only 25 minutes are left for your Party from the time allotted to it and there are three more speakers. It means they will get about 8 minutes or so. I am not interested in cutting the time of your party.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, I have only a few suggestions to make. I feel that though it is a growth-

oriented Budget, in fact, it creates only a few jobs. You have growth but you have very little jobs created. Out of 150,000 crores, pertaining to my State, it has created only one lakh jobs in the last ten years. We have growth but we do not have employment opportunities or employment potential for the millions and millions of the people of this country. In fact, there are 41.3 million people who are job seekers, according to CMI's report.

I have a few suggestions to make for the Finance Minister. One of them is, you have suggested in the Industrial Disputes Act that if an establishment with less than 1000 employees wants to close down, then it can go after paying a certain amount of money. I would also tell you to enforce payment of Minimum Wages Act. It will bring quite a lot of people above the poverty line. The enforcement of the Minimum Wages Act is so tardy and the money allotted to the Department is so low resulting in a position that millions of labourers never get the minimum wage and they permanently live below the poverty line.

As regards the forest laws, you should create employment potential for the people who are living in forest areas.

Finally, regarding big dams and others, I would request you to try your best and see that the Narmada Yojana and Gujarat is completed as early as possible besides all other infrastructure facilities which the State requires.

Sir, I am curtailing my speech due to lack of time.

SHRI HASSAN KHAN (Ladakh): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for giving me an opportunity to speak. I would like to take up only one specific point and would not like to talk in general.

Hon. Finance Minister, in his Budget speech has mentioned that Inland Air Travel Tax is exempted in the North-Eastern States. He has further proposed to exempt Inland Air Travel Tax to and fro, from North-Eastern States. In this context, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Finance Minister that in the whole country, Ladakh is the only region which remains cut off from rest of the world for more than six months. There is no other route, except air travel for these six months. But North-Eastern States do not remain cut off completely by road or by sea. Even then North-Eastern States have been given the exemption. Thirty stations in the North-East and other remote areas have been exempt from the Inland Air Travel Tax under Section 44 of the Finance Act of

[Shri Hassan Khan]

1989, though all these thirty stations have links either by sea or by land. But Ladakh does not have any link from any part of the world for six to seven months. The only mode of travel is air for this region during these times. Any person, be it a beggar or a rich person, has to travel by air.

My submission to the hon. Finance Minister is that this exemption may kindly be extended to Ladakh region also as several other exemptions and facilities, like exemption from tax and exemption from freight charges for petroleum products, have been extended to Ladakh on the analogy of North East. Probably, it has not come to the notice of the hon. Finance Ministry and the Civil Aviation Ministry. In the Civil Aviation Policy for promotion of Aviation in North East and other remote areas, Ladakh is not included. My submission is that this may kindly be considered. I am not taking up any other point as my colleague would like to elaborate on them. This is the burning issue in that region because air travel is the only mode of transport or communication during the winter months.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this budget, but would like to give some suggestions. I agree with the increases suggested in the budget, but I do not agree with the price reduction of some articles. It is true that last year had been the year of natural calamities as well as of struggle, whether it is the earthquake of Gujarat, the calamity of flood in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, tension at border, increase in terrorism, attack on Jammu & Kashmir Assembly or attack on Parliament House. An economic burden has to be borne somewhere to tackle all these situations and despite of all these adverse circumstances the Government has achieved success in the struggle.

There are two kinds of items—Plan items and non plan items. I would like to say that funds for some items under non-plan items are allocated every year and the way CAG report is presented, the Government should reduce allocations under non plan items, and it appears to me that by doing so, some kind of economic relief can be provided. The hon'ble Minister of Finance has provided figure in detail to support his point and the opposition too has replied through the figures. I do not want to go into the figures. I would like to present the factual situation before you. The hon'ble Minister of Finance, in the very beginning of his speech has referred to agriculture and the agriculturist. This is true that ours is an agriculture based country and farmers are the

foundation of our country and the Government schemes are formed the benefit of the farmers and I think, the Government too has good intention in this regard. They want that villages should develop, farmers should get benefit, but in his speech hon'ble Minister of Finance said that these matters are related with the States. I would like to point out to the hon. Minister of Finance that the Government must have been reviewing the situation after funds are allocated for the development of agriculture and welfare of farmers. If the Government review, whether the funds allocated by them are utilised or misused, they will definitely feel that this country is divided into two parts—urban part and rural part. The funds allocated for cities is used for the beautification of city, for installing fountains, but at the same time, the crops of farmers get dried in scarcity of water. What is reason for this difference? I do not object to the beautification of cities or installation of fountains, but the Government should at least make proper arrangements, so that the crops of farmers do not get dried in scarcity of water. On one side, so much of money is spent on decorative lightening. The Government make arrangements of electricity for villages also, but if villages are closely observe it will be difficult to find even a bulb in the rural household. If the funds are spent on the development of villages I would like to know, then where these funds are being spent.

Matters regarding employment and unemployment are raised. When we people contest election, every party publish it's manifesto. We promise to remove unemployment, but to what extent unemployment has been removed, is the topic of analysis. As far as agriculture is concerned, nobody can deny that our agricultural output has increased during these years. The country is having good agriculture scientists and agriculture science centres, but the benefit of Agriculture science and Agriculture Scientists reaches villages, when some other formula is formed, therefore, set up Agriculture Science Centres in villages. Such agriculture science centres should be opened in every district so that farmers may get their benefit in time.

Hon'ble Finance Minister, I would like to submit one more thing. The farmers have got benefit of programme of scientists to increase the production, but alongwith it, I would also like to submit that last year a scheme for storage facility was formulated, to benefit the farmers. Figures reveal that in many states, new stores have been constructed but are the Government aware of the States, where stores have not been constructed, Bihar is also one of them. Why the scheme has not been implemented in Bihar? Is Bihar not a part of the country? Are the

Government not accountable for implementing it in Bihar? When the scheme implemented it should be extended to all the states, if the scheme is not properly implemented. Will the Government, find a solution by reviewing the situation or it will do it by mere saying in Lok Sabha that villages will develop. If words are not enough, make arrangement for storage facility also. On one side the Government say that credit cards have been issued to the farmers, have they ever reviewed that in how many states farmers have got this facility. Now, the hon'ble Minister has become the resident of Jharkhand, but basically he belongs to Bihar. He should also see whether the farmers of Bihar have got the credit card facility or not. Government claims that farmers are given loan through cooperative banks but in fact, all sorts of scams are taking place in these banks. Whether it is Maharashtra or any other state. In Bihar almost all cooperative banks have been closed.

An appeal was made to his Department in this regard. I asked why it has been closed because it was functioning earlier. He replied that license was not given by the Reserve Bank. In Bihar cooperative banks were functioning for last 20-25 years without licence. All depositors money has been sealed. How the farmers will get benefit. Please take action to immediately open the cooperative banks in Bihar which have since been closed for want of licences.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to submit that the Government have launched several schemes to provide employment to the unemployed. The unemployed youth apply for loan through the department of industry. Names are cleared and then the banks provide loan. However, we all know as to what is the provision of loans by the banks. A review should be made as to what percentage of people get loans. If the Government want to solve the problem of unemployment attention should be paid to these things.

As regards electrification, it is said that electrification of the entire country has been done. The position of power supply in Bihar is very bad. A meeting was held in Bihar on electrification and Shri Raghunath Jha was also present in that meeting. There it was revealed that villages have been electrified merely on paper. It was discussed in detail. The Government allocate funds for this work but no review is made in this regard as to where the funds are spent. My submission is that funds and spent only in paper. If there is poles in some villages then wire is missing. If wire is there then there is no light while crores of rupees have been spent on it. In north Bihar the power grid had launched a scheme. In

that the State Government had to take an undertaking. A meeting was held with the power Minister in this regard. Shri Raghuvansh Prasad ji was also present there. He will say us whether he has talked to the State Government in this regard or not because he had promised to do so. It is because of this only that Bihar has become the most backward state of the country. Whatever funds might be allocated to the state, if the expenditure is not reviewed, the people of Bihar are not going to be benefited by that.

As far as the issue of rural development is concerned, the Government have launched many schemes like Gram Samridhi Yojana, Sampurn Rojgar Yojana and now Rojgar Guarantee Yojana in the name of Loknayak Jai Prakash Narayan. Funds are allocated by the Government under these schemes. But until and unless utilisation and misuse of funds is reviewed I do not think that allocation of funds will be meaningful. So far I know and the rest of the hon'ble Members will also agree with me that not more than 50 percent of the total amount allocated is spent. There are so many hurdles in the utilisation of funds. There are middle men and they have their percentage in it. So though fund are allocated, yet, these are not utilised in reality. Please put a check on it and make a review of the expenditure so that the funds allocated for a purpose are utilised for that purpose only.

The Government have launched a number of schemes. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana has also been launched. I admit that the Government want to develop the villages and construct roads there. It is a good scheme. Under this scheme three instalments have already been released in the country so that roads could be constructed in the villages. One instalment has been given to Bihar. Tender for the instalment has not been floated. If tender has been floated in some places it has not been finalised. As such the work has not started but the Government claim that it would be completed by the year 2005. How will it be completed? We have held several discussions on it and we had met the hon'ble Prime Minister and requested him that the states which are not able to utilise the funds work in those states should be carried out through other agencies. While on the one hand there are states in the country which are active in taking up roads construction work and the work has stated there, on the other hand there is Bihar where work has not been started even after allocation of funds. So I would like to request that arrangements should be made to start work under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in Bihar as sufficient funds are being allocated under the scheme and its performance is also good. The Government should take steps how to start the work in Bihar.

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

The prices of certain petroleum products have been increased and some of the product have been decreased. I have some different opinion with regard to discussion held in the House. The prices of two types of petroleum products have been increased. The prices of kerosene and LPG have been increased. I support the price rise for the reason that kerosene that is supplied to villages for certain section of people under the PDS is never distributed to them. That oil is sold in the black market either by PDS shopkeepers or by middlemen in tandem with Government officials. The poor have to purchase it from black market. I would like to submit that it is grossly adulterated in diesel. I would like to request to increase the price of kerosene and reduce the price of diesel so that adulteration of kerosene could be checked. At the same time sale of kerosene should be made free so that people could purchase it from anywhere they liked. It will check adulteration and the people will also not suffer any loss and it will not put any burden on them. The reason being that even the increased rate of kerosene will be lower than the rate of black market.

So far as the increase in the price of LPG is concerned I would like to know why the Government first increased its price and then rolled it back. The price should have been increased after giving due thought to the matter once only. If the Government increased Rs. 40 they should stick to it. I on my part agree to this price hike because what percentage of people in rural area use LPG? During the Ministership of Shri Ram Naik many LPG agencies have been opened in rural areas and I have information that people have taken agencies for last three to four months but they are not getting more than 50-60 or 80 consumers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Twenty minutes have been allotted to your party and you have taken fifteen minutes.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will complete my speech in two-three minutes. I was saying that not more than three or three and half percent people in rural areas all over the country use LPG. It is consumed in metro-polices like Delhi, Calcutta, Madras and Mumbai. In rural area it is consumed in district headquarters. The people who are living in these big cities have no monetary problem. But for rural people money is problem. I would like to tell those people who talk about the interest of rural people that even today the rural people cook their food by fuel. They use crowding cake and 'chimri' for cooking. So a scheme should be made to increase the production of fuel wood and subsidy should be given for fuel wood so that the farmer could increase the production of fuel wood. It will

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solve the problem of pollution and will check spread of diseases. Please increase the production of cowdung cake and 'chimri'. It will reduce the use of chemical fertiliser in the fields and will boost the morale of poor people. I feel that it will give financial benefit to poor people. So please ponder over these point seriously.

I would like to make a submission about MPLAD funds. It has become problematic. It would be better if this fund of Rs. 2 crore is withdrawn. If the Government will not withdraw it then they should not atleast create problem. The Government want to develop the villages and they have so much faith on the bureaucrats that they want to spend all the amount through bureaucrats. They do not have faith on MPs. If they want the dignity of the Members of Parliament then they should increase the amount so that we could properly utilise the fund amount, otherwise it should be withdrawn. If that is done no body will blame us. If the hon. Minister wants that the MPs should be at the receiving end, it will be dangerous for him also because we are the Members and he is the Minister of Finance. If the Members are put in an embarrassing situation, the hon. Minister cannot escape such a situation.

I, therefore, would like to make a submission that this amount should be withdrawn or it should be enhanced so that the funds could be utilised properly to take up developmental works in villages...*(Interruptions)* It should be enhanced as per the requirement of Rs. 1 crore for an area of Legislative Assembly Constituency. If it cannot be done or the Government feel that its economic condition has deteriorated, then this amount of Rs. 2 crore should be withdrawn to improve economic condition of the Government.

Sir, I would like to raise another point. Disinvestment is being done in industries and I feel that it will lead the country towards economic dependence. On the one hand industries are not being set up and on the other hand it has been stated that unemployment will be removed. Population is growing day by day. In such a situation how employment will be provided? Sir, Bihar is the most backward state. Five or six factories are lying closed there as raw material jute is not available there whereas five such factories are working very well in West Bengal. What is the reasons behind that? Similarly Barauni Fertilizer factory is also lying closed. Under the leadership of Shri Nitish Kumar we met you for revival and smooth functioning of Barauni Fertilizer Factory. At present also, I would like to make a submission that Bihar is a backward State. On the one hand industries are not being set up there and on the other hand the existing industries

are being closed down. It is really unfortunate. The hon'ble Minister of Finance, you should not consider yourself from Jharkhand, Bihar is also yours as you are the Finance Minister of the country. You should work for protecting the interests of Bihar and take up developmental works there. The fertilizer factory at Barauni should be revived.

With these words while supporting the budget and thanking you for allowing me to speak, I conclude now.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Sir, Gandhiji used to chant prayer—"Vaishanv jan te tene kahiye, je peer parayee jane re" but there is a saying in our villages "Jake pair na phate biva, so kya jane peer parayee". I would like to begin my speech with a story. There was a king who had a barber Thakur in his service. In lieu of his services the barber used to get rice and other things and once he got a cow. He used to eat rice and milk daily. One day the king said to the barber. Thakur, you visit different places and people, how are the people in my country. The barber told people were very happy and prosperous. They have plenty to eat. A clever person was listening to this discussion. He tried to tell the king about the sufferings of people but the king did not pay any heed to that as he had the report of the barber with him. The clever man suggested the king to send for the cow of barber and then ask him about the condition of people. The king ordered this and cow was brought. Next day the barber came and the king again inquired about the condition of people. The barber Thakur told the king that people were in very bad condition and starving. Similar is the condition of hon'ble Members. They are ignoring the problems of people and flattering the Government. The Budget is being criticized by the people and they are terming it a good budget and congratulating the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister for this budget.

Sir, just now Prabhunath Singhji was expressing his resentment over the increase in prices of kerosene. At national level, only 30 percent of the rural population of the country has been provided with facility of electricity. It is 5.6 percent in Bihar and 11 percent in Uttar Pradesh but 70 percent rural population do not have facility of electricity. They have to light kerosene lamps. The Government have increased its prices. This Government have come to power with the help of black marketeers and people engaged in adulterating. So this can not be checked and suggestions from their side would be for increase in prices and burden on poor people. The Government had initially effected an increase of Rs. 40 on LPG cylinder which was later reduced by Rs. 20. They say that rich people use LPG. Now Urban as well

as rural people use LPG. Now gas agencies are being allotted in villages and here they say that rich people use LPG. Similarly burden on farmers has also increased. What more can be said about sufferings of farmers, they are committing suicide. Credit cards are being issued here. It is good.

Sir, farmers are suffering great difficulties in various parts of the country. Farmers are not getting remunerative price for their produce. Farmers are forced to sell their produce at half rates. Farmers producing potato, onion, sugarcane, coconut, pulses, oilseeds, rice, wheat, milk and vegetables are suffering great difficulties. New Members were saying that Lal Bahadur Shastri raised slogan-'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan' and now this Government have changed it to 'Kishay jawan, kashay kisan'. They are not thinking for welfare of farmers. All the Members have given description of the budget. Fiscal deficit has increased and revenue has declined. Bihar has suffered a loss of Rs. 700 crore. What is the condition of Orissa—they could not collect revenue. A loss of Rs. 9000 crore was suffered as States' share and Bihar alone suffered a loss of Rs. 700 crore and the Government make claim that huge amount is being distributed. But revenue could not be recovered and thus State will not get its share. There is black money worth Rs. 8 lakh crore in the country. At present in total Rs. 82,000 crore of IDBI and other banks are due. An income tax of Rs. 62,000 crore is due against rich people. But not a single line to this effect has been mentioned in it that this loss should be compensated by recovering this money. Burden on farmers and common man has increased, security surcharge has been levied on poor and middle class people. Earlier earthquake and Kargil surcharge was levied and now security surcharge is being levied. Burden is being placed on all the sections of the society.

Sir, this is his fifth budget and the first budget of Tenth Five Year Plan, thus it is an important budget but this directionless budget will create more problems and increase unemployment. The figures regarding poor people in the country can be seen. "Tu kehta kagaz ki lekhi, mein kehta Aakhan ki dekhi". Sir, what is the condition of poor people in villages. There is unemployment and starvation. Their food policy is worthless. Six crore tonne of foodgrain is getting rotten. "Ek taraf anna sade aur dusari taraf antadi jale" on the one hand poor people are facing starvation and on the other hand foodgrain is rotting. The report of the Committee constituted under Chairmanship of Shri Devendra Yadav has been submitted. This report reveals that foodgrain worth Rs. 185 crore have rotted to such an extent that it could not be consumed even by cattle. The Government are

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

facing the problem of storage facility. On the one hand procurement is not being made and on the other hand there is not adequate storage facility for foodgrain. We have no hope from this budget, it will ruin the economy. There is resentment among people over this budget.

They have reduced the prices of imported wine but increased prices of kerosene. All allies of the Government and all sections of society have made a demand to roll back the hike of kerosene prices. We also associate ourselves with them. What was the compulsion for which they reduced the subsidy on fertilizers, increased the prices of kerosene and later rolled back the prices of LPG by Rs. 20 which was earlier increased by Rs. 40? The Government should have tried to liquidate the black money, however, they have increased the burden on common man. Why do not they but the burden on rich people?

Gandhiji had said that before initiating any work, it must be seen whether the poor will be benefited through it or not. I challenge the hon'ble Minister of Finance to till is the benefits common man is getting by price rise. His budget policy is useless. This budget serves routine purposes only.

Names of the schemes are being changed. Allocation for various schemes has been increased or decreased by Rs. 5000/-. The Jawahar Rozgar Yojna has been renamed as Jaiprakah Narayan Rozgar Yojana, Gram Samridhi Yojna etc. They are projecting their involvement in development work just by renaming the various projects. Swami Vivekanand had said that a big task can not be accomplished by a trick. Their guidelines in respect of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojna are wrong. It has been stated that an all whether road would be constructed under this project. I would like to know whether brick laying has been done that there. Earlier several villages have been linked up by brick roads under RADGP, NREP, Ensured Employment Scheme, MLA, MP and Several other quotas. However, brick laying is not being done at present and still several villages with a population of approx. 1000 are not connected by roads. Though some villages have been covered under various schemes but still thousands of villages are yet to be connected by roads. The villages which earlier linked up with brick roads are being included under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojna. However, the House has not discussed whether the bricks laid earlier should be take off or not. Our demand is that there should be wide discussion on Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojna. In several States like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar it has not yet even started.

Power Sector is being discussed here but the Government are playing tricks in this sector also. The APDP Programme was launched Rs. 1 thousand crore was allocated as First instalment in the year 2001-02 and an allocation of Rs. 1500 crores was made in the second year. As such a total of Rs. 2500 crores were allocated for APDP Programme. However, not a single paisa was spent out of this amount. This Government play tricks. They formulated a norm that 50% of the total amount will be contributed by State Government and 50% will be given as loan or grant by the Centre. However, no State Government was able to implement this programme Rs. 1500 crores were allocated for this year and there may be increased allocation for the year 2002-03 but no expenditure was made. What benefit the state government will have when it has to contribute 50% of the amount, and the remaining 50% will be provided as loan or grant?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is 6 o'clock and 15 Speakers are yet to speak. We may extend the time by two hours if the House agrees.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Alright Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: O.K. the time of the House is extended by two hours.

18.00 hrs.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: It is good that Government have said that electrification of villages will be done under Pradhan Mantri Gramodya Yojna.

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE (Jabalpur): Please allot the time for every Member in accordance with the extended time of the House.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: What is Pradhan Mantri Gramodya Yojana? Bihar got Rs. 18 crores at first instalment out of its share of Rs. 36 crore. Out of the released amount it got Rs. 12 crore as loan as Rs. 6 crore as grant. That means 2/3 as loan as 1/3 as grant. It was said that village electrification will be done with this amount. Just see the minimum needs programme. During the year 1996-97, Bihar got Rs. 1 crore and 37 lakhs for electrification. For the year 1998-99 Rs. 2200 crores were allocated for the entire country but Bihar got nothing. Similarly Rs. 3100 crores and Rs. 4100 crores were allocated for the entire country during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 respectively but Bihar got nothing. I challenge if anyone can prove it wrong. For the first time Bihar and Jharkhand got Rs. 37 crores for

this year.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Though money was not given, yet the funds which were given were misused.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Nothing was given during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01. Only this time Bihar and Jharkhand got Rs. 37 crores. How much should be the share of Bihar out of it? I am ready to accept Shri Raghunath Jha or Shri Prabhunath Singh as arbitrator for this purpose. Any hon'ble Member could tell me as to how much should be given to Bihar. The Hon'ble Finance Minister should reply clearly in this regard. Out of Rs. 37 crores only Rs. 9 crores i.e. $\frac{1}{4}$ of the amount were allocated to Bihar and rest of the amount i.e. Rs. 28 crores were given to Jharkhand. Why this injustice is being done to Bihar? I want to clear reply as to on what basis these funds were allocated. The Population of Bihar is 8 crore 20 lakh and the population of Jharkhand is only 2 crore 60 lakh. Besides, Bihar has comparatively a larger area and has more villages than Jharkhand. On what basis and on which criteria this amount has allocated to Bihar. What type of government is the present NDA Government? Why such a hostile attitude is being shown towards Bihar. For the first time funds were allocated for electrification but injustice was done to Bihar in this regard also. All the hon'ble Members should consider about it. Out of Rs. 37 crore, Bihar got Rs. 9 crore and Jharkhand got Rs. 28 crores. On the basis of which formula this amount has been allocated. Such a hostile and malevolent attitude has been adopted by centre for Bihar. In such circumstances how a poor state like Bihar will make progress. At present condition of most of the states is not good. Their financial situation is very bad. The Fifth Pay Commission was set up after which the State Government had to bear more burden of increased salaries of their employees but even then centre has not rendered any help to the states.

During Ninth Five Year Plan Rs. 4800 crores were spent on centrally sponsored schemes. Out of this at least an amount of Rs. 480 crore should have been released to Bihar and Jharkhand. However, they got only $\frac{1}{10}$ of it i.e. Rs. 50 crore only. We should have got Rs. 100 crores more every year but Shri Prabhunath Singh is saying that Bihar is getting massive funds. Rs. 7800 crores have been spent on drinking water projects during 9th Five Year Plan. Out of this amount Bihar and Jharkhand should have been provided with Rs. 780 crores but they got only Rs. 80 crores. Hence the allocation for centrally sponsored schemes was reduced by Rs. 700 crores. It was an injustice to Bihar. Bihar should have been given more than Rs. 100 crore per year, however,

during all the five years of 9th Five Year Plan, it got nothing or only a negligible amount was given. Bihar has not been given its due share.

The financial position of the State can be easily understood. At the time of bifurcation of Bihar, all Members said, package would be given. The 60 Members from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha also met the Prime Minister. A memorandum for the grant of economic package was submitted to the Prime Minister. It was requested to the Prime Minister that after bifurcation of the State, Bihar has a financial deficit of Rs. 3000 crore and Bihar has to repay loans of Rs. 2100 crore. In such a situation, no development work can take place in Bihar. Therefore, in view of bad economic condition of the State, financial aid should be provided. A negligible amount is being granted to Bihar under centrally sponsored schemes. Outstanding central loan of the States having bad economic condition should be waived off.

I would like to give you an example under 8th Five Year Plan only 13 thousand crore rupees were spent and 5 thousand crore rupees remained unutilised. Similarly, under Ninth Five Year Plan, it was 18 thousand crore rupees, out of which only 12 thousand crore rupees were spent and six thousand crore rupees remained unutilised. After that the plan was altered and that too was not fully utilised. Bihar did not get any help under the centrally sponsored scheme. It was requested that the loan granted to Bihar should be waived off and Bihar must be given special status, because it fulfils four out of five criteria as set for declaring a State 'Special State' and it generally gets affected by natural like flood, drought and water-logging. On the direction of RBI, Sen Committee had visited Bihar. It reported, that Bihar Government is unable to resolve these problems, but Government did not pay any attention in this regard. At present 10 lakh hectare of land is affected by water logging and out of it one lakh hectare land is in Mokama and nine lakh hectare land is in Northern Bihar. Every year, this area is affected by floods. To solve this problem, a river water agreement should be made between India and Nepal and measures should be taken to control floods, clearing the logged water and proper irrigation. But it is not happening.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to remind hon'ble Minister of Finance that he had promised an economic package to Bihar. The condition of Bihar is like an employ who has not received the salary, but is being promised this bonus. Tenth Finance-Commission also assured that every year, Rs. 125 crore will be released to Bihar under Panchayati Raj head. The 11th Finance Committee too

*and
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of PPCL. We people went to hon'ble Minister of Finance. And he replied like an enemy. His attitude towards Bihar is like this. All blame is put on the State Government and the State Government puts all blame over the Union Government. Both are making counter allegations, and people are suffering. I want reply to all my questions. 60 MPs of Bihar had made an appeal to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister asked whether we had talking with Finance Minister...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The person I have called is standing. Now please conclude.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The hon'ble Minister of Finance is sleeping, he is giving a deaf ear to it. Surdas has said 'Kale Mambal Pe chade na diyo rang'...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, please conclude. Otherwise nothing will go on record.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, injustice is being done with Bihar. Therefore, my question of economic package, loan, electrification and transmission project of 330 crore rupees...*(Interruptions)* This project has been sent to the Centre, it should be included in the special package...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. The time allotted to your party is not 25 minutes.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I am concluding. The funds sanctioned for transmission project should be increased. The bridge for Monghyr has been already declared. I would like to demand for it also. The hon'ble Minister spoke about Setusamudarm, but you are not giving sanction to monghyr bridge. Though MPs from Tamilnadu and Kerala etc. fight with each other, but they stand united in the interest of State. But, we people have weakness...*(Interruptions)*. The Union Government is silent over the proposal from Bihar. You should speak that this time funds should be allocated under 10th Five Year Plan.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the injustice and ill-treatment should not take place with Bihar. I request the House to oppose this anti-people, anti-farmers and anti-poor budget

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

recommended this and according to this, we should have got 400 to 500 crore in the last 4 years. The 11th Finance Commission had deducted 625 crore rupees under Panchayati Raj head. I had raised a question to the Finance Minister here. When Shri Nitish Kumar was the Chief Minister of Bihar and consequently when Shrimati Rabri Devi became the Chief Minister they wrote a letter to the Centre, that as per the recommendations of 10th and 11th Finance Commission, Bihar should be given the funds under Panchayati Raj head. I have the proceedings with me, in which he had promised, but what happened to that promise. So, I would like to ask the Finance Minister as to what happened to this amount of Rs. 625 crore. Today, one lakh 37 thousand people have won the Panchayat election in Bihar.

People are agitated that some work should be done, but there are no funds. The Legislative Council had passed a resolution that Bihar should get a package of Rs. One 1 lakh Seventy nine crore but they are not even releasing the funds assured by Tenth and Eleventh Finance Commission even. There cannot be any other example of animosity and injustice. Therefore, I have said that they are functioning like Government of NDA, not like Government of India. If a large part of the country is neglected, not given its share by the Centre and hostile attitude is taken against it, how will the country remain united. If such kind of regional disparity and regional imbalance will take place in the economic matters, then how will the country run. The Government should function like Government of India. Everybody takes oath that he will act impartially, he will comply law, he will keep the sovereignty and integrity of the country intact but we people are being ill-treated. Centre is having hostile attitude towards a poor State...*(Interruptions)*. But what kind of enmity do the Government have against the people of that State.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The Sindri fertilizers units in Jharkhand and Namrup unit have been reported viable by the Committee. So these should be revived. Rehabilitation programme for Namrup has been implemented, but it did not happen in the case of Sindri. Barauni fertilizer unit is also closed. That should also be rehabilitated.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, you should conclude, Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, now you shall speak.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I am concluding. Ajmer Unit is also lying closed. This unit is

and to implement people-friendly, poor-friendly and farmer-friendly budget. With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have risen to speak on General Budget for the year 2002-2003.

The Budget talks about freedom to the farmers and their independence. Hon finance Minister has tried for it through credit cards. Hon. Minister would be knowing about the population of farmers in the country. It is said that more than 75% of our population depends on agriculture but only 63 lakh to one crore farmers have been provided credit.

Budget also provides for credit for the construction of cold storages and proposes to provide Rs. 70 crore as subsidy. I want to say that the basic problems of the farmer have not been considered seriously. I want to say that the Budget does not mention about a long term concrete scheme to enable the farmer to tackle flood and drought problem or enabling them to get remunerative prices for their produce. Hence I would like to raise this issue.

Today in the entire country farmers are the sole community to have made progress in their work. In the budget claim has been made that we can now store 60 million tonnes. Who should be given credit for this? In all the fields, country is witnessing a decline—be they democratic institutions, level of debate, industries—only farmer is achieving records in the production of foodgrain and is providing the country with enough grains to store. I am saying all this because it is the son of the farmer who is protecting our borders, fighting against global terrorism and the same farmer is producing grains even at a loss and in doing so, increasing national production. Even when the farmer is shouldering so much burden he has to face problems. I want to say that the country cannot attain prosperity if the farmers are not prosperous. Farmers are facing problems of poverty. The farmer and the poor have become synonymous with each other. Farmer is poor, and in bad condition. It is a reality.

As per minimum support price fixed this year for the kharif crop, the MSP of paddy was fixed at Rs. 530/- quintal and that at 'A' grade paddy was fixed at Rs. 560 per quintal. These minimum support prices are

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fixed to ensure that crores of our farmers get remunerative prices. But with respect to its actual impact, I would like to give an example. Last year, Bihar produced 123 lakh metric tonnes of foodgrains while the procurement was only 6636 metric tonnes this year. After a concerted effort the procurement rose to 50,000 metric tonnes. As against this, procurement of paddy was 7083215 metric tonnes in Punjab as on 18th March. In the case of rice, it was 7936042 metric tonnes. I am not against it. Procurement of 1.50 crore metric tonnes is made from just one state Punjab. I do not oppose procurements from Punjab.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, procurement of paddy from Haryana was 3490060 metric tonnes. I am quoting this on the basis of the figure of 13,99,281 metric tonnes. I am mentioning this because procurement of coarse cereals such as, Mahua is not being done from Bihar. When the procurement of coarse cereals is not being done, then only wheat and rice remain, the procurement of which can help improve the economic condition of farmers there. But even in that, discriminatory policies and double standards are being adopted. The manner of foodgrains procurement clearly reveals the step-brotherly treatment to Bihar. In my opinion such treatment is being meted out not only to Bihar but also to Karnataka and other states. Only Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana are exceptions to it. Even Haryana is not being given justice. The benefit of MSP are not accruing to farmers because of double standards.

Sir, during the previous session I had said that if procurements just on MSP are made in Bihar, then the farmers of Bihar could get Rs. 2000 crore through procurement only but this is not being done. Procurement centres are not set up in time there. Out of 40 centres opened, only 20 are operational. At some places there is no balance, somewhere else other equipments are lacking, at some places, there is no assistant technical officer to check the quality or grade of paddy or wheat. I know that irregularities in grading are committed there. It was detected by an inquiry committee which had visited there on a complaint. What I want to say is that taking action in a particular case is meaningless. A uniform policy should be adopted throughout the country and concerted efforts should be made to solve the problem of the farmers and to give the benefit of MSP.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the season of wheat is approaching. Today is 20th March, the financial year will end on 31st March and with that the season of

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

wheat will start, but the MSP of wheat for the current season is yet to be fixed. The former does not know the price of his produce fixed by the Government. The farmers of Haryana, Punjab, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Karnataka and Maharashtra are apprehensive on this account. Last year, the MSP of wheat was Rs. 610 per quintal. That is still continuing. I request the Government to fix the MSP of wheat without delay.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are various other problems like storage. But I do not want to dwell upon them due to paucity of time. I want to limit myself to just procurement issues. I want to submit that a limit to procurement should be fixed for the central pool. The foodgrain is distributed from the central pool so that the needy consumer in all parts of the country are provided with grains. The limit of procurement should be fixed on the basis of production in a particular state. In addition, the requirement of grains for domestic consumption within the State should also be assessed and the procurable surplus grains should be transferred to the Central pool in accordance with its quota. I am saying all this, Mr. Chairman, Sir, because, these issues are only discussed and debated but the solution to the problem is never reached. Therefore, as a solution, I am proposing quota in Central pool for every grains producing state.

Sir, similarly, I also want to submit that the buffer stock for each state should also be fixed at the national level so that procurement from each state could be made in accordance to it. And my third suggestion is that under the National Policy, a certain grain, the consumption of which is high in a particular state, should be procured from that every state, in case it is surplus there.

If food grain is available then it should be distributed. If the grain that is distributed under the PDS system is available in the same state then why is it not procured from there? It may reduce transportation cost. For example grains are transported from Punjab to Bihar and West Bengal by railway rakes or trucks that incur more transportation cost. If the foodgrain is available in the neighbouring states of the deficit state then we can procure food grains from nearby states where it is available. We can purchase food grains for domestic consumption from neighbouring states. So certainly the

matter should be given consideration. Through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government regarding the procurement of food grains.

If there is surplus food grain in any specific state, after procurement, the procured food grains should be exported. If there is surplus food grain, the quota of export for that state should be fixed. If the food grains is of good quality, is of export quality and is competing then the share of that state should also be exported. If all the food grain of only one state is being exported then only one state gets foreign exchange. I would like that uniform policy should be followed in the case of farmers of all the states.

My fourth point is that the transportation of food grains for domestic consumption should be regulated. The Government have decided to make it a free trade. You may make it free however the grain being provided will certainly go to traders that will influence the support price of any state or region. So it is essential to regulate the transportation of food grain. Since it will influence M.S.P. and the support price of the farmers so it is essential to regulate it. The movement must be free for example if the domestic oil is being taken for export it should bear a mark on it. So I want to submit that whatever food grain is procured for export should be purchased from neighbouring states and the food grains required for export in the country should be purchased from near by states. The maximum production of certain food grain should be fixed. The production of food grain should be as per the other requirements. Only then we can keep a check on the imbalance or we can remove the imbalance in the agriculture sector. I have given you some suggestions regarding the procurement. Since there is paucity of time so I would like to speak something on some other points. What is the issue of W.T.O.?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now because you have already consumed the time allotted to you.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, two Members of the same party from that side are speaking. If you tell me, I will resume my seat as I am law abiding person.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please speak.

...(Interruptions)

(DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: My submission is that Shri Murasoli Maran had represented the Government of India in the Ministerial Conference of WTO where Doha declaration was made. It is undoubtful that Maran Saheb had tried his best. He tried his best to forcefully present the stand of India but it was like much ado about nothing. I would like to tell you about the contents of the agreement. In the approach paper that was prepared, it has been mentioned that gradually the domestic support price has to be reduced as it is going to distort the trade. Slowly and slowly the minimum support price should be reduced. The developed countries are telling the developing countries to gradually reduce it. They will also in turn gradually reduce the export subsidy. It will have bad consequence as the European Countries or America are providing 250 percent subsidy to their farmers. This subsidy is given not only on export but also on various items. They themselves provide 250 percent subsidy and are telling us to considerably reduce MSP. The MSP for wheat is Rs. 610 per quintal ordinary paddy is at Rs. 530 per quintal and best quality paddy is at Rs. 560. We are supposed to reduce it to Rs. 400 per quintal. Will the farmers get remunerative price from this? Will the farmers get support price? It is danger and detrimental for our country. It is like snatching bread from the mouth of farmers. If the agriculture becomes a loss making business then we will have to depend on other countries for agriculture. The day we become dependent on other countries for agriculture our happiness will be over and we will be economically enslaved and that situation is gradually arriving. The efforts should be made by the Government to protect the agriculture from cooperate agriculture. I have mentioned this as the price of wheat in international market is Rs. 400 to Rs. 450 per quintal while our MSP is Rs. 610 per quintal. Thus we cannot compete in the market. So I am apprehensive that the developed countries want that Third World countries like India should reduce domestic support to the farmers that means M.S.P. should be gradually stopped. They want that India should become the market of American agriculture produce and it may become international market. They want that India should become dumping ground of foreign food-grains. I am clearly indicating about the serious danger.

Presently 75 percent people of the country are dependent on agriculture. They are telling us to withdraw export subsidy. My submission is that at present we have time to save India from becoming the dumping ground. You have provision, the Minister of Finance is a learned person, the Minister of Food is also an experienced person. He was also the Chief Minister. You may impose counter vailing tax. You have means to protect India from becoming the dumping ground of foreign grains. If you do not it the farmers will suffer and it will be a new crisis for the farmers...(Interruptions)

My submission was that our infrastructure should be uniform. What is condition of the villages today. Few days back I had visited Manroni village. There a child who was studying in class 4th died of blood cancer. He was healthy. I inquired as to how a 7-8 year old child died. When I had visited earlier I had met him in the school, when I asked the people as to what was wrong with him, the people said that he was suffering from blood cancer. I asked as to how did he fall victim to blood cancer, the people said that he used to keep 10-10 packs of gutkha in his pocket and ate it in the morning evening. The gutkha affected him, when doctor, conducted tests on him, he drew conclusion that he has caught blood cancer due to the consumption of gutkha. I would like to submit that it is a serious conspiracy. I am not anti urbanisation however our villages produce nector like milk, butter, rice, wheat, fruits and vegetables. Since the farmers have no money so they send their children to cities. Villages send nector and towns generate poison. Poisons like Gutkha, shikhar, Raja tobacco and polithin liquors are dispatched to the villages. This situation should be improved. I would like to request that heavy tax should be imposed on such hazardous items so that it may not affect the health of rural children.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: I am not against the villages and cities but there must be some balance. Foodgrains are produced in villages. Villages produce thread and textile is manufactured in cities. So many people are committing suicide. The farmers growing Paddy, rice etc. are not Committing suicide. The farmers growing cash crops are committing suicide, whereas they

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are holding strikes only. Please ask the farmers of Maharashtra, Karnataka. Who are these people? Infact they are the farmers who grow cash crops like sugarcane, cotton, rubber etc. and these farmers are committing suicide today. Nowhere in the world the farmers are committing suicide. It is now a problem for the country that the farmers here are compelled to commit suicide.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: It is a challenge before us and we have to face it so that the farmer gets remunerative price for his crop and may not commit suicide.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now, you have made your suggestions.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: I am just concluding up as desired by you. I would like to make one demand in the end Sir. First of all I would request the Government to levy tax on Shikhar Gutkha, Raj Darbar and also liquor, but liquor has been made cheaper and foreign liquor has also become cheaper while kerosene has become expensive. Liquor (foreign liquor), Laptop Computer and Mobile phone would become cheap and urea which increases production would become expensive. The Government have made a claim that it gives 60 million tonne production. Kindly withdraw completely the price hike on farmer's fertilizer, please roll it back. We shall not make any compromise on the price hike of kerosene and fertilisers. I request the hon. Minister of Finance in this august House that still there is time for him, because the Finance Bill is yet to be adopted. If this is not done, we will not withdraw our demand for a roll back. All the allies have expressed their views in their own words—be it Mamata Banerjee, the T.D.P., or the D.M.K. each party has given its opinion once again I am making this request...*(Interruptions)* There will be no compromise on fertilizer, because kerosene is used by people who live below the poverty line. 36 percent of people in this country, are living below the poverty line, but the hon. Minister of Finance has lowered this percentage to 26 per cent.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now please conclude Shri Wadiyar. I have called this name.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: I am speaking my last sentence Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken too much time. Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: All right, I agree with you. In the end, I would like to say only one thing that people living below the poverty line, using kerosene should have been 36 percent which has been shown as 26 percent. The planning commission had, perhaps, conducted a National sample survey in the year 1996-97, on the basis of Lakadwala group formula by an expert group, but here no department provides any figures of the sample survey, it will be given by the Planning Commission.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. Otherwise, I will have to say that your speech would not be recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: This is the job of the Planning Commission. Poverty could not be alleviated, employment opportunities did not increase, purchasing power did not increase infact, the number has decreased, so I do not understand how the BPL percentage has fallen down from 36 percent to 26 percent and we are commanding that it is a big achievement. When nothing of this sort has happened, then...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now, otherwise I shall have to say that you speech would not be recorded.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: I do not understand, how such a thing happened in the planning commission. With these words, I conclude. Raghuvansh ji has spoken about the bridge at Munger, Raghunath ji has already spoken and I also I support it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Wadiyar, I would like to tell you that you were given ten minutes' time please finish your speech within two minutes.

[*English*]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Under what Rule?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: It is under Rule 74. I have received a copy of the Supplementary List of Business for today, 20th March. The proviso of Rule 74 says:

"Provided further that no such motion shall be made until after copies of the Bill have been made available for the use of members, and that any member may object to any such motion being made unless copies of the Bill have been so made available for two days before the day on which the motion is made and such objection shall prevail, unless the Speaker allows the motion to be made."

The Chair is not informed. I think, the Chair is not aware of it. *...(Interruptions)* It is scheduled for today. *...(Interruptions)* Please hear me. Let me conclude...*...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am hearing you. But you can raise the point of order on the subject which we are discussing now. We are not discussing the subject that you are raising. We are now discussing the General Budget.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: No. They cannot bring a Revised List of Business now. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I disallow your point of order.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. I disallowed your point of order.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: No. If I ask for quorum, will you agree?...*...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. The subject you are raising is not related to the subject under discussion.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: We are going according to the consensus. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I disallowed your point of order.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: They are bringing forward the Revised List of Business only now. *...(Interruptions)* It is circulated only now. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are now discussing the General Budget. The subject that you are discussing is not before us.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: If I raise the question of quorum, will you agree?...*...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have disallowed your point of order.

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now Shri Wadiyar's speech would be recorded.

...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have disallowed your point of order.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: You cannot disallow your point of order. *...(Interruptions)* How can you disallow?...*...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have disallowed it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: It is my right. I have a right to have two days' notice. *...(Interruptions)* Otherwise, if I raise the issue of quorum, will you agree?...*...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: From the Chair, I have disallowed your point of order.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are a very learned Member. Please take your seat. Please resume your seat now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: This is a House which is doing business under the Rules of Procedure. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please hear me. A point of order should relate to the business before the House at any point of time. The discussion on the Bill has not been reached till now. Hence, the point of order is ruled out. It is not before us now. We are discussing the General Budget. So, you may please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have given my ruling. Please take your seat.

Now, Shri Wadiyar.

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR (Mysore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I would like to say that the Budget has to be opposed as it is not growth-oriented and it is anti-farmer and anti-poor. The Minister has tried to paint a rosy picture in his Budget Speech. He has stated that he plans for a second generation of economic reforms and that reforms have to be deepened and taken to the level of the States. He said that he has plans to undertake a strategy of reforms linked to public funding. He has outlined that he should continue with the emphasis on agriculture and food economy; enhance public and private investment in infrastructure; strengthen the financial sector and capital market; deepen and stimulate reform and regulate industrial growth; provide social security; consolidate reform and continue fiscal adjustment both at the Centre and in the States.

The Minister, in the Action Taken Report, has highlighted deregulation of control on agricultural products; proposes to amend decontrol of sugar; substantial reduction in span of price control of drugs; amend laws pertaining to revival and winding up of companies; progress in privatisation; implementing expenditure on reforms and amendment to the Companies Act to allow conversion of public companies into private companies.

The Finance Minister has claimed that the Government plans 'Kisan ki Azadi' and that is its goal. The Minister has also said that he wants to give boost to the third revolution in agricultural diversification and food processing, in the process allowing the cooperatives to be converted into companies. Is the Minister trying to re-introduce a new *zamindari* system?

The Finance Minister also plans to improve the rural infrastructure. I would like to say that the rural infrastructure is not just roads but includes water supply, drainage, electricity, village-to-village connectivity, roads within villages and things like that. In short, we can say that there should be planned development of villages.

What about schools in the villages? In villages, many schools hardly have one classroom for one standard. Many schools do not even have one classroom for one standard. There are inadequate teachers in the schools. Accommodation for teachers is also lacking as a result it is very difficult to get good teachers. I propose that action may be taken to ensure water supply and rural connectivity by way of roads.

The restriction on movement of agricultural products and their storage is being removed. I would like to know from the Minister how is he going to protect the farmers as also the produce from speculators, hoarders and black-marketeers. It is essential to improve the quality of the agricultural produce and achieve the target set for agricultural export. Agricultural research and technology is essential. The Minister has proposed a certain amount of fund to be allotted for agricultural research. The agricultural research and technology is essential to ensure the quality of agricultural produce. It is also essential to increase the quantity of the produce and reduce its cost. The meaning of science and technology is redundant unless the agricultural products are available to the rural people at affordable prices.

There is a need for maintaining roads. The Minister has provided Rs. 2,500 crore in the current year for maintaining the existing roads apart from Rs. 5000 crore which was provided earlier. The need of the hour is that we should provide for metalling of existing roads, maintenance of roads and making new roads. Hardly any provision has been made for roads inside villages. The Finance Minister has provided Rs. 164 crore for rural electrification of 80,000 villages which do not have

electricity. I would like to know how long it is going to take for us to achieve electrification of the entire rural area. India has to be at par with the other developing countries in terms of its infrastructure.

In areas of telecommunication, there has been a tremendous success whereas in the areas of ports and roads the achievement is moderate. In the field of power and railways the situation is rather appalling.

A number of rivers flow in our country. I would suggest to the Minister that in consultation with the States, the Central Government can generate electricity using the gravitational flow of rivers.

I feel it is cheap to produce hydel power. Therefore, I would request that the Minister of Environment should be given direction to clear such pending projects. I am told that 400 mw of electricity can be generated with Cauvery waters. A number of schemes are pending with the Central Government. Therefore, reforms in the power sector are essential. Sir, one thing is generation and second thing is distribution. A lot of theft of electricity is taking place. I would like to know the plans of the Government for the generation as well as for the distribution.

Sir, urban areas have become breeding grounds of anti-social and terrorist elements. The amount of Rs. 500 crore which has been allotted is not enough. There are hundreds of large metropolitan cities and towns. Therefore, Rs. 500 crore is a peanut for providing amenities in such areas. Most urban areas lack adequate underground drainage system. There is a need for stream water drains, sewage drains, and water treatment plants. We also need efficient and good garbage management schemes. We need all weather roads. We also need floyovers to ease traffic congestion. A cheap and efficient public transport system is very essential.

In my opinion, private participation should be invited. Sir, I feel that the interest of the public should be safeguarded at all times; maybe, you can call a number of private organisations to help in these areas.

Sir, the Minister has given some incentives to the tourism industry which I feel is quite nice. But I think more could have been done. However, there are some

other services which are provided by the hotels. They were earlier covered by the expenditure tax but now they are not covered. A large number of parties, social gatherings, marriages, etc., are conducted in hotels. I feel we should impose expenditure tax on these things.

Sir, liberalisation of the capital market in so far as NRIs are concerned, is appreciable. But I do not understand why the Finance Minister has not allowed a corporate with proven track record to invest and set up institutions and universities abroad. The Minister has stated that he wants to introduce crop insurance and that he would ask the Insurance Regulatory Authority to provide a pension scheme for the unorganised sector. Sir, the countries like USA and Australia have very good social security system. Therefore, we should learn from them and apply those schemes here.

The proposal regarding health insurance is quite good. The amount of Rs. 3000 for indoor patient and Rs. 2000 for outdoor patient in a notified clinic is too less. Last time also I stated that today the most common ailment relate to heart and diabetes and man going in for his treatment will have to spend anything between Rs. 2 lakh and Rs. 3 lakh. So, I feel that insurance cover should be equivalent to half of the treatment amount. Therefore, a policy in that direction would be a welcome step. Sir, the Finance Minister has livied 5 per cent surcharge on income tax on certain assesseses. Perhaps a small percentage of this can be diverted for the national insurance. It would definitely be worthwhile. I would also request the Minister to consider a National Health Insurance Scheme for covering the entire population.

Lastly, I would like to say that the middle class has contributed to the economy. They have also contributed to the stock exchange with the ingenuity and innovative approach. The Finance Minister has planned to hit below their belt by taking away whatever small incentive for investment was there.

Taking into account the inflation, the Finance Minister should have increased the taxable slab from 1.5 lakh. I would suggest that he should have gone in for 10 per cent tax between Rs. 1.5 lakh and Rs. 2.5 lakh; 15 per cent tax between Rs. 2.5 lakh and Rs. 3.5 lakh; 20 per cent tax between Rs. 3.5 lakh and Rs. 5 lakh; and 30 per cent tax above Rs. 5 lakh of income.

[Shri S.D.N.R. Wadiyar]

The duty levied on agricultural products from 70 per cent to 100 per cent is too less. I feel that we are likely to be flooded with qualitatively better stuff. Therefore, the duty on agricultural products should have been increased to at least 250 per cent. Under the Congress regime the agricultural sector was helped and protected. The Government did not interfere with it. At the present juncture, I feel that some of the steps taken by the Government are detrimental to the interest of farmers and agriculturists of this country. I request the Minister to move with caution and take steps after consulting all the political parties on this aspect.

Lastly, I would like to submit that I come from a district which is adjacent to the coffee-growing district. The life-style of the coffee planters used to be one of envy to others. But, today their life is in such a pitiable state that I cannot explain. My colleague Shri Deve Gowda has also made a mention of it. I would definitely feel that some help should be provided to the coffee growers.

I conclude my speech by calling upon this House to reject this Budget.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE (Jabalpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Budget for the year 2002 and 2003. Budget is the index of a country's economy and economic prosperity. So many discussions have taken place here. I extend my thanks to the Minister of Finance that he introduced this Budget with a programme keeping the future in mind. Provisions in this Budget have been made keeping in view the increasing unemployment and frustration of youth in our country, this would lessen the problem of unemployment in future. Subsidy has been reduced, but the Government are compelled, under the circumstances, to reduce subsidy. It is very difficult to give the reasons here, despite so many things said in this regard. But the fact remains, that there has been a lot of discussion on reducing subsidy in the programme of the Tenth Finance Commission. Eight percent subsidy is being given, 25 percent interest given for reducing financial deficit would also be lowered. So both the things are there to set the financial system right viz-to reduce the subsidy and to lower the financial deficit. The Government have two things before them the plan. A provision of 265

thousand. 282 crore rupees has been made under the non-plan head, but now it has been increased to 296809 crore rupees. But again it has been said that it would be reduced with the reduction in Non-plan expenditure, our economic position gets strengthened in the field of development, which serves our purpose. Under the plan head the provision was rupees 99,154, crore, which was then increased to Rs. 113,500 crore. This can be increased further, which can lead to development and generate employment.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I extend my thanks to the hon. Minister of Finance that he has done many things to benefit the farmers in this agriculture dominated country. This time he has increased rupees 200 crore. Today, with the credit card facility, the farmer can, with pride compete with big industrialists and ask for loan. The hon. Minister of Finance deserves congratulations for the efforts he has made for the prosperity of the farmers. Rs. 800 crore have also been increased in the power sector. Rs. 2000 crore have been given for the transportation sector, rupees one thousand crore for the communications sector and Rs. 289,376 crore have been given to social service sector also.

19.00 hrs.

which would be helpful in women education as also to the self help group. It would also be helpful to the girls in Sarva-Shiksha Vidyalaya. This fund would also help providing nourishment to the students in rural areas.

This would increase work in the district primary education. The hon. Minister of Finance really deserves congratulations as he has extended help to the rural areas. But the funds released to Madhya Pradesh are not properly utilised. Since Madhya Pradesh is a tribal dominated area, this amount should be increased further. Jayaprakah Rozgar Yojana has been launched with a view to provide jobs to the unemployed. A sum of Rs. 24000 crore has been provided for rural water supply. I also congratulate him for giving special attention on roads and drinking water in rural areas. I want to congratulate him because he tried to solve the problem of women who had to go a long distance to fetch water.

Similarly, I also want to thank the Government for attending to the development of villages through Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. The other side talked a lot

but did little in the last 50 years. And now they are talking about rural development when I go to rural areas, I am told that the villagers have not seen an MP for the last 50 years. Even today they have no amenities of toilet and water. I thank hon. Prime Minister for attending to the issues of water and roads so that the cities are linked to the villages through roads and rural development is made possible.

I request hon. Minister of Finance to increase the rate of interest on fixed deposits because the aged persons invest in fixed deposit. It will benefit them. Employees should also be given relief in income-tax. Almost all categories of employees have to pay income tax. It has burdened them and the issue should be seriously considered.

Excise duty should be increased and the price of liquor can be increased to the maximum extent possible. I also thank him for reducing the price of LPG and hope that it will be reduced further since LPG is now used even in villages.

I also appreciate the efforts made by the hon. Minister of Finance for making efforts for structural reforms and hope that relief is also given to the banks which are either running in loss or are on the verge of closure.

Amount Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh, I want to say that people do not have water even when the river Narmada flows nearby. Funds for water are not provided to them and even if it is provided, it is not used properly. I hope that this matter would also be attended to. This is a good budget and it will have long term impact. I thank the hon. Minister of Finance for presenting a five budget. I conclude by supporting the budget.

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Respected Chairman, Sir, the Budget presented by our hon. Finance Minister is quite on expected lines. Like his earlier Budgets, the present one also fails to address any of the problems faced by our economy. In essence it is a continuation of the policies of liberalisation, privatisation, and globalisation followed by this Government. The Budget neither delivers higher growth or employment nor it makes any concerted attack on poverty. In fact, it is quite evident that the economic policies reflected in this

year's Budget along with the earlier ones are decisively rejected by the people of this country. The results of the recently held Assembly elections stand testimony to this.

It seems that the hon. Finance Minister derives a sort of pleasure in subsidising the rich and burdening the poor. The Budget is nothing but an assault on the poor since it had hiked prices of almost all the essential commodities, like kerosene, urea, sugar, LPG cylinder and even postal rates. The entire episode of announcing an increase in the price of LPG cylinder by Rs. 40 and later bringing it down by Rs. 20, bowing to the pressures of the NDA allies, practically gives no relief to the sections that are affected. He, while giving foreign companies a huge tax reduction in their profits from 48 per cent to 40 per cent, leaves no stone unturned in raising direct tax revenues, especially from the salaried segment of the population by raising the tax from them and also by lowering the interest on small scale deposits.

The salaried middle class is always there to get the slap on the face in every Budget as every one knows it is the easiest way to mop up resources. They are a set of people who can be brought to tax net easily without any complications. They are the set of people who can be butchered and sacrificed as they are incapable of making any organised resistance. I would have appreciated the Finance Minister if he had shown the courage to collect taxes, over the years, from those huge defaulters or those who are amassing wealth. But he has not shown the political will to do that.

The extent of mismanagement of the economy is evident from the steep fall in tax collections. The total tax collected in 2001-2002 was Rs. 30,000 crore, less than what was anticipated in the last year's Budget. Of this Rs. 10,000 crore is the amount which would have been transferred to the State Governments. This means that State Governments are deprived of the lion's share of the fiscal assistance due to them from the Centre which, of course, has added to their fiscal turmoil. More over, the Budget imposes certain conditions on the States. The State Governments are asked to adopt World Bank and IMF type reforms. Sir, Rs. 12,000 crore is being provided as reform-linked assistance to States and another Rs. 2,500 crore for policy reforms in sectors which are constraining growth and development. For the

[Shri Suresh Kurup]

first time in the history of our country, a major chunk of statutory Central transfers are being linked to the willingness of the States to implement the economic reforms agenda of the Central Government. This is a very dangerous trend. This cuts at the root of our federal structure and it is unconstitutional.

Those State Governments, which may have serious differences of opinion regarding the policies pursued by the Central Government, are going to be discriminated against. Mr. Minister, you are twisting the hands of the State Governments to fall in line with your policies. Statutory transfers, which every State Government is entitled to get, should not be linked to any policy directive from the Union Government. I would like to know the opinion of the allies. The DMK has been advocating for State autonomy for long. I would like to know the opinion of the TDP. Also, the AIADMK is waiting on the wings to jump into the bandwagon.

If you look at the shortfall in revenue, you can see the major decline in customs tariffs. In these years of liberalisation, as well all know, the most substantial reductions have been effected in import taxes and customs duties. Though increased trade and thereby increased customs revenue were expected yet the huge shortfall in customs duty collection itself shows that the reduction in duty was in no way accompanied by increase in trade. This will be the same in the coming year too. In the current year, the Government has resorted to a range of imposts. Sir, Rs. 39,107 crore is expected as revenue. Of these, the increase in excise duty would be a burden on all sections of the population including the rich and the poor alike and would be a real jolt for the poor and the middle class. But even this enhanced burden of taxation will not help the Government to tide over the revenue shortfall which it had confronted last year too. The expected Rs. 39,107 crore is not going to come through...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. Your party is having only four minutes. You have already taken more than ten minutes.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: All the other Members have taken their own time. I will conclude in a few minutes...*(Interruptions)*

As I said earlier, the expected Rs. 39,107 crore is not going to come through. The failure of the Central

Government in revenue generation and the unmindful borrowal from the open market at higher rates of interest will definitely make the situation worse.

Our godowns are overflowing as the food stocks have now touched a record level of more than 60 million tonnes. Everybody know that. The Government should utilise the food it has at its hand to launch a massive Food for Work Programme which would help in building capital assets in rural areas and give in impetus to economic growth. It would have definitely provided employment to the rural poor, decreased pressure on FCI on holding huge stocks and given a much-needed demand boost to the stagnant economy. Instead of doing that, the Budget has favoured foreign capital and large domestic capital and opened India's economy to transnational capital without any hindrance.

As I have pointed out earlier, the people decisively rejected these policies in every election that took place after this Government came to power. So, I would request the Finance Minister to see the writing on the wall. Even after making tall claims on reduction in poverty, though based on dubious statistics, it is a fact that the income disparities are increasing year after year. In a country where Mr. Dhirubai Ambani gets Rs. 8.85 crore as his annual salary, the Finance Minister should at least devote a minute to the poor who are struggling to make both ends meet. The poor are at a loss to understand why they are not eligible to get food even though foodgrains are rotting in the FCI godowns. I too fail to understand why they are not getting it.

This Government, based on highly communalised ideology, cannot deliver anything to this country or to its economy. On the one hand, they are preaching globalisation, and on the other hand, taking the country to medieval ages. A country's economy can prosper only if the law and order situation is under control and every section of the community feels that its interests are safeguarded by the Government.

Now, this is a Government which actively patronises those elements which are out to destroy the secular fabric of the country. In a country where Gujarat like situation occur with the blessings and connivance of the authorities concerned, the economy will stagnate and will never take off. The Finance Minister should think for one moment that if Infosys Headquarters were in

Ahmedabad, what would have been the international repercussions. Everyone knows that the development of economy is intimately connected with the political situation inside the country.

Sir, this Government which actively encourages communal ideology all over the country and systematically attacks the minorities, cannot develop this economy. What is the point in building a house if there is no decent planet to put it on? That is all I wanted to say.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on budget. About 64% of our work force is in agriculture sector and 26% of our GDP comes from this sector. On the basis of area under pulses cultivation, India ranks first in the world. It also ranks first in the production of pulses. India is the country which have developed a hybrid seed for cotton. India is the first country in the world to do so. Most of the Members of this Lok Sabha must have come from the families of the farmers and each and every speaker has spoken on farmers. Hon. Finance Minister said that our country is now ready for agricultural diversification, fertilizer and livestock revolution. For this to happen, the need is of giving new thrust to policy change, agricultural research and extension. An improved rural, safety mechanism is essential. Freedom is the main aim of our policy. I want to know from the hon. Minister the reasons for giving only Rs. 75 crore against the target of Rs. 64000 crore for the development of farmers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the manner in which the farmers get loan is not a secret. He has to take many rounds of banks and block office before he gets loan and by that time its need is no longer present. Most of the Members who come from rural areas must be aware of the troubles the farmers have to undergo and the bribes he has to pay before getting the loan. Therefore, through you, I want to request the hon. Minister to put in place a system wherein farmers are able to get the loan before sowing. Only then they could cultivate properly and the country could get the benefit of increased production. Farmers are the worst suffering lot of the country. There is no other institution or industry wherein people face the magnitude of problems that

farmers encounter. After the harvest, when the farmer comes to the market to see his produce, there is none to buy it. We Lok Sabha Members raise the issue of the absence of procurement centres in Bihar in the House which result in traders buying the paddy at an arbitrarily price. Those speaking before myself said that after a few days, after Holi, when the new what crop comes to the market even that would fail to attract any buyer offering reasonable price considering the situation of paddy in the country in general and in Bihar in particular.

Sir, about 5-7 years ago under Indian Awas Yojana, poors used to get Rs. 20000 for the construction of Houses. When this amount of Rs. 20000 was fixed, the price of cement was below Rs. 100, the price of iron was low, labour cost was also low, but now the price of everything has increased but even then poor are still getting Rs. 20000 under this scheme for the construction of houses. Even the construction of one toilet in villages cost at least Rs. 25000. When we propose the construction of a toilet in rural area under MPLADS, its estimated cost is no less than Rs. 25000, but the estimate of the house of a poor is fixed at Rs. 20000. I request the hon. Finance Minister to increase the amount for construction of the houses of the poor under Indira Awwas Yojana to Rs. 50000 so that the marginal section of our society is able to get its real benefit.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the population of the country has crossed 100 crores but none of the Government have really made efforts to check it. The problem of unemployment is increasing day by day and the public undertakings are retrenching the staff. Once unemployed the people are sure to create mischief and could take the wrong path. On the question of farmers, look at the prices of fertilizers. Its price has increased under all the regimes—even during the regime of Shri P.V. Narsimha Rao in 1991-1996. The increase in the price of fertilizers does not result in the increase of the price of farmer's produce. Urea, Potash and Calcium, the price of all fertilizers have increased but the prices of farmer's produce have not increased correspondingly.

I thank hon. Petroleum Minister Shri Ram Naik for reducing the price of LPG cylinder by Rs. 20 but more than 90 per cent of the people of the country and especially my constituency use kerosene. For 90% of

[Shri Sukdeo Paswan]

the people have to suffer because every budget increases the price of Kerosene and villages who earn just Rs. 10-12 as wages have to buy Kerosene from black market. For their sake, I request the hon. Minister to attend to the issue and reduce its price. Prices of luxurious items such as TV, fridge, Cigarette and liquor should be increased. The prices of such articles could be increased by 200 percent and the prices of the commodities of the use of poor farmers and the middle class should be reduced.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I remember that during the Government of Shri V.P. Singh and Shri Deve Gowda, many schemes for the welfare of farmers were launched and the budget had waved off the loans taken for the purchase of tractors which had helped a large number of farmers. I hope that in Vajpayee's Government the farmers will certainly get relief and make progress.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the budget of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been increased from Rs. 792 crore to Rs. 889 crore for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The fund allocations have been enhanced for social development and the improvement in quality of life and education of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled tribes and Other Backward Class people. There has been a 21% increase in the allocation amount to Rs. 240 crore for providing scholarship to the students, setting up banks and providing financial assistance under Financial Development Corporation for the development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, 60 to 70 percent children of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the poor people do not attend schools in villages.

In Bihar only those schools that existed some 25-30 years ago are functioning and no new school has been opened. Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is possible that new schools have been opened in Madhya Pradesh but no school has been opened in Bihar. Thus there is no question of new schools for the children belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. When there is no school for the children of these community then how will they study. When there is no school and no teacher then how will they study so I urge the Government to set up now schools in Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, backward and minority areas so that the children in those areas could study.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the end I urge the Government to build rail-cum-road bridge on Ganga river in Munger, Bihar and I request the hon'ble Minister of Finance that while replying he should inform the House about his views on construction of bridge on Ganga river in Munger. With this I conclude and support the budget. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I extend my thanks to you for giving me time to speak.

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (Alipurduars): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on General Budget 2002-2003 that has been introduced by the hon'ble Minister of Finance. I feel that the Budget introduced by the Minister of Finance is directionless. This directionless Budget is anti-poor, and anti-old people and anti-farmer. I do not hope that it is going to benefit the farmers in any way. The Government have increased the price of commodities like Kerosene, which is primarily used by poor people. 80 percent people of the country use it. From this it seems that the Government do not intend to work for the poor people Rather it seems that the Government formulate its economic policy under the pressure of IMF, WTO and multinational companies.

19.29 hrs.

(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government are dictating policies to countrymen which are formulated under pressure of multinational companies. The Government are intending to implement these policies which is not proper.

Presently the condition of our farmers is very serious. The farmers are not getting electricity, means of transportation and seeds at cheaper rates. They are not getting fertilizer that they need. The Government want to implement anti-farmers legislation by way of increasing the existing price of urea and MOP. I strongly oppose this move.

I demand that proposed hike of the fertilizers should be reconsidered and the price hike should be rolled-back. As the hon'ble Members of coalition parties of the Government have opposed the provisions of the budget, also demand that the proposed hike in the price of Kerosene should be rolled back.

Today the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana has been launched in the villages but it is not being

implemented properly. Whatever provisions are made for the development of rural people or whatever announcements are made in the budget are not implemented. The hon'ble Prime Minister had announced that one crore people will be provided with employment however the present situation of unemployed boys and girls is very grim. The problem of unemployment is aggravating. Instead of providing employment to the unemployed 42 thousands people, have been declared surplus and retrenched from service. I oppose this also.

The profit making Public Sector Undertaking units are being sold out by the Government at a very low price in the name of dis-investment. This step is being taken simply so as to achieve the target fixed by the Government. It is not in the interest of the country. The way the Government are formulating policies, I am apprehensive that the country will fall into economic slavery. That is why, I would like to warn the Government that still we have time. The Government should review its policies. The economic policies that have been formulated or are being formulated should be reviewed. Otherwise our country will have to pass through a critical phase and the required pace of development will slow down.

To me it seems that the Government want to help the multinational companies only. The present Government want that multinational companies should come into our country and take over the Public Sector Undertakings of our country and gradually grab our capital. The Government are formulating legislation to help multinational companies earn maximum profit but no policies are formulated in the interest of the people of the country. It is on account of this that entire public is getting frustrated. I want that the present Government should not remain in power for longer as it is anti-poor and anti-farmer. The gap between the poor and the rich is getting widen. How long will this disparity continue. 54-55 years have elapsed since independence still the gap that exists between the rich and the poor does not seem to abridge. It is not happening because BJP led NDA Government is also formulating the same economic policies that were formulated during the Congress regime. So I feel that the existing gap between the rich and the poor will continue to exist. I oppose such type of economic policies and want that that should be changed. The legislation should be formulated in the interest of the poor farmers so that farmers could make progress.

Our country could make progress only when the conditions of the farmers improve, otherwise the country will go to the hands of foreign companies and our economic development will stop. So while criticizing the economic policy of the Government, I would like to urge the Government, that it should think about the welfare of the poor people and formulate such economic policy that could bridge the gap between the rich and the poor. Efforts should be made by the Government to build a good and balanced society. With these words I conclude.

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI (Kurukshetra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to express my views on the Union Budget proposed for the year 2002-2003. I extend my congratulations to hon. Minister of Finance, former bureaucrat, who has presented a Budget before the people of this country keeping in mind the bureaucratic tradition because the country today is facing the problems of internal and external terrorism, price-hike, poverty, unemployment and competition etc. under such circumstances, better budget could have been prepared but that required lot of nsk, which the hon. Minister of Finance has avoided.

Ours is an agricultural country. Our economy depends on agriculture. Agriculture is not only a means of livelihood and a source of employment in our country, but it is also the base of industries. A praise worthy step has been taken by the Government by increasing budget allocation for the accelerated modernisation of agriculture from rupees 684 crore to rupees 775 crore. new rural employment programmes viz construction of cold storage, Kisan Credit Card and Jaiprakash Employment Guarantee scheme have been implemented in rural areas in order to give impetus to employment, which has aroused a new hope in the rural areas. A sum of rupees 800 crore has been given for establishing new corporations for the crop Insurance Scheme and the subsidy be also given for this scheme for development of farmers which would prove an important step in the progress of farmers. An increase of lumpsum rupees 800 crore for accelerated irrigation Programme, provision of rupees 91 crore in the current financial year for agricultural research works, and give fillip to exports relating to agricultural sector shows the commitment of Government towards the progress of farmers. The resolution repeated by the hon. Minister of Finance for providing Maximum extent possible for the facilities of roads, electricity, water and communications system to

[Shrimati Kailasho Devi]

strengthen infrastructure and his speech made in the Parliament perhaps this step would accelerate the pace of progress and development in this sector also. A cut amounting to Rs. 10,000/- has been made in the Government expenditure during the current financial year. This is also good austerity measure. Despite, I would, without any hesitation, say that a lot of thought process has been undertaken before presenting the Budget for the year 2002-03. But it has nothing to do with the heart, since the reformatory budgets have been started people have lost interest in the rising or lowering of prices of different items. Despite, people had lot of hopes and confidence that the Budget of this year, would perhaps provide some support to mitigate the sufferings of common people. There is a saying in our rural area meaning of which is that if one cannot do the good, he should at least speak the good—but the hon. Minister of Finance has increased the sufferings of the poor farmers by increasing the price of fertilizers and reducing the subsidy provided to them. It is the common man who has been burdened due to price-hike in Kerosene, postal articles and Gas etc. The increased prices of these articles should immediately be withdrawn. This would definitely be a good step in providing some relief to the common people. Hon. Minister of Finance should ponder over this aspect. I strongly appeal the Government to withdraw the increased prices of these articles on the behalf of my party.

The rebate on Income Tax has been reduced to 10 percent from 20 percent. If the Government were not disiring to increase the percentage of this rebate, they should also not have reduced, it should have been remained 20 per cent.

Hon. Minister of Finance has expressed deep concern and has said that excessive production of foodgrain is not beneficial for the country and has also given emphasis on the cultivation of non-foodgrain crops and cash-crops. But I feel that unless the farmers are inspired for growing these crops, unless they would be given incentives and unless all required facilities are provided to the farmers, it would remain a day dream and nothing concrete would be achieved, because when a farmer cultivates flowers or vegetables but there is no arrangement for its sale, they would perish. Similarly there are various types of such crops in different States. I would, therefore, make a strong appeal to the hon. Minister of Finance we would be thankful to him, if he

makes appropriate changes after deliberating over the suggestions made by the MPs on this budget.

I would also say to the hon. Minister of finance, that the economy of the country would have been streamlined, more appropriately, if some more concrete decisions had been taken, whether risk had been involved in it and the common man would also have been given some more relief.

There are many big projects lying pending for years together viz-Sardar Sarovar Dam project, S.Y.L. Link Canal Project etc. on which the Court has recently given decision. Big projects in the entire country like Dadupur Navli Nahar, Panipat Refinery, Yamunanagar Super Thermal Power Plant etc. which were to be executed under the Five Year Plans but it seems they would now take 50 years to complete. If these projects are completed then lakhs of people can get employment and with the upward increase of water level, the farmers can get cheap and abundant electricity. If our farmer becomes self-reliant, his purchasing power increases then small and middle scale industries would be prevented from getting closed, they would flourish and the country would also be prevented from the clutches of multinational countries, which are bent upon reducing the country to the level of slavery, and are looking for big international markets in India for selling their products. Such projects should be completed at any cost even if they involve capital risk as they provide immediate production profits and these production profits can subsequently make up the entire loss as also the capital risk.

Schemes like food for work, have also not been implemented properly. On the one hand, it is claimed that lakhs of tonnes of foodgrain is lying in the Government godowns as buffer stock and is getting rotten, whereas on the other hand, the poor people are not getting this foodgrain. These poor people construct big dams, big canals, and wish to have just a little food to satisfy their hunger. Therefore, the schemes like 'Food for work' should be immediately implemented.

Our farmers made this country self-reliant, produced foodgrains in huge quantity, but what did they get? Today they are compelled to commit suicide. Everyone is equal for the farmer—be it rich or poor. He satisfies everyone's hunger and therefore efforts must be made to make him self-reliant.

Despite the fact that there are 40 crore farmers in the country, Only two crore farmers have been issued 'Kisan Credit Cards' so far. And therefore, everyone should be given the 'Kisan Credit Card'. Crop Insurance Scheme should immediately be implemented. Wheat season is approaching the therefore support price of wheat should immediately be declared, rupees 700 per quintal. I would urge upon the Minister of Finance to include every Member's suggestion and make this budget in the interest of all and for the benefit of all.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): The proposal is that Madam should be made the Minister of Finance.

[English]

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia): Hon. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister of Finance has presented a rosy picture through his Budget Speech on the 28th February but *The Economic Survey* reveals the bleak picture of the economic performance of the Government.

The unprecedented industrial slowdown has been admitted in *The Economic Survey*. The Government has miserably failed to address the burning problems facing the country, be it industrial slowdown, be it unemployment or be it agriculture. Everywhere, the Government has miserably failed.

The most affected victims, through this Budget, are the middle class and the lower class people. The price hike on LPG, kerosene and postal stamps and the interest rate cut on small savings would destabilise the family budget of the common man. The middle class will get further impoverished through the five per cent income tax surcharge on the grounds of defence expenditure. The subsidy cut on urea, DAP and MOP will further aggravate the problems already confronting the farmers who are on the brink of suicide. At the same time, the Government has announced a reduction in tax rates for foreign companies by eight per cent.

The fiscal deficit of Rs. 1,35,524 crore, which is 5.3 per cent of the GDP is an alarming indication. The country is paying one-fourth of its receipts as interest and it is borrowing 29 paise and paying 25 paise as interest. It is more than the total Plan expenditure of the Centre, the States and the Union Territories.

The Government has, again, put a target of Rs. 12,000 crore from disinvestments, as they had done in the previous year. The Government had, in the previous year, actually achieved only 42 per cent of the target, that is, Rs. 5,000 crore. Therefore, the fiscal deficit would go up further.

The Budget has not taken into account the urgent need for revival of sick industries and the revival programmes for fertiliser units, refineries, and jute and textile units. On the other hand, the Government has de-reserved the small-scale units. The reduction in customs duties will also injure the small-scale industries.

The new employment programme like *Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan Rozgar Yojana* is another paper tiger. No concrete plan and programme is visible in this programme. The hon. Prime Minister, while dealing with his resource mobilisation, has followed the traditional route. He has conveniently ignored the recent findings of the experts' report that 40 per cent of India's GDP is unaccounted black money. The Government has taken no concrete steps as suggested to unearth the black money.

The next shocking revelation in the Budget is that the internal debt in the country has crossed Rs. 10 lakh crore. The external debt is Rs. 68,519 crore and the internal debt is Rs. 10,21,739 crore. Therefore, this Budget is not growth-oriented. It is directionless and anti-poor. So, I oppose this Budget.

[Translation]

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Damoh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Minister of Finance has presented a very balanced, farsighted and people friendly budget for the country. I support this Budget. India lives in villages. The infrastructures like construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Sarak Yojana, warehouses for storing foodgrains, cold storages will produce far-reaching results in the interest of farmers whose condition is bad, as we say off and on. A number of things have been discussed here about the budget in the House however, I would like to express my views one or two points about the Budget.

Fifty percent additional provision has been made for tourism. There are many beautiful spots in our region Bundelkhand. A package for the region could be prepared which can accelerate the pace and process of

*and
Demands for Excess Grants (General), 1998-99*
fertiliser electricity etc. which are used by the farmers
so that agricultural production could increase.

[Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria]

development in the region. If the historical and religious tourist spots like world famous Khajuraho, Orichha, Kalinjar Fort, Chaumukhnath, Pandav Pratap, National Park, crocodile sanctuary, Choumukh Walli, Pashupati Nath and idol of Lord Shiva located on river bank and Sidhnath Beraghat, Jata Shankar, Kundalpur, Naina Devi located nearby in Panna district are developed and roads built then Bundelkhand which is the most backward region of our country, can certainly be developed as per the provision made in Budget. Similarly one refinery was to be set up in Beena in collaboration with Oman however it was due to some delay that Oman walked out of the collaboration. Environmental clearance has since been received and permission for the pipeline through Gujarat has also been received. Steps taken in this direction would prove to be a new initiative for the development of Bundelkhand.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there has been severe damage due to hailstorm in my parliamentary constituency. Last year you had introduced crop insurance scheme however it has not been implemented by the State Governments. I would like to submit that farmers should not be left at the mercy of the State Governments. You have made separate arrangements of insurance for this. Insurance will provide security to farmer against natural calamity that compel them to commit suicide. It should be strictly implemented.

Secondly, sufficient funds have been allocated by the Centre to Madhya Pradesh for Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana. However it has been reported that nearly Rs. 600 crore are about to lapse. This amount has not been utilised. The Government will have to monitor to see that the State Government are utilising the funds allocated and the funds are being used for the same purpose for which the allocation was made. Along with this I would also like to submit that the MPs have no role to play in the Centrally sponsored schemes. In order to enhance the respect of the MPs the Government should ensure their participation in Centrally sponsored schemes and if they are respectfully invited in the inauguration of the schemes, it will certainly popularise the schemes and the people will come to know about the welfare steps taken by the Government.

At the end, before concluding, I would like to make a submission. The Government cannot ignore the welfare of farmers. Attention should be paid to items like seeds,

With these words, I support the present budget and conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Seven Members have put their views on Budget. If the House agrees the time of the House could be extended by one Hour.

SOME HON'BLE MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: One hour is extended with the consent of the House. Shri Adhir Chowdhary.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Thank you Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister of Finance has already unveiled his Budget proposals which is fifth feat in a row. No doubt, it is but a glaring feat of one's career as being the Finance Minister of India. However, the Budget is replete with economic ad hocism and spasmodic impulses in an apparent bid to stimulate the economy. The hon. Minister of Finance has reported to a slew of harsh measures which have been affecting all sections of our country. Therefore, the Budget speech has evoked sheer pessimism and a sense of insecurity.

20.00 hrs.

Sir, by blowing the flute like Hamline, he has tried in vain to convince us that everything is going hunky dory, but the reality depicts on the contrary. How will he be remembered in the history of Indian economy will be determined according to the quality of life and according to the economic sinews that we are enjoying during his tenure. I think, he prefers to be recognised as a Keynes of Indian economy. Therefore, Sir, he has adopted such measures at the cost of economic sovereignty of our republic, only to be blessed profusely and applauded lavishly by the World Bank and IMF mandarins.

However, he deserves to get credit that during his tenure, as per the Human Development Index, India is now at rank 115. It was at 126th rank in the previous year. However, it is a far cry from Sri Lanka which stands at rank 81. As per the power parity purchasing, India stands as the fourth largest economy in the world.

However, this may water one's mouth, but cannot fill the stomach of the poor people of our country.

Sir, he claims in his Budget that economic fundamentals remain strong. He has cited the FOREX reserves of US\$ 50 billion and a comfortable inflation rate of 1.1 per cent. May I ask hon. Finance Minister whether a robust FOREX reserve and a comfortable inflation rate can be treated as panacea of all economic ills in India? Sir, Shina holds FOREX reserves of US\$ 212 billion and even Hong Kong has ForEX reserves of US\$ 80 billion. Sir, it is a high-cost reserve.

Sir, the syndrome of South-East Asian economic crisis is still vivid in our minds. May I ask the hon. Finance Minister whether India is going to introduce current account convertibility in the near future? Sir, I am worried about the fact that the value of our rupee is falling sharply. It is a free fall of our rupee. Sir, what is to be considered is whether it is a devolution or depreciation in a clandestine manner or not. Sir, the BJP Government always favours strong value of rupee. Now, the value of our rupee is 49.85 against one dollar. It may help export lobbies, but we have serious trade imbalances. Therefore, I am asking the hon. Finance Minister whether free falling of the value of the Indian rupee will be healthier for our economy or not.

Sir, the *per capita* income of our people is also declining. From the previous year, it has now decreased by 3.5 per cent. As far as consumption is concerned, the consumer market has also fallen.

It is now at a historical low at 2.9 per cent in comparison to 5.3 per cent in the previous year. As per the data released by the Reserve Bank of India, our external debt stands, at the end of June, at US\$ 98.3 billion. The multilateral debt, exempting IMF in the total debt, is now increasing at the rate of 31.6 per cent. Commercial borrowing is also increasing at the rate of 24.4 per cent. The total debt, including internal and external, now stands at Rs. 15,12,497.91 crore. It is more than 71 per cent of our total GDP. Forty per cent of our GDP is still unaccounted black money. Therefore, Sir, our economy is heading for a debt trap, and now we are heading for an economic inertia.

Sir, when our relations with Pakistan is getting tense, when both armies of Pakistan and India were facing an eyeball to eyeball position, at that time, the capital

expenditure for the Army was merely just Rs. 21,441 crore. Our Army is clamouring for modernisation, advanced jet trainers, AWACS, and modern radar system. All are regarded as imperatives for our Army. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to exempt the Army from the security surcharge because they are already offering blood for the safety and security of our country.

Sir, as far as agriculture sector is concerned, it is also showing a jejune performance. Our industry is growing at a low ebb of 2.3 per cent. On the one hand, our fiscal deficit is growing, now it stands at 5.3 per cent, on the other hand, our inflation is at a low ebb, that is, 1.1 per cent. However, the people of Orissa are consuming mango kernels to survive themselves. Therefore, Sir, the Government has now perceived that only secondary and tertiary sectors cannot help our economy. They are now concentrating on agriculture sector, but it has already been too late because time and space dimension is a serious matter, as far as the economy is concerned. Now we can only hope because hope is the physician of every miserable in India at this present economic juncture.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, to begin with, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the most pathetic socio-economic condition of the minorities, particularly the Muslims, and the need for substantial, adequate crash programme for the educational and economic development of the Muslims particularly and other minorities.

Sir, as I make this demand for a crash programme for the development of minorities, no doubt, I have a sense of frustration in view of the colossal destruction that the Muslim minority faces and suffers during the anti-minority communal violence.

Nevertheless, it must be realised that all these factors further reinforce the need for taking effective measures in this regard. It must be realised that any group or section that lags behind in the matter of educational and economic development becomes a burden on the nation and none would like anyone to become such a burden. Therefore, there is a need for a crash programme for the development of the minorities, particularly the Muslims.

Sir, we have this very dismal picture of consistent and persistent decline in the socio-economic conditions

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

of the Muslims. The *per capita* income of the Muslims is hardly Rs. 3678. It is just the same as the *per capita* income of the Scheduled Casts and the Scheduled Tribes which are 3504 and 3237 respectively. The over all *per capita* income in case of all the citizens is 4485 with the Hindus at 4514. The situation needs a crash programme for the educational and economic development of the minorities. Of course, I know that there are certain measures and schemes being implemented by certain Ministries. But then they are neither adequate nor do the benefits actually reach the minorities in full measures.

Sir, we have the Maulana Azad Educational Foundation. What is the *Corpus* Fund of this organisation? It is a paltry sum of Rs. 70 crore for the entire nation. There is a need for Budgetary allocation to raise the *Corpus* Fund to a substantial figure. Similarly, there is the Minorities Financial Development Corporation. It has still not received its full *Corpus*. When it was established it was envisaged that it would have a sum of Rs. 500 crore as its *Corpus*. Today it had hardly a sum of Rs. 125 crore as its *Corpus*. There is a need for not only providing the *corpus* but also providing for a substantial increase in the *Corpus* Fund and the amount should be given by the Central Government.

Sir, there are a few traditional occupations of the minorities. There is need for the development in the spheres of these traditional occupations. A Commission or an Expert team can be appointed in order to study the situation and for suggesting measures for the development in the spheres of the traditional occupations of the minorities including the artisans.

Sir, in the case of banks and financial institutions, specific targets in credit programmes have to be laid down for the minorities and this must be properly monitored. I know that the banks are required to file certain specific returns in this respect. But if we study those returns we find that the column for the target fixed for the supply of credit to the minorities remains blank...*(Interruptions)* Sir, these are only the introductory points and I am still to come to the Budget. I would cover those points as quickly and as briefly as possible.

The Finance Minister claims that the Budget is for consolidating, widening and deepening reforms. There is

a determination to go ahead with the second generation reforms. But we have to first see the impact of the first generation reforms. We find that they have miserably failed in accelerating the growth of economy. They have failed in achieving a higher growth rate. By the second half of the 90s, the average annual rate of growth had fallen to less than that recorded in 80s. What was missing in the package of economy of the first generation reforms will have to be provided in the package of second generation reforms. We all know that growth in Indian economy is constrained mostly by lack of demand. This is quite obvious from the accumulated stocks of foodgrains, unutilised capacity in industry, vigorous sales promotion programmes and all.

Mr. Chairman Sir, it is necessary that the second generation economic reforms should address not merely to the supply side but also the demand side to stimulate the demand. On the contrary, we have measures spelt out in the Budget which will curb demand. We have proposed measures like a whopping Rs. 10,500 crore to be raised as additional tax revenue. It is one of highest mobilisations through tax revenue in the recent years. The cut in small savings rate would create difficulty for small investors, for senior citizens and others. Re-imposition of the dividend tax, a five per cent surcharge on the income tax, lowering the benefit of tax rebate under Section 88, all these measures would curb the demand. They reduce the income available in the hands of individuals. Instead of demand being stimulated we are imposing a curb on it. There is failure to raise the minimum tax exception limit too, which results in increase in the taxation burden on the common man. Increase in LPG price, increase in the price of kerosene, increase in postal rates, cut in fertiliser subsidy, increase in the price of sugar sold through ration shops, all these measures will have an adverse affect on demand. I therefore, would request the Government to reconsider these measures. These measures will have to be rolled back fully.

I will conclude by saying that the thrust of the budgetary policy is on taxing the middle-class people. The thrust is on favouring multinationals; the thrust is on giving tax benefits to foreign companies. Tax on corporates is reduced from 48 per cent to 40 per cent. The thrust is on opening up India to multinationals. This is at the cost of Indian economy. The Budget fails in effectively dealing with stagnation in agriculture, to deal with stagnation in industry, to deal with the growing

unemployment, and to stem recession in demand, which are the characteristics of our economy. These matters require serious consideration at the hands of the Government.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Due to constraints of time, I will refer only to some points.

In view of the Budget, as many of the hon. Members pointed out, most difficult situation is going to arise to the normal people or the poor people because of the rise in prices of kerosene, fertiliser, postal rates, etc. These may be considered for rollback. I would urge upon the hon. Finance Minister to declare that some changes have been finalised in this regard.

With regard to agriculture, I am happy that agricultural diversification and food processing have been given a special thrust. Rural infrastructure as well as removal of procedural rigidity, easy credit for agricultural loans for agriculturists are some of the measures which are envisaged, to give real freedom to the farmers as has been envisaged in this Budget. The most important aspect to be looked into is to see how the farmer can be empowered by giving a better price for his produce. That must be the thrust of implementation aspect of this Budget. The relief of up to Rs. 25,000 is going to be enhanced to Rs. 50,000 and it is a welcome step. But so far, many of the banks have not even received any letter till date regarding the relief of up to Rs. 25,000. This has to be looked into.

I will now turn to one or two points which relate directly to Kerala because that have not been addressed much in his Budget speech. With regard to tea and coffee, I am happy that the import duty has been raised. For tea, the excise duty has been reduced from Rs. 2 to Re. 1. Due to the very-very difficult situation the tea farmers are facing, I would urge and request the hon. Finance Minister to think of a whole diminution of excise duty.

Secondly, I would like to say something about rubber. Rubber is the one field which the Finance Minister has touched in this Budget. But unfortunately, the normal farmer who is producing the natural rubber is not going to get the full benefit of it because the normal farmer makes rubber sheets which is called dried rubber. This dried rubber is the one which is being used by the tyre manufacturers. The tyre manufacturers

somehow manage somewhere and they see to it that the import duty on smoke rubber sheet is not increased. But for the normal rubber it has been increased. So, it may be felt, on a cursory look, that the farmer is going to benefit out of it. If the normal farmer is to get benefit out of it, he should get the benefit by way of import duty on smoke rubber sheet which is the form in which it is being made by the normal farmers. So, I would urge upon the Finance Minister to do something in this regard.

I am sure that there may be some constraints because of the bound duty which has been fixed. If that is so, I would urge upon the Finance Minister to explain why and how we have to get out of this situation and also what steps the Government intends to take in this regard, if at all it intends to take something.

Export has been given a very good thrust as far as agricultural exports are concerned. Constraints may be there because of the WTO, with regard to export subsidies. But as per the agreements on subsidies and countervailing measures, ASCM, the developing countries with a *per capita* income of less than 1,000 dollars can give export subsidy until they obtain 3.25 per cent growth in exports. I am sure, we are much below the 3.25 per cent global export percentage and therefore, I would urge upon the Finance Minister that subsidies in this respect have to be given and considered, and also the agricultural exports have to be increased.

20.25 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the chair*)

I am sure that as far as agricultural exports are concerned I would say this. We have coconuts in many parts of India many States produce coconuts, including Lakshadweep.

Sir, coconut is one such produce where by processing and by finding a proper market we can get very good income. As per the statistics available in the Coconut Development Board, 5,000 industries can be set up based on coconut and 5,000 workers could get employment out of it. So, I would submit that some impetus has to be given to crops like rubber, tea, coffee, aracunt, cashew nut and such other crops which are not generally mentioned when we speak of agriculture. It may also include paddy and other agricultural produce which are normally mentioned. I would like to submit

[Shri P.C. Thomas]

that these may also be considered and something may be done in this regard.

In the fishery sector I would like to submit that the Finance Minister should declare some benefits to the fishermen who are in real doldrums.

Lastly, there has been some statement with regard to our traditional medicine. I would like to submit and urge upon the Finance Minister that we must have an all India centre with full facility for our *Ayurvedic* system. Just like the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, which is a centre for *Allopathy*, we should have a centre for *Ayurvedic* as well as *Homoeopathy*. I hope the hon. Minister will consider these things while implementing his Budget.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar): Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Budget for the year 2002-03, presented by the hon. Finance Minister. It shows the extent of anti-people, anti-farmer policies adopted by the NDA Government.

I do not want to go into the details of the economic growth rate and such other things. I would say that it is totally anti to the farmers. It could be of no help to the common people of this country. Though this Government has never been helpful to the farmers, it was hoped that the farming community would be benefited by this Budget. The hon. Finance Minister is thinking of the creamy layer among the farmers who are just 0.5 per cent of the total farmers. Since creamy layer has already established itself, there is no need for the Government to support them. I suggest that Rs. 10,000 crore Revolving Fund may be established to take care of the farmers who are suffering huge crop loss due to untimely rains, drought situation and also due to instability in the prices of the agricultural products.

The State of Karnataka is facing a serious problem in sale of surplus milk production. The Government has mentioned about the amendment of the Milk and Milk Products Control Order. This amendment may be a disadvantage to a State like Karnataka and other major milk producing States. The State Government is coming to their help.

With regard to the Kisan Credit Cards, I would like to say that the farmers belonging to the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe communities are not able to pay the monthly premium. I suggest that their premium may be written off.

The main problem of the farmers in India is fluctuations in the prices of the agricultural products. Poor farmers are investing huge amounts on agriculture anticipating profits but due to this unstableness of prices they are losing lakhs of rupees. Therefore, there are cases of suicides by the farmers. The Government has to protect the farmers.

The Government has proposed to set up food processing units where there is no potential production of fruits like mangoes. I would suggest that such units may be set up in areas where there is potential production of such fruits.

Regarding agricultural extension and research, I would like to say that the practical experience of the farmers should be considered.

With regard to drinking water, I would like to say that during the Congress Government at the Centre from 1991-95, three districts were identified under the Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission. These three districts are in three States of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka. The Government provided Rs. 10 crore for each State. But that scheme has not been implemented. It is kept in the cold storage. I would like to know as to when it is going to be implemented. A number of areas are without any drinking water facility and the Government is silent on it.

Now, summer season has already come. Therefore, we have to solve the water problem. Sir, I would request that other rivers should be linked with Ganga and Mahanadi. The linking of rivers would save around 125 districts. But they are not taking care of the water problem. They are spending huge amounts in other areas but they are not solving this problem permanently.

Sir, the late Shrimati Indira Gandhi started Regional Rural Banks. It was created to give money to the farmers on no profit no loss basis. It was created to help the poor and marginal farmers and agricultural labour. Now, they are going to close it down. It is being shifted to the cities. Sir, I feel that it will not serve the purpose for which it was created.

Another important area is the social justice. They have not provided even one or two per cent amount of the total allocation to this sector. They are not properly utilising the funds. Sir, I have suggested in the Consultative Committee meetings also that they should start Navodaya Schools like institutions to help the poor people.

*It is unfortunate that NDA has appointed a full fledged Minister for disinvestments, the every concept of disinvestments has been misinterpreted by this Government. The intention of Disinvestment was to sell or divert loss making organisations to profit making ones. But this Government has started selling highly profit making industries also. Unfortunately you are not sparing flagship organisations like heritage hotels.

Any Government cannot be a businessman, because Government have some social obligations, we have to fulfil them. Moreover the sale of some establishments are so shady deals there is no transparency in it. When Shri Ananth Kumar was Minister in charge of Tourism, he said in Bangalore that at any cost Bangalore Ashoka will not be sold, but within 4 to 5 months it was sold for just 47 crores (approximately). Let the Minister answer me whether it is possible to purchase such a property for that amount in such a place.

Therefore, I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to intervene in the matter keeping in view of social obligations such as employees problems and their heritage status etc. It is time to stop sale of the such prestigious institutions at the cost of Country's heritage and culture. If profit-making is your only criteria, then adopt strategies such as change of management, leasing of the establishment, voluntary retirement of inefficient employees etc.

In the same way, I have been requesting the Government to save BGML-KFG as thousands of employees are jobless. Therefore this is the high time to think about this. Therefore, I request the Government to try for leasing of mines to those interested parties on time bound payment basis. There is a good example of two PSUs-BEML and Kudremukh.

In the same way instead of appointing IAS officers to the organisation who do not know ground reality, government should appoint a technocrat or an officer who has good knowledge in that particular field may be useful to bring up the organisation from red.

For Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry, the amount allocated to the Ministry is not satisfactory. Therefore, I would request you to increase the allocation to the department. I would like to suggest the following steps to improve the social status of SC/ST people:

- (a) Stop cheap popularity based programmes;
- (b) Give trust to impart employment based studies or the studies which can provide livelihood to SC/ST students;
- (c) Stop educating in traditional methods, i.e., making graduates of unemployment;
- (d) Give proper training to SC/ST students in district level to those interested students who wish to take up UPSC examination and who are unable to go to capital cities due to financial inability.
- (e) Give trust on basic education in rural areas so that they can compete with the Urban students.

I would like to conclude with a suggestion to go back to Gandhian advice, this is the high time to remember Gandhiji, who have taught us to make villages self-sufficient. Therefore, we have to stop the growth of urban areas, one fine day they will explode because of lack of basic facilities like water, sanitation, and major problems like pollution, law and order.

Finally, we have to follow China in the field of reforms, we cannot live on illusion any longer, therefore, Government should think of population control, we have to evolve consensus in the matter and a time bound programme should be framed for the benefit of this country. With these words I conclude.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Sir, due to paucity of time, I will confine myself to the proposals that have been made in the agricultural sector.

Sir, the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech has very specifically said that he intends to give freedom to the farmers. He has said that the freedom of the

[Shri K.H. Muniyappa]

farmers is the overwhelming goal of our policy. I am sorry to say that all of us, the *kisans* of this country are a bit disappointed after going through the proposal. Sir, in our country we produce cash crops like tea, coffee, rubber, pepper, cardamom, etc. The Finance Minister has not applied his mind to the long standing demand of the farmers, especially the cash crop cultivating farmers. He has raised the duty on tea and coffee to hundred per cent.

Sir, what exactly is the position of tea and coffee in this country. Now almost all the tea estates are being closed down. One kilogram of tea fetches just Rs. 45 and its cost of production is Rs. 65. One kilogram of coffee fetches just Rs. 8 but the cost of production will be naturally five to ten times of the actual price that the farmer gets. Large scale imports are going on from Sri Lanka at a very nominal rate of 11.5 per cent under the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement for tea and that too of a very inferior quality. That tea is being mixed with our superior quality tea, with the result, the price of our tea is crashing everyday. Sir, lakhs and lakhs of workers are becoming unemployed and many tea estates are closing down. So, we are facing a very serious situation. The wages of workers are being cut. So, we should have raised the duty to at least 150 per cent or 200 per cent. Sir, under WTO Agreement, we can raise the duty up to 300 per cent. But the Finance Minister raised it just to 100 per cent for these two items with great difficulty.

Sir, as has been mentioned by Shri Thomas, apparently it looks as if the duty on the natural rubber has been raised to 70 per cent. But out of ten lakh rubber farmers, 99 per cent are small and marginal farmers who produce natural rubber sheet. Now, the benefit of 70 per cent comes only to natural rubber latex. How is a rubber sheet made? I doubt whether the Hon. Minister knows the process. Apparently the duty on natural rubber sheet has been kept at 25 per cent on the plea that it is an industrial product. They think that there is some processing that takes place when the rubber sheet is made.

We merely add water and formic acid to the natural rubber latex. We all do it at our homes. I am a rubber farmer and I own rubber trees. We just add formic acid and water to the natural rubber latex and overnight it

turns into a rectangular lump. This is dried and pressed. All this work is done in the case of a small farmer by his wife and kids. There is no industrial activity involved in producing natural rubber sheet. Why do you keep this duty on natural rubber at 25%, which is the main ingredient of tyre? We have to suspect that it is done at the pressure of the tyre manufacturers' lobby in this country. There is a provision in the WTO Agreement itself that for a distressed agricultural commodity we can raise the customs duty to 150 per cent. I think I am right. The Finance Minister should clarify this point. If it is possible to raise it to 50 per cent, I most humbly request on behalf of ten lakh rubber farmers and almost fifty lakh members of their families to please give a serious thought to raise the import duty on natural rubber sheet to 50 per cent. Definitely the ordinary farmer would be benefited by this measure. Otherwise 70 per cent of increase in the case of natural rubber is going to benefit only the latex manufacturing industry.

There are several other things to be said. Take the case of pepper, which is known in this country as the black gold. Even Vasco-da-Gama and Christopher Columbus had tried to find India when they were searching for this black gold and other spices. What is the position of pepper today? The Finance Minister is going to say that the duty has been raised to 70 per cent. But all these years our export has been declining and last year it has declined at the rate of 22 per cent. Why? It is because a low and inferiority quality pepper is being imported from Vietnam just because the duty is down. Why can we not raise it to 200 per cent? I do not understand what is the hindrance.

Likewise low quality cardamom is being imported into this country from a South American nation called Guatemala. This year, knowledgeable sources say, Guatemala is having a bumper crop in cardamom. So, large scale import is going to take place and that is going to affect our farmers. We have been exporting all these spices and earning valuable foreign exchange. Now the exports have been stopped and instead we are having large scale imports. Somebody in the Ministry must be befooling the Minister. I know Shri Yashwant Sinha is not a hard man who is having a soft heart towards farmers. I am sure about it. Somebody in the Ministry is misleading the Minister. He may please understand the difficulties of the farmers.

*and
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irradiation plants will increase the shelf life of our food products, fruits and vegetables and also remove the fungus contamination etc. from spices and sea foods. That can be put to use. I am requesting the Finance Minister to give liberal assistance and grant to the food processing Ministry to set up plants in all the required States.

There are nearly fifty lakh coconut farmers in this country. Last year very surreptitiously that import duty on crude palm oil had been brought down from 75 per cent to 65 per cent. What was the necessity or the urgency to do it? Despite assurances given by the hon. Finance Minister and the hon. Commerce Minister several times, the duty on the crude palm oil had been cut by 10 per cent. Large scale palm oil import means fall in the existing price of coconut oil and coconut. The coconut farmer as of now is in dire straits. Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, you yourself represent a coconut growing area and you know the difficulties of coconut farmers. No thought has been given to the actual difficulties being faced by the farmers of this nation.

Sir, I am a bank employee. I must say one word about banks. The Finance Minister has said that the public sector has recovered Rs. 12,860 crores by way of NPA. The Finance Minister has not mentioned the actual NPA that is existing in this country. We have Rs. 60,000 crore of Non Performing Assets with our banks. If you add the interest, it crosses one lakh crore. Now, only Rs. 12,860 crores have been recovered from the people. They are big shots, big industrialists and big corporates in the country. They are looting the public money of this country. If we recover all this money from them, then the Budget deficit can be clearly abridged. There is no problem. But the Finance Minister is denying the LTC facilities to the Central Government employees. The staff of the Railways, Defence and para military forces are availing of that facility but the Central Government employees are denied. How much money is being saved by denying LTC facility to the Central Government employees? I very humbly request the Finance Minister to consider all these points and take a favourable decision.

There are several good points also which have been mentioned by the hon. Finance Minister in his Budget speech relating to the agricultural sector and we all welcome them. The proposal of a modern integrated food processing industry, increase in the capacity of cold storage and rural warehousing scheme, future and forward trading to cover all agricultural products are some of the welcome features. This is one area where the Finance Minister should concentrate. He must immediately allow forward trading in tea. That has been the demand made by the Union of Tea Producers. It is a welcome step which has been declared by the Finance Minister.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN (Baramulla): Sir, there is a concern and the concern is genuine with this august House and through this august House, the whole nation is concerned.

At the same time, there is the one time settlement scheme that has been announced for the small and marginal farmers. The maximum limit that has been fixed is Rs. 50,000. We are granting this one time settlement facility to the big shots. They have taken crores of rupees from the bank and, in fact, they are paying back only half the amount. And for these farmers, it has been fixed at a measly sum of Rs. 50,000. I request the hon. Finance Minister to raise the amount to a reasonable level.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Dinner is arranged and hon. Members may have their dinner from now.

There are two more points which I want to mention. The Finance Minister has announced making the co-operative sector viable. For export of farm products, he has announced Agro Zones. Please consider Kerala, when the scheme is finalised.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: That economically, lumbering elephant (India) should run with a tiger, that too a leaping tiger, of course, economically that is, China. We have our economy in a transitional phase and transitions are always painful. The hon. Finance Minister has tried a tight rope walking, with careful consideration, to give a Budget which has passed on less pain to the tax payers. But unfortunately, it has gone excruciating at the lower level with price rise of kerosene. According to me, people living in far-flung areas of my constituency, namely, Gurez, Tulul, Tangdhar, Muchil and upper areas of Uri tehsil, are dependent on kerosene oil during dark winter days and

We are one of the nuclear powers of this world. Nuclear energy can be used for agricultural purposes, for the benefit of the agricultural sector. Nuclear

[Shri Abdul Rashid Shaheen]

are hard-hit due to this price rise. I would humbly request the Finance Minister to consider this aspect which is very necessary for the poorest of the poor who are hard-hit with this price rise.

In this atmosphere, when we want to make our economy a powerful one, we have constraints and those constraints are understood by all of us. Sometimes the scars of legacy of history remain as a permanent mark which becomes hard to wipe off.

I have the constraint of time in my mind. I would like to take up the problems of my State. It was a deep wound our economy has got right in 1960, in the form of Indus Water Treaty which was implemented in 1961. It was done at the back of our popular leadership. That unfortunate Treaty emaciated our economy and crippled us for all times to come. That unfortunate Treaty is working as leukaemia in the economic system of our tiny State. Our 15,000 megawatts power generation capacity station has been put on rest and we have been able to utilise only two per cent so far and 2.5 per cent is in the implementation stage, starving and stagnating at different levels for want of financial inputs. This is an unfortunate state of affairs. Even though Jammu and Kashmir has such a big potential for hydel power generation, it is importing power at a higher cost. Through the implementation of power projects in Punjab, the Ravi-Beas project, now we are able to produce one unit of power at 55 paise at 85 paise. That area is availing that benefit. But unfortunately we are suffering. Our present hydel power generation is also left with less capacity because of the salutation. Unfortunately because of this Treaty, we are not in a position to clear that silt. The generation of power in Jhelum has, unfortunately, gone to the low of 23 megawatts during the winter season because of problem of siltation. Keeping in view the harsh realities of this Indus Water Treaty, we should have been considered for faster development inputs in this Budget. I would not like to speak about many things. The hon. Finance, Minister has mentioned in his Budget speech that "implementation and governance" in the para of enhancement that he has made in social sector would make it possible that the lower level of the people can get its dividend. I could talk about the empowerment schemes which are not reaching the lower levels of people in different areas. But since I have certain important matters about Jammu and Kashmir, I would like to talk about them. I would

mention that implementation of projects is held up at different levels. Due to that our tiny economy is reeling under pressure.

Sir, with one single blatant blow that terrorism has delivered, the world economy started reeling under pressure. The economic giant has felt the shock of that blatant blow of 11th September. What about the tiny State which is the victim of terrorist violence for the last twelve years? Our programmes are held up at different levels. A package for promotion of export from Jammu and Kashmir has almost been finalised. But it has been held up for implementation. An industrial package to Jammu and Kashmir on the pattern of North-Eastern States is at the final stage. But the request for reviving the starving units which had been declared sick, for the last twelve years, have not been taken up. The Scheme is not implemented. Inland Container Depot at Jammu, under CIB Scheme is also held up in various Departments and it has not been implemented. Usefulness of the schemes and flow of funds to these schemes, will be felt only when the schemes are implemented, particularly in impoverished States like Jammu and Kashmir. Others States also have their own problems. But I would not be able to talk about that at this time. We brought a Resolution in this House for the creation of a Hill State Development Council which could have been a very good implementation method to look into the problems of these States. Our main stay of economy in J&K is horticulture. We have been asking for horticulture export programmes. Schemes have been made and programmes have been made, but they are held up for implementation.

A suitable package on horticulture products has to be given. This is a scheme which is there already under consideration. The Indian Institute of Packaging has made a report and it is held up with the Department. So many things like this are there to be mentioned. Take, for example, the export of sports goods. Our willow wood is famous all over the world for making the cricket bats. To our dismay, unfortunately, it goes in the raw-material from outside the state...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: I will conclude in a minute.

This is a very important programme which could have helped the State. I would like to mention that the

biggest raw-material and the most important infrastructure is peace for the country. If we can bring peace to some areas, that will be the biggest infrastructure for the country's development. Unless we look to the economic development of Jammu & Kashmir, we will not probably be able to get peace in that area where thousands of unemployed youths are starving and languishing without any hope. I have time and again requested the Government to make a package for the employment of the youths of Jammu & Kashmir so that we can get out of the hell of terrorism and violence.

With these words, I conclude. I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR (Dibrugarh): The hon. Member who spoke just now has highlighted how this Budget has affected the lives of the poor and the middle-class people of this country. I will confine myself to some of the problems of the North-Eastern Region. This region is burning with the insurgency problem. Also, this region is devastated by the floods every year. Further, there is a burning unemployment problem which is there. I want to draw the kind attention of the hon. Finance Minister to the longstanding problem of the North-Eastern Region people which is the flood problem. It should be declared as a national problem in the North-Eastern Region.

In this Budget, the hon. Finance Minister has allocated only Rs. 10 crore to provide Central assistance and only Rs. 20 crore for the Brahmaputra Board. It is far from the required assistance from the Central Government. So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to look into the flood problem and allocate more fund.

Another burning problem in the North-Eastern Region is about the tea plantation. More than one million people are working in the tea plantations of the North-Eastern Region. The plantation industry is going through a very difficult time. Earlier also, when the tea industry was in a difficult situation, Dr. Manmohan Singh abolished the excise duty. But the Government has again imposed Rs. 2 excise duty. Mr. Minister, you have kindly agreed to withdraw one rupee. I would request you to abolish the total excise duty and form a Committee to see that how best the Government can help the tea industry because this is one of the major labour-intensive industries of country employing more than two million

people directly and another two million people indirectly who are working in the tea industry. About the tea industry difficulties the Government should look into this problem.

There are two important agencies working in the North-Eastern Region. Dr. Manmohan Singh created the North-Eastern Development Financial Corporation to encourage the small entrepreneurs in the North-Eastern Region so that they can create some new entrepreneurs and create employment in that region. The functioning of this organisation is not up to the mark. So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to look into the problem of this organisation so that they can actively participate in the development of this region.

There is another organisation called the North-Eastern Handicrafts and Handloom Development Corporation. You know that the North-Eastern Region is very rich in handicrafts and handloom products. You have provided nominal rupees one crore and fifty lakh only for the re-organisation of this Corporation. I think this organisation can greatly help the unemployed people of the North-Eastern Region. So, I draw your kind attention to this matter.

There are two big projects pending for quite a long time. One is the Gas Cracker Project and the other one is the *Bogivil* Bridge. The Railway Ministry have expressed their inability because they do not have the finance. Fortunately or unfortunately, the foundation stone of both these projects was laid by the successive Prime Ministers. The Govt. must provide fund for it. The non-implementation of these is becoming one of the burning problems for the North-Eastern people. The Government of India has formulated one Horticulture Mission for the development of horticulture in the North-Eastern Region.

We have not seen the report of the Horticulture Mission. I think that the Finance Minister would kindly provide funds for this Mission. The main problems of the North-Eastern Region are insurgency and unemployment. There is a great scope for the development of horticulture in the Region. I would request the Finance Minister to do something in regard to the Horticulture Mission.

The hon. Finance Minister is aware that the North-Eastern Region is very rich in flora, fauna and the scenic beauty. But there is no infrastructure for the development

[Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar]

of tourism with the result that this area is totally neglected. Development of infrastructure in the field of tourism would create employment potential in the Region. I would request that the Central Government must step in for the development of the infrastructure in the tourism sector.

In 1997, the Government of India has declared a tax holiday for those who wanted to establish industry in the Region. No industry has been established in the Region in spite of the tax holiday. Hence, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to look into it and make some new announcement of extending assistance to establish new industries in the region so that more and more industries are set up in the Region.

The people of the Region are very thankful to the hon. Finance Minister for his declaring 50 per cent excise duty relief to the refineries of the Region. I would like to remind the Finance Minister that 100 per cent excise duty relief was declared to the Accord Refinery of Numaligarh by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee at the time of its inauguration. But, in this Budget, I do not know as to why that 100 per cent has become 50 per cent. In this regard, I would personally request you to restore 100 per cent so that the relief given by the hon. Prime Minister is not withdrawn. Otherwise, it would send a wrong message to the people of the Region.

I would request you to look into a long-standing demand from the small entrepreneurs of the Region to abolish the minimum alternative tax. This long-standing demand of the Region may be taken note of by the Finance Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, many-many thanks to you. If some thing is not said about Andaman Nicobar Island the discussion on General Budget will not be complete. Since Andaman is situated at the far end of India, as such while supporting the budget I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that he should at least listen to my speech and try to implement it. The people of Andaman and Nicobar live in a number of places. Problem of communications is there. The hon'ble Minister had given ample relief to North East in this regard. In the present Budget there is a provision of 15 percent

Demands for Excess Grants (General), 1998-99

Inland air travel tax for north eastern people. I request that the same facility be extended to Andaman-Nicobar. Since the people of Andaman-Nicobar and the people of Lakshdweep...(Interruptions) when the question of National highways comes up and allocation of funds is considered, the people of Andaman-Lakshdweep cannot make such a demand. When the discussion is centers around railway Budget. Andaman and Lakshdweep cannot participate in the discussion nor can they make a demand so our Shanta Kumarji and Advani ji...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The time was extended upto 9 o'clock. It is the pleasure of the House to extend the time of the House till this matter is completed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The time is extended.

[Translation]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: The facility that is going to be provided to north east should be extended to us as the hon'ble Advaniji, had decided in the meeting of Advisory Committee on Home Affairs and some of them were also implemented. Shanta Kumarji, the prices of principal commodities that are provided to the people of Andaman Nicobar through PDS are almost higher.

21.00 hrs.

Hon'ble Minister Shri Shanta Kumarji has included Andaman-Nicobar in the name of hill transport subsidy for to PDS since 16th January. Hon'ble Advaniji in the meeting of Advisory Committee of Ministry of Home has take decision in this direction on 5 March, 2001 and Shri Ram Naik has also taken steps in this direction. Now LPG facility is being provided to Andaman Nicobar like other states of India. Tribal people live in Nicobar districts. Some days back the price of one LPG cylinder was Rs. 384. Hon'ble Ram Naik ji paid attention to it and reduced the price of LPG cylinder in Andaman Nicobar alongwith other parts of India. Even now the price of LPG cylinder in Andaman Nicobar is twenty rupees more. Similarly relief has been provided in petroleum products also at some places viz Rangat and Nicobar, however this relief has not been provided

Diglipur and Maya Bandar I would like to request him that subsidy should be provided to these places also. Similarly on 5 March it was decided that Inter-hill helicopter services should be provided to Andaman-Nicobar on the basis of subsidy given to Arunachal Pradesh and Lakshadweep for this service. There are a number of Islands in Andaman-Nicobar endowed by the grace of God and they are very important from tourism point of view. I would like to request the Government that a package should be given to this region for development of tourism.

At the end, I would like to submit that there are two important crops in Andaman-Nicobar arecanut and coconut. Everybody knows that the price of aracanut has drastically gone down. I would like to request the Government that it should pay special attention to it. In this connection MIS scheme has already been given to Government of India, according to which the price of arecanut is proposed to be fixed at Rs. 70 per kg. I hope that the hon. Minister would pay attention to it.

With these words, while supporting this Budget, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I seek your permission to read out my speech because I do not want to be repetitive and I would like to utilise the time available to me in the best possible manner.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All right.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, this is the first regular speech I am making in this House in this Session. At the outset, I would like to pay my homage to the memory of late Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi. Shri Balayogi was a gentleman, quite considerate and affectionate to Members. He conducted the proceedings of this House in the best possible manner. In the annals of the history of Lok Sabha, his name would find a place of pride and importance.

In the past, the Parliament met for more than 150 days in a year. In recent times it is meeting for 100 or 110 days in a year. These reduced number of days are also not utilised fully. The House gets adjourned and the available time is lost by many hours.

The Parliament should discuss plans and policies and weighty issues of public importance. The President's Address should be discussed for enough number of days. The General Budget should be fully deliberated upon. The basic principles underlying and issues relating to the development of Railways and integrated transport system should receive enough attention. The principles used to make the Five-Year Plan should be considered fully by the elected representatives of the people. The Five-Year Plan and the Mid-Term Assessment of the Performance of the Plan used to be discussed thoroughly in the past. But that is not done now. All these aspects are reflected in the poor performance of the Indian economy and all-round development. This makes the Executive less accountable to the Legislature and the representatives of the people in the Legislature less effective and more helpless.

Should we change this approach or not? Should we discuss the plans and policies in the Budget more thoroughly or not? These questions should be answered by us and answered positively. Many times, we have discussed them. All the same, the results are not very satisfactory. Let us hope that we will be able to do better in the future. Let us hope that we would have enough time to discuss these weighty matters.

The Budget is prepared and presented to the Parliament by the Minister of Finance. However, it is not possible for him to bring about economic and other kinds of developments on his own. He can certainly act as a catalytic agent for all-round economic development. Other Ministers and other Ministries, the public sector and also the private sector should help him to produce the desired results. But that does not appear to be happening. Such a state of affairs cannot be useful to the country. It needs to be changed. The responsibility for economic development needs to be shouldered by all other Ministers and the Ministries as a whole and not only by the Minister of Finance or the Ministry of Finance.

The Budget gives an idea as to the achievements in the economic fields in the year gone by. It gives the outline of the design made to bring about economic prosperity in the country in the ensuing year. It touches upon the matters related to these issues. Let us glance at the economic development that has taken place in the financial year that is coming to a close.

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I propose to read out a few lines or comments given in the *Economic Survey of India, 2001-2002* on agriculture, industry, employment, revenue and fiscal deficit, etc. The comments would indicate the state in which our economy finds itself and achievements that are made. They would show if the target indices in the last year's Budget were fulfilled or not.

Now, the first sentence of this Report says: "The Indian economy is passing through a difficult phase." The average annual growth rate during the Ninth Five-Year Plan is now estimated at 5.4 per cent which is lower than the Plan target of 6.5 per cent. "There has been significant deceleration in the growth rate of industry. The real GDP growth rate from mining and quarrying is estimated to have declined from 3.3 per cent in 2000-2001 to 1.4 per cent in 2001-2002." The growth of manufacturing has fallen from 6.7 to 3.3 per cent while that of electricity, gas and water supply has fallen from 6.2 to 5.2 per cent, and that of construction from 6.8 to 2.9 per cent over the same period.

The gross fiscal deficit, as a proportion to GDP, is now estimated at 5.5 per cent for 2000-2001, and 5.1 per cent for 2001-2002. As regards revenues, there are significant shortfalls—I am emphasising it—there are significant shortfalls in indirect taxes due to slow-down in the industrial production—significant deceleration of both oil and non-oil imports. Direct tax collections are likely to be below target for the current year. The gross fiscal deficit of the Central Government at the end of the year is likely to exceed the budgeted targets.

"According to the quick estimates of the national income from 2001 provided by the Central Statistical Organisation on January 31, 2002, the overall GDP growth has decelerated significantly from 6.1 per cent in 1999-2000 to four per cent in 2000-2001. The gross value added in agriculture and allied sectors declined by two per cent in 2000-2001, compared with an increase of 1.3 per cent in 1999-2000. The unsatisfactory performance of the financial and real estate sector was due to a negative growth rate, that is, 2.2 per cent in banking sector. The coir industry and infrastructural sector are expected to record much lower growth than in the previous year."

"There was a direct deceleration in the growth of manufactured exports and slow down in growth rate of coir and infrastructural industry. The overall industrial growth in terms of IIP during April-December 2001-2002 was only 2.3 per cent compared to 5.8 per cent during the corresponding year of previous years."

"Industrial slow down has been observed across all major sectors and all these things."

I would not like to read everything that has been mentioned. But what does it show, let us consider first. These are not the observations of the Opposition Members. They have come from the Government itself. They show that the Budget of the last year should not have been given nine marks out of ten. It was not a very good Budget. The performance of the Government was poor, the economic growth decelerated. The responsibility for this should be shouldered by the entire Government. The responsibility for not presenting a reliable and productive Budget should be shouldered by the Finance Minister.

What are the causes of this failure given by the Government? The causes are World economic situation, natural calamities and war in Kargil. Can we accept these explanations? I would say, 'partly yes.' But they are not the only causes. There are other causes because of which the failure has occurred. What are the other causes?

The other causes are absence of vision wrong policy, inept governance, absence of cooperation between the Union and the State Governments, absence of dialogue between the Union and the State Governments for coordinated efforts, absence of cooperation and correct balance between the public sector and the private sector, negligence to implement the Five Year Plan, non-understanding of the impact on the world economic situation, non-development of infrastructure, relying too much on non-governmental forces and efforts, antipathy towards the real problems of the workers, insensitivity towards the problems of the consumers, non dependence on the modern methods of management, administration and governance, negligence to develop modern science and technology and use it, reliance on trade more than on industry, reliance on industry more than on agriculture, reliance on capital more than on labour and knowledge.

absence of efforts to discover new avenues of production inattention towards, the principles of economic justice, inappropriate attention paid to the problems of dishonesty and malpractices, attaching more importance to non-issues like building of temple and paying less attention to the building of modern temple of economic development like irrigation, dams, power stations, industries, universities, laboratories, etc., short-sightedness, realisation that the governing parties may not come back to power after the next general election, inexperience in matters of governance...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna): All of you have developed a habit of uttering the name of the Temple repeatedly. Kindly tell us the money given by the Government for the temple and the amount spent thereby? You are taking the name of the temple every now and then...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The cost and time overrun of 200 projects which are monitored by the Prime Minister's Office, I was told, are in the vicinity of Rs. 17,000 crore, which has been stated in the Report given by the Finance Committee. This list is not exhaustive. Yet, all causes need not be mentioned here and now. They can be identified later on to bring about the improvement and to see that the fixed targets are achieved. Nothing more need be said on the last year's Budget.

The Budget for the ensuing year presented by the Finance Minister has not received any appreciation from any section of the society. The hon. Finance Minister who has been sitting in the House very kindly for all the time might have heard the criticism levelled against the Budget. Excepting two or three Members of his Party, all other Members have criticised the Budget. It has disappointed one and all. We are afraid that it would prove more disastrous than the Budget of the year which is lapsing within a few days time.

This year's Budget is not visionary, not imaginative is mechanical, negative in its content, uninspiring, a compilation of the proposals received from different Ministries, it is disjointed, not an organic whole which

can thrive and produce life-giving results. This is a very disappointing document.

The Finance Minister speaks of economic reforms and second phase of economic reforms...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, shall we take it as read?...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Why should it be done?...(Interruptions) I am not criticising in a harsh language...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: I would like to question the time management of the parties. I would like to know how much time was allotted and how much has been given...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Do you mean to say that if I shout, you will give me the time, and if I make reasonable statements, you will not give me that time?...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have allowed him.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: Sir, there is a point that I wish to make is that you have been asking the Members to sit after speaking for two or three minutes. Is there a time-management? We can take it as read since it is being read. It can be laid on the Table of the House. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I would be guided by the Deputy Speaker and not by the Member as far as the time allocation is concerned...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD (Darbhanga): Sir, he should be guided by the norm of the House that it is not read ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I am talking about the economic reforms. The economic reforms should help to alleviate poverty, to increase production and productivity, to reduce unemployment, to modernise the units of production, to develop science and technology, to become able to compete with other countries, to use new areas of production, to protect citizens against economic uncertainties, and to encourage all ser-

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the society to do better. But what is the nature of reforms that the Government envisages? They are downsizing the Government, reducing the subsidy, allowing the market forces to play their role, reducing the governance to the minimum, privatisation, disinvestment, globalisation, reduction of taxes and simplification of the procedures. These are the characteristics of the economic reforms that the Government wants to do.

We do not object to all this. I am emphasizing that we do not object to all this. We object to a few points, which are not in the interest of the people, the country and the economic development.

If the economic justice is not done, if the property belonging to the society is given to only a few, if the poverty is not reduced, if the people are not enthused to do more, if production and productivity do not increase, if the employed are thrown out of jobs and unemployed are forced to fend for themselves and if production and productivity are affected as a result of the so-called reforms, would it be possible for us to treat them as real reforms? That exactly appears to be happening. Should we welcome such reforms? Should we not opt for the reforms which help the people, the present and the future times, and generate a climate for all-round development? We are for reforms, real reforms and not for reforms that create problems for many.

Panditji reformed our economy by building irrigation dams, by establishing power-generating units, by distributing land to the tillers, by establishing national laboratories and by developing science and technology for the present and the future.

Shrimati Indira Gandhi continued the reforms by making funds available to all enterprising persons by taking concrete steps for alleviation of poverty, by initiating to use the resources from ocean, space, biotechnology and by making the country self-sufficient in food.

Shei Rajiv Gandhi did the same by reforming the policies and by introducing new communication system and electronic genetics in the field of production.

Shri Narasimha Rao's Government liberalized, privatized and globalised with a human face and helped

to move ahead. Throughout the world, modifications and reforms are taking place. India does not want to be left behind in this respect. It is willing to learn some lessons from other countries. At the same time it would like to invent and discover new methods of production, distribution and management. India will follow other countries with its eyes and ears open. It would not hesitate to learn from others or invent on its own. It does not want to be isolated from other countries. It would march with others. At the same time, it would not be ready to blindly follow the reform theories applicable to other countries of the world, which have different capacities and different problems.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please come to the last one.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I was trying to make some suggestions. I will not only criticise but I will also make suggestions.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: How much time do you need?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Well, Sir, I need some time. But if it is inconvenient, I can place it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can laid it on the table of the House.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I would not like to cause inconvenience to the entire House.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI (Chittaurgarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, kindly get his speech laid on the Table.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Let him continue.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, you can continue now.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I was trying to be positive and not negative. But if it is inconvenient, I can type it and lave it on the Table.

Economic growth has slowed down. The trend should be reversed. More investment opportunities should

be provided. More investments should be done by the Government. More investments should be attracted. But there are no provisions in the Budget to achieve these objectives. If it were positive, these kinds of provisions could have been there. The Budget should identify the areas in which surpluses are available and mop them up and transfer them to the areas where they can generate income and enhance production, productivity and employment.

But they are invisible and unavailable, which will not help to secure an upward swing in the economy. That would prove to be a tragedy, which India does not deserve.

For economic and all round development modern science and technology are required. They could be procured from abroad or developed in the country. In India, they are developed mainly by the Union Government, not by the State Governments. The public sector and the private sector do not invest enough funds in R&D in India as in other advanced countries. So, it is imperative for the national Government to make sufficient allocations for research and development but the Budget of 2002-03 does not do that. That the reality is not comprehended by the Government is reflected in the Budget. The allocations are too meagre. They are insufficient and unsatisfactory, because of which industry, agriculture, education, infrastructure, defence, communication and transport are going to suffer. Science and technology, in present times, has acquired a far greater importance than capital and that should be clearly understood. If we want to develop our innate strength, we have to pay more attention to research and development and find more funds for that purpose. These funds, which are given in hundreds of thousands of rupees are not sufficient even for one project. If we feel satisfied by allocating hundreds of thousands of rupees for the entire research in the country, it is not ultimately going to help us.

Rural India depends upon agriculture. For food and fodder, human beings and cattle rely upon farming. If farming sector does not develop, rural masses would become unemployed, penury-stricken and would suffer. To develop agriculture in India, *inter alia*, we need the following things, namely, irrigation facilities should be enhanced; allocation for irrigation is not sufficient; agricultural education should be imparted to farmers; there are no clear policies with regard to them; new

varieties of seeds, fertilisers and pesticides should be produced and made available to the agriculturists; and the agricultural produce should fetch remunerative prices to the producers.

At this point, I would like to say that the Government of India says that procurement should be done by the State Governments. The Government of India is withdrawing from the market. When the Government of India withdraws from the market, the prices of the agricultural produce are going to fall. The State Governments are not willing to procure foodgrains coming to the market. The Indian Government is withdrawing from the market. So, how do we give remunerative prices to farmers? It is really a problem. This problem has to be very seriously considered by the Government and Parliament and all of us sitting here. The surplus agricultural commodities should be exported. There is no mechanism available for this purpose. If you give this responsibility to these people who are not interested in getting the foodgrains and to export them, foodgrains will not be purchased by them and will not be exported. It is not possible for the farmers to export foodgrains to foreign countries. They do not know what kind of markets are there in foreign countries. They are not in a position to export foodgrains. So, there should be, in place, a mechanism that is really capable of getting foodgrains, fruits, flowers and vegetables and exporting them to other countries. Some plans were made by the Foreign Trade Ministry some years ago but I think those plans were not acted upon. It would be necessary for us to take some action on those plans and see that the agricultural produce is exported, especially to countries that are producing oil and where agricultural produce is not available or agriculture is not possible.

Enough credit facilities should be given. I would like to say that the hon. Finance Minister has said that Rs. 65,000 crore would be given as agricultural credit to farmers.

I would like to understand if Rs. 65,000 crore are enough for providing financial assistance to agriculture sector in our country, on which 70 per cent of the people depend. The Government of India had taken a decision and said that 40 per cent of the loans shall be given to the agriculturists. This is a direction given by the Government of India to all the banks in the country. But unfortunately, not even six to eight per cent of the loans were given to the farmers by the

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urban banks. That is why a decision was taken that all the money which should have been given to the farmers should be transferred to NABARD and the NABARD should give the loans to the farmers. Unfortunately, even NABARD, which is a bank of the Government of India, was not in a position to distribute 40 per cent of the loans given to other sector for development in rural sector. Only 12 to 16 per cent were distributed—by some 12 per cent and by some 16 per cent. That is why Rs. 65,000 crore credit given to the farmers is sufficient. Even in this, we have found that the banks are not distributing the loans to the farmers in a proper manner. If the loan is not given to the farmers, how are we going to develop agriculture in our country? That is really the problem.

Genetics is also one of the things which has to be developed. We have a Department of Genetics. The genetic science should be developed in agricultural universities. The State Governments should contribute towards it and the Government of India should also contribute towards it.

Productivity of the land is going to be one of the most important problems in the years to come. The most disturbing feature today in India with respect to agriculture is the productivity of the land which is affected because of irrigation facilities and because of the chemical fertilisers. I do not see that anybody has paid attention to this aspect, that is, the productivity of the land, and that is something which has to be considered by the Government of India. If not considered, within 10 or 15 years time we will find that many hectares of land will become unproductive. Already they have become unproductive in Gangetic belt and already they are becoming unproductive in the areas where the canal irrigation is provided. This aspect has to be considered if you really want to give an impetus and encouragement to agricultural activities in India.

As far as the food stocks are concerned, I am not going to say anything more on this. There was a full-fledged discussion on this topic last year. Even this year the foodgrains are available in the godowns but they are not becoming available to those who really need them. Why is this happening? This is happening because there is no plan with the Government of India. It was suggested by one of the very famous scientists in India that there should be food banks in the districts

in our country. Have you paid attention to this? If rice and wheat is produced in Punjab and Tamil Nadu and in such States, that rice should be available to the people living in Orissa, that wheat and rice should be available to the people living in the North-Eastern States. If the distance is the problem, it should be seen that the rice and wheat should be available to them by taking steps in before time.

There are many points which I would have to state. With regard to industry also, we are not paying attention to the industrial development as such. The rate of growth in industry also has decelerated. But the problem of industry in India is two-fold (i) to establish new industry and (ii) to see that the sick industry is not allowed to be sick. If we really want industrial development, one of the things which has to be done by us to select the areas where the industry can develop and concentrate on that. It is not possible to develop the industry in all areas and compete with other countries also.

Coming to labour reform, what is labour reform? The hon. Leader of the Opposition also made a reference to the labour reforms.

If the labour reforms reduce the protection given to the labour, if the labour reforms make the labour unemployed, if the labour reforms leave the labour to the mercy of those who employ them, can we call it the labour reforms? If it is necessary, let us do it in such a fashion that the labour ultimately gets the assistance. It is not only the labour but it is the labour, consumer and the producer who should get benefit out of the labour reforms. If the labour reforms is only to see that the 'hire and fire' policy is adopted and the labour is thrown out of jobs, that kind of labour reforms is not really the labour reforms.

Privatisation is being discussed by the Government here all the time. The Congress Party is not opposed to privatisation. The Congress Party has accepted the principle of mixed economy. That means the public sector, the private sector and the cooperative sector should be there. But what happens is that because of the dogmatic principles of privatisation that are adopted and implemented by the Government, it does not succeed. It became very clear to me when I visited Rajasthan only two days back. The Government there told me that in Rajasthan the Suratgarh project, the power-producing unit, could not be established in

Rajasthan for the last 20 years. That was not established not because money was not available but that was not established because the Government could not decide whether it should be established in the private sector or in the public sector. The decision was taken that if the private sector is not forthcoming the public sector should be allowed to establish it. It was established and the project was completed within 28 months' time instead of 32 months. The cost of producing electricity came down from Rs. 4 crore per Megawatt to Rs. 3.80 crore per Megawatt. So, this principle of privatisation has to be adopted. But it has to be adopted in a very-very careful manner.

Sir, I will make the last point and then take my seat. It is on fiscal deficit. We are discussing fiscal deficit. What is the solution suggested by the Government to reduce the fiscal deficit? One is disinvestment and the second is to reduce the subsidies. These are the two methods by which the Government wants to reduce the fiscal deficit. The third thing that they are trying to do is to have some sort of legislation which can really help them to reduce the fiscal deficit.

But these are negative methods. They are not positive methods. If you really want to reduce the fiscal deficit, it is necessary to see that the production increases; it is necessary to see that the capacities which are established in the country are utilised to the maximum. If it is to be reduced, then the pilferage in electricity has to be stopped. Only then you would be able to do it.

If the Government does not have the determination and will power to do it, it will not be possible. By having a law, you will not be able to reduce the fiscal deficit. You will be able to give the excuses as to why the fiscal deficit is not reduced. But if you have the will power then with law or with rules or without rules and only with executive power, you will be able to do it.

I do not want to take more time of yours. I am grateful to you and to the Treasury Benches and to the hon. Members for having given me this much time.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (Khagaria): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to speak for two minutes. I have been waiting since long. Kindly give me two minutes time, I want to speak on the Budget.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Renu ji, two of your party Members have already spoken. The Minister also needs at least 45 minutes to speak. The Uttar Pradesh Budget is also to be taken up after this. A lot of time has elapsed. Please co-operate with the Chair.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all, I pay my homage to late Shri G.M.C. Balayogi ji. I quite remember. Shri Balayogi ji was in the Chair when I presented my Budget on the 28th February, in the House. The way he conducted the business of the House with such a sharp wit, intellect and knowledge, would always be remembered by one and all...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN (Krishnagiri): Sir, he should speak in English...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may listen to English interpretation.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am also grateful to those 44 Members who participated in this 14 hours discussion and gave many a suggestion and also increased our knowledge. I feel that my knowledge as also understanding has increased more today as compared to yesterday. Shri Manishankar Aiyar initiated this debate and Shri Shivraj Patil delivered the last speech on behalf of the Congress party. I do not want to go into the details regarding difference in the language of both the Members, but I would like to say one thing that my friend, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, during his speech, talked about Late Shrimati Indira Gandhi. What was the rate of growth of economic development during 4 years of her tenure! Then he also mentioned the name of Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi ji, what was the rate of economic growth during his four year tenure and thereafter he uttered the name of Dr. Manmohan Singhji as to what progress did the country make during his four year leadership. One name has been left out perhaps, do I need to remind that name? I do not want to interfere in the politics of the Congress party, but would like to say one thing...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I have not taken Vajpayeeji's name or his name. I forget these two names.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: If he listens to my speech patiently, as did I, his knowledge will also increase.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are discussing the Budget of the current year 2002-2003, but we have gone deep into the past. We should not have made the comparisons with regard to the issues of the past, that we have made. How far do they want to go in the past. My four years were very bad. As per their comments, the Government functioning under the leadership of Atal ji has reduced the economic condition of the country from bad to worse. After all why? Because the rate of our growth has come down. It was 4 percent in the year 2000-01 and as per the current estimate it has been 5.4 percent in the year 2001-2002. And despite such distressing results, he has compared it with the four years of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, four years of Shri Manmohan Singh and four years of Shrimati Indira Gandhi. And if we go more deep into the history then during the 25 years of tenure of this Congress from 1951-52 to 1976-77, the rate of economic growth was—3.6 percent—for continuously 25 years.

[English]

From 1980-81 to 1988-89, another nine to ten years of the Congress rule, what was the rate of growth? The average rate of growth was 5.7 per cent. Then from 1991-92 to 1995-96, another five years of the golden era of the Congress rule, the average rate of growth was 5.4 per cent. Why was it 5.4 per cent? We have been very generous because in all our calculations, we have excluded the crisis year of 1991-92. We have ourselves said that 1991-92 was a crisis year and, therefore, that should not be taken into account. Therefore, we calculate the rate of growth of the last four years of Shri Narasimha Rao and Shri Manmohan Singh's period and that works out to a higher growth rate. But if you include 1991-92, then it is, as I said, 5.4 per cent. Therefore, the average of the Congress rule, throughout the history of this country, works out to 4.9 per cent. Let us go into history, I have no objection.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: The Congress has emancipated the country from the chains of slavery please mention that also...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I am merely asking them to take my latest two years and compare them with the best years of the tenure of the Congress party and please tell me whether it would be a right comparison? I am asking only this much. What was the situation in 1998-99 when we assumed power!

[English]

In 1997-98, the growth rate had come down to 4.8 percent. The industrial de-acceleration had already started. Thereafter in the first year of my Ministership 6.6 percent was the growth rate. Why did you mention that.

[Translation]

This is no logic, it is illogical that the year of lesser growth rate in our tenure should be compared with the years of maximum growth rate during their tenure and then it would be said that we have failed—this logic is not acceptable. Similarly if we glance into the statistics of the country, we would find that there have been ups and downs in the agricultural development of the country. Are we cursing them for the decline in the rate of agricultural growth to 5.6 percent during the Congress party's tenure in 1995-96—we are not doing so because we are very well aware of the fact that agriculture of our country depends upon many external factors, which are not under the control of any Government or any Minister of Finance. So, the growth rate goes up and down autonomously due to various reasons. Policies, definitely have an important role to play in this and I have presented those policies in every Budget of mine, even in my fifth Budget, I have presented those policies before the House and the country, which pertain to agricultural development and have drawn everyone's attention to this. I am grateful to the Members who have very rightly said that in the Budget of this year the main thrust is on the agricultural development of the country. I have said this in my Budget speech also.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have mentioned the circumstances under which I have prepared this Budget.

Many of such circumstances were adverse and we had to prepare the Budget keeping in view the said circumstance. I knew that people would be dissatisfied with some of the provisions of the Budget and they would face some problems, but I did what I felt appropriate in the interest of the country under the leadership of the hon. Prime Minister. Did they think even for a moment that I am elected Member of this august House, I am not a Nominated Member and have won with substantial number of votes. My constituency is considered as one of the poorest regions of the country—Did I forget it, the picture of that area was before my eyes. But what I want to say is that the allegations made by the Members here are not correct at all.

Many of the Members in this august House talk of consensus and I totally agree with them that there should be consensus. Consensus should be there on the base of economic policies, in fact we can proceed further with consensus only. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to say that there is consensus—the hon. Prime Minister, hon. Minister of Home Affairs and other hon. Ministers are sitting here. This consensus is evident whenever we talk to the Chief Minister of various States. They are also facing the same problems in their respective States as we are facing here.

What happened in Kerala? A strike continued there for so many days and you were feeling very happy when our leftist friends were attacking us. Were they with you in Kerala, who helped when the strike continued for so many days, I helped the Chief Minister of Kerala. I would like to inform this House that when I talked to the Chief Minister myself then he said that his treasury has become empty and you should make arrangements for the resources for it to revive. I said that I will. I would like to say that those who are in Government are in consensus today whether they belong to any party.

[English]

There is consensus on economic reforms and on the economic policies in this country. Therefore, the plea, very humble plea that I am making is that let us take some of the issues of economic policies out the domain of petty politics. It will indeed be a great day for this country and for the future of this country if you could agree on the basics and I know that there is no difference of opinion as far as the basics are concerned. Shri Shivraj Patil can say, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar can say

that we do not agree on your disinvestment policy. If the disinvestment takes place on five o'clock in the evening he differs because he insists it to take place on 11 o'clock in the morning and so on. Then he differs on such non-issues. Until your Government was in power and undertook disinvestment, on which you were elaborating, you did not take notice of any such thing and when the same investment policy was started to be pursued by us and Devegowdaji is not here. He also participated in this budgetary discussion...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon):
Yes, he is sitting. Now we have become two from one.

[English]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I did not notice him.

[Translation]

His and Gujral Saheb's Government remained in power for two years. Both the Government of Devegowdaji and Gujral's pursued the policy of disinvestment. You are asking us about our policy and also as to what is our intention because you believe that our intention is not clear I would like to submit that I have presented two budgets in this House. If you carefully look into those you will find that our intention is quite clear. Preparing a bulky document does not make up for a clear intention. Rather its clarity and honesty can be revealed through few lines only. We have made our intention clear on this formula and we are persisting to follow it. Disinvestment was undertaken in bits and pieces during your regime. I would like to challenge that any Committee of the House is free to probe into as to how much of funds were raised through the disinvestment of the public sector undertakings in our regime and also as to how much we have raised through the process of disinvestment today. Hon. Prime Minister has said it repeatedly that we are not against the public sector undertakings at all. We have revived more than 20 public sector undertakings by spending a lot of funds and resources. Had we been against those we would not have done so. We would not have bothered a bit about their fate. However we were concerned about those. We are trying to revive public sector companies by spending thousands of crores of

*and
Demands for Excess Grants (General), 1998-99*
encountered by the Finance Minister, Prime Minister or
the Government of the country will be as to

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rupees and we will continue to do so in future also. Hon. Prime Minister has constituted a group of Ministers to revive the National Textiles Corporation. We dedicated that we will take care of not just of each company but of each unit. We will make every that unit viable which has the potential. Further we will also try to identify the departments which can be made viable in a particular unit. We are trying to deal quite comprehensively and minutely and undertake revival process wherever it is possible. I was looking at the Panchmadhi Resolution of the Congress Party.

[English]

Public sector companies in a competitive environment, this is the description.

[Translation]

These should not be disinvested. A commission should be constituted to decide as to whether or not the

[English]

public sector companies in a competitive environment

[Translation]

are profitable or not and if these are in competitive atmosphere today then these will remain so in future also.

[English]

That policy is flawed. I will say with great respect to the Congress Party Resolution.

[Translation]

Hence our intentions are quite clear on disinvestment. It is not opaque from any angle nor there is any confusion in it. We are following an appropriate policy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have faced the big problem of preparing the budget of the country on five occasions. Who so ever will prepare the budget in the coming years, the biggest problem that will have to be

[English]

how do you make both ends meet?

[Translation]

Talks takes place in terms of five, ten, 100, 800 and 1000 crore rupees. For me one crore and even 50 lakhs rupees are very important because when I compute while preparing the budget then every rupee counts. I would like to say that many a Members mentioned the state of fiscal deficit, which means the difference between our earnings (revenue receipt) and the expenditure of the Government. How do we bridge this difference, we do so by taking loans. How did we bridge it in the part, we kept on taking loans to do so. I would like to give you the figure, these are not very old

[English]

In 1995-96 the interest burden of the Central Government was only Rs. 50,000 crore. What is it in 2002-03? It is Rs. 1,17,390 crore.

[Translation]

The figure between Rs. 50,000 crore to one lakh 17 thousand crore is just the interest. We are paying one lakh 17 thousands crore rupees just as interest.

[English]

Forty percent of the total non-plan expenditure is the interest of the revenue receipts. 48 percent is interest paid only.

[Translation]

Can we run this, if someone replies in affirmative then it can be done by borrowing every year. Here the figure of as to how much indebted our country is.

22.00 hrs.

If I continue to take credit and borrows loans I will become a very popular Finance Minister. Then I will

make wholesome concessions and accept everything from all quarters and the fiscal deficit will mount from 1,30,000 crore to 1,35,000 crore and further up to Rs. 1,80,000 crore. The coming generations will understand. What I am to lose but being in a responsible capacity I would like to ask...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

does it behove us?

[Translation]

I want to put it before the House. Last year I had raised the issue of intergenerational equity in this House. What right do we have to burden the coming generation with this debt? We make marry today and leave the mounting burden on the coming generations and you talk about the expenditure. Our Members have said in this House that we tried to raise the savings of more than 10,000 crore rupees in this year's budget and that too in the circumstances when...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: If you yield, I would like to ask you a question. I would like to understand it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Shivraj Patilji, it is not a reduction in the Plan expenditure. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: If you yield, I would like to ask you. This is the only time when we can understand; otherwise, there is no possibility. ...*(Interruptions)* We are discussing as to how deficit can be reduced. The hon. Minister is probably trying to tell us that the deficit can be reduced only by disinvestment and by reducing the subsidies. ...*(Interruptions)*

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I am trying to ask him and I am trying to understand. I have not completed. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I did not say that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I am trying to ask him. If you utilise the capacities that have been established in the production units in the country to the fullest, will you not get more revenue? If you have fixed the revenue targets in your Budget, and if you are not collecting the revenue and getting the revenue which you have fixed for yourself, how will you get it?...*(Interruptions)* If you are not reducing the cost overrun and the time overrun, how will you reduce it?...*(Interruptions)* Why do you not reduce cost overrun and time overrun and why do you not achieve the target which you have fixed for yourself?...*(Interruptions)* I am not accusing him; I am trying to understand it. ...*(Interruptions)* This kind of objection is inviting ignorance. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: The only clarification that I would like to offer is this. I never suggested that disinvestment was the only method of removing or bridging this gap. I never said that. ...*(Interruptions)* I never said that, and I do not know why this misunderstanding is there. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was only referring to the receipts' side—the fiscal deficit. Look at the rigidity of expenditure. Of our revenue receipts, as I said, 48 per cent is accounted for by interest payments alone. The defence accounts for 26 percent; subsidies account for 16 percent together this accounts for 90 per cent of our revenues.

[Translation]

If we take interest payment, defence, subsidy, grants to state pension, police etc. altogether then we will find that

[English]

89 per cent of the expenditure of the Government of India is accounted for by this. The balance 11 per cent is towards establishment, expenditure to the personal staff of Ministers, etc. All this is accounted for by 11 per cent.

Where do we then have leeway? Where does the Finance Minister of the country have the flexibility? I have put this question to the House repeatedly. But this

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is a problem that the Finance Ministers before me have faced; this is the problem that I am facing today; and this is the problem which the Finance Minister of the future will face. How do we bridge the fiscal deficit gap? There are very convenient suggestions and there are very easy answers. But when you sit in office, you do not find those easy answers.

[Translation]

If it has been so easy, then we could have maintained the record of fiscal deficit which was achieved during the 'Golden-Era' of Congress regime. An hon. Member made comparison with Vikramaditya's regime. Their rule was next only to Vikramaditya's in brilliance. The position of fiscal deficit was that

[English]

Nine percent was the fiscal deficit in that golden era which Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar was referring to.

[Translation]

That is why I say that if the solution to the problem had been so easy, someone must have found it.

I also want to say that the absence of political consensus in this Supreme Panchayat of the country is not helping us to hammer out a solution at all. This small point, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to put before you.

Sir, when we try to expand or limit the scope of any scheme then, in this very house, it is alleged that we are doing so under the pressure of World Bank, IMF, WTO and multinational companies. With all humility, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I appeal to all to shun such type of mentality. My leftist colleague Shri Rupchand Pal, informed me yesterday that he has to go somewhere and, therefore, he would not be able to attend the House. I speak to those other leftist colleagues and other Members who are under the misconception that the budget has been made under the pressure of World Bank, IMF, WTO and multinational companies.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Who is under the misconception?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: No one has the capability to influence us in the formulation of our policies. With

all my conviction, I want to say that in all the international institutions that we have attended during last four years, we have put forth our views in an independent manner.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: The hon. Minister of Commerce signed the Doha document, only when he received a telephone call from New Delhi. How can you say that. At least you should not say that.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, there are 37 countries in the IMF. A number of countries, including our neighbouring countries Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh...*(Interruptions)* went to the doors of IMF. Raghuvansh ji had said in his speech that "Ja ke Pair na phate biwai, oo Kya jane pir parayee". (Wearer knows where the shoes pinches) which means that only the sufferer knows the pain of another sufferer. I want to say that if anyone has faced the problem of balance of payments, that is Yashwant Sinha. Because I have seen the situation of 1990-91. When the forex reserve comes down to \$1 billion—what would have been the situation? Since the day, I have been entrusted with this responsibility by the hon. Prime Minister, I have a single point agenda that come what may, but we would not go begging to the international institutions.

[English]

\$25 billion is what we have added to our foreign exchange reserved in these four years. One foreign exchange reserve has crossed \$51 billion and has come close to \$52 billion.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the strengthening of external sector has been uppermost in our mind since the day we have assumed office. You can accuse me of increasing the growth rate from four to 5.4 percent. I accept this accusation. I admit that we have failed to rein in fiscal deficit. I was much pained to inform the House that fiscal deficit for this year would be 5.7 instead of 4.7. I was suffering when I fixed it at 5.3 for his year. That is why, I did not go for popularity measures in the budget because I knew that the most important thing for the Government is to control its deficit because it is already at a very high level. We have prepared our budget on the basis of that strategy only.

Then comes the aspect of growth that how we can increase the demands. Many views were put forth. I have once again emphasised on agricultural sector and I am saying that not just for the sake of solgan-shouting.

[English]

'Kisan ki Azadi' was not a slogan-mongering.

[Translation]

The policy of economic liberalisation has so far, concentrated just on liberalisation in the industrial sector and the external sector. Adequate attention was not paid towards implementation of liberalisation policies in agricultural and rural sector. That is why I said that all the restrictions on farmers should be lifted. I had said so in my last budget also and that was cleared by the Cabinet in its meeting. In this year's budget also, we want to continue the same tradition and I want more freedom to the farmers.

The issue of potato was raised repeatedly by Shri Mulayam Singh Ji, Shri Suman Ji, and many other hon. Members. Shri Devegowda mention coffee plantations while Shri Thomas and Shri George raised the issue of rubber. Many of our agricultural products can fetch us good price. My colleague, Shri Shanta Kumar just told us that we have exported wheat and rice of the value of Rs. 4.25 thousand crores. 74 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been exported. Now India is emerging as a grain exporter in the world. The same India, which used to beg for grains, we have not forgotten PL-48...*(Interruptions)* this country should not forget that...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: For this, credit must go to Smt. Indira Gandhi. It is not your contribution...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): You were saying something else and now you are saying something else...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Ji was in the Chair

then...*(Interruptions)* I have heard patiently for 14 hours without interrupting. I had asked for clarification only once when Shri Devegowda was speaking. I ask my friends on that side to keep patience for hearing the truth...*(Interruptions)* Please develop the habit of listening to the truth.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: One needs strength to accept the through...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: When Shri Raghuvansh Babu was in the chair, someone said about the 'Food for Work' programme that it was wrong to give grains to APL and BPL. We are talking about APL and BPL. Who stated 'Antyodaya' again. It was done by this Government. Shri Manishankar Ji was saying that the prices are hindering off-take. We are selling wheat at Rs. Two per Kg and rice at Rs. 3 per Kg. Whether Congress sold these grains at such low prices...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: People with old ration cards are not getting anything...*(Interruptions)* what are you saying?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Under the 'food for work' Programme we have made available more than 30 lakh tonnes of grains...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): What are you talking?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask my friends in the Congress Party whether they are talking of common etiquettes by interrupting in this way? Do I not deserve common etiquette that I am interrupted time and again...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Why are you talking a wrong thing.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Why is he interrupting in between...(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: He said several wrong things but I did not interrupt even once. Three lakh tonnes of grains...(Interruptions) What is Sampurna Gramin Rojgar Yojana...(Interruptions) It is food for work Programme...(Interruptions). He should listen with some patience as I have listened to him...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: He should see his Members who rise in groups of 20-20. Is it etiquette? Is this only called etiquette?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You had your say.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Aiyar, please do not interrupt now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I feel we will have to call hon'ble Member of Rajya Sabha, Shri Amar Singh.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: In all humility, I would like to say that this House is meant for debate and criticism of each other. We are in the Government and they can criticise us. When their party comes to power, we would criticise them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I announced launching of Loknayak Jaiprakash Narayan Rojgar Guarantee Yojana during the Budget but enough discussion was not held on it. I would like to convey my friends from the media that enough discussion was held on Dividend Distribution Tax but not on Loknayak Jaiprakash Narayan Rojgar Guarantee Yojna. Most backward districts in the country with majority of weaker sections, scheduled tribes, scheduled castes, backward classes and women will be covered under this scheme. I do not claim that this brilliant idea is originally mine. A Standing Committee has been formed by the Prime Minister with active participation of Chief Minister of concerned state wherein discussion is held from time to time. During the meeting it was suggested that the scheme should be introduced in each district of the country but it should work as a

special scheme for distressed districts. A group will be formed under the Chairmanship of the Rural Development Minister, Shri Venkaiah Naidu to oversee functioning of Jai Prakash Narayan Rojgar Guarantee Yojna. What would be the objective of the scheme? Under this scheme, self-employment and wage-employment would be clubbed to provide employment guarantee to every unemployed person.

At the same time, Grain Bank also came up for discussion. If the Panchayats in distressed districts desire, the Government can open Grain Banks with participation of well rated NGOs so that none is compelled to go to bed with empty stomach. I placed this proposal before the House. The Government would start this scheme as soon as possible and would provide guarantee. In addition, a scheme for tribal districts is in the offing in consultation with the Chief Ministers. The Government are going to start Grain Bank scheme in the country. Foodgrain stocked in our godowns have not been acquired free of cost. The Government have procured it from the market—through FCI whose economic cost is very high. The Government are providing free foodgrains to the states for Grain Bank, Food for Work Programme, Gramin Rojgar Yojna, Jai Prakash Narayan Rojgar Guarantee Yojna. We are not charging even a paisa for it. The Central Government would bear its burden.

There has been a lot of discussion on figures of poverty. I remember, last year also it came up for discussion. The National Sample Survey Organisation conducted a survey during 1993-99 to collect data regarding poverty. It was concluded during the survey that the percentage of people living below poverty line has gone down to 26 from 36 percent. The methodology was discussed in detail. There is a 30 days recall. NSSO's enumerator goes from door to door to inquire as to what they ate during last 30 days? He is informed about the commodities people ate. They enumerate on this basis. So far, all data regarding poverty have been collected on 30 days recall basis. This time, they have asked about 30 days recall.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Whether mango carnate has been included in that?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Even Shri Digvijay Singh ji's name has been included.

This time enumerators also asked as to what they ate during last seven days? Thus, there was 7 days recall also. On the basis of 30 days recall it has gone down from 36 percent to 26 percent.

[English]

On the basis of seven day recall, it is 36 percent to 23 percent.

[Translation]

But we are not comparing 23 percent with 36 percent, but 36 percent with 26 percent and it is on the basis of 30 days recall. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar levelled charges on our colleague Shri Arun Shourie. These days, Shri Shourie is away in Mexico to attend an important conference. Shri Aiyar said that they studied together.

[English]

Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has said that Shri Arun Shourie has fudged the figures. He leaked it to the press.

[Translation]

He levelled a serious charge against Shri Shourie. I would like to say that he should go into its details.

[English]

The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) is an independent agency, which conducts these surveys on behalf of the Government.

[Translation]

Leave the matter about NSSO.

[English]

The Government do not have control over the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO).

[Translation]

Did I quarrel with them. We just accepted their report.

[English]

As the Finance Minister or any other Minister, we do not even seek to influence the CSO, much less the NSSO.

NSSO is not a new organisation, it was created in 1950 under the Chairmanship of Late Shri Bisaria who was a renowned economist of his time. This survey was conducted under his leadership. Now, if some one says that Shri Shourie has fudged the figures then, I would say that it is not right to say so only on the ground that that time he was Minister in the Department of Statistics.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we are talking about the period between 1993-99. I would like to ask hon. Members as to which party was in power during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 and 1996-97 and 1997-98? The Government led by Shri Devegowda, Shri Inder Kumar Gujral were in power and three years prior to that Shri Narasimha Rao was in the Government. In between, we ruled for two year. i.e. 1998-99 and 1999-00. So are they ready to condemn their three years just to condemn our two years rule?

[English]

In 2001, the growth rate was four percent. What is the issue?

[Translation]

Just to say that the figures are being fudged.

The modus-operandi of collecting figures may be faulty. Therefore

[English]

In 1997 Budget, we said that in order to remove these weaknesses, we would appoint an Expert Committee.

[Translation]

We constituted an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of the Governor of Andhra Pradesh and ex-Governor of Reserve Bank of India, Shri Rangarajan which pondered over the methodology of collecting figures in the country.

[Translation]

It has given very important report on which the Government are considering as we want that our figure should be reliable and authentic. We are paying attention to it and you should not take it lightly.

[Shri Yashwant Sinha]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, second thing that has been brought to the notice is that the figures relating to the public saving are keep on falling. The figures of economic survey.

[English]

They are very instructive.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Hon'ble Minister it is written, will you read it?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: It is necessary to read to convince some people. It has been discussed here that the savings of domestic household, private corporate sector and public sector have come down however I would like to say that the people have reduced doing savings.

[English]

There are three savings—domestic household, private corporate sector and public sector.

[Translation]

I would like to tell you about the figure of 2001.

[English]

The latest figures, that is 2000-01, would show that the domestic household savings have gone up to 20.9 per cent, the highest ever recorded in this country.

Now, the household saving is 20.9 percent and this is the highest ever in the history of this country.

[Translation]

The private sector saving was 4.2 percent in 2000-2001.

[English]

To overall saving rate was 23.4 per cent, which is an improvement over 23.2 per cent of the previous year and 21.7 per cent of the year before that. But why did it come down? It is because the public sector, which includes the Government of India, State Governments etc., had a minus saving rate of 1.7 per cent. That is what has brought it down.

[Translation]

Why our public sector saving rate has come down. It is not for the first time that it has come down. It was for the first time in 1986-87 it was in minus thereafter it

continue to fall and then the Central Government and the State Governments has to bear the burden of the fifth pay commission.

[English]

Then this public sector saving has increased considerably. This is the reason why the rate of domestic saving in this country has come down, not because of household saving which has been going up consistently.

[Translation]

I would like to tell you that we often quarrel whether poverty got alleviated or not. The discussion held in the House is watched all over the world. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar ji is a famous Hindustani. I would not like to call him Raja Hindustani. However, he is a very famous Hindustani and people in India and abroad know him. He declared that our figures of poverty are wrong. However, I would like to submit that several Members of the House wanted to know about the difference in the quality of life of the people. I would like to tell you only this that if you compare the figures of poverty to that of the quality of life of the people, you will find that there is a correlation between them. They have some sort of relationship. I would not like to go in detail about it. However Human Development report of U.N.D.P. and the figures of our economic survey clearly show this relationship.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to only one more thing. Many people do not know this fact that is given on page number 125 of the report of economic survey of our country.

[English]

The expenditure of foodgrains has been consistently coming down.

[Translation]

We may draw conclusion that the people have reduced their expenditure on diet. Anyone can draw conclusion as to what does it mean when the expenditure of foodgrains in relation to total expenditure is getting reduced.

[English]

From 63.10 per cent in 1972-73, it has come down to 44.10 per cent in 1999-2000 for rural areas and similarly it has come down to 31.85 per cent for urban areas. But what about the expenditure on fruits and

vegetables? That has gone up considerably. What about the expenditure on milk, eggs and fish? That has also gone up considerably. This shows a change in the consumption pattern of our people. This shows the improvement in the quality of life of our people. These are the statistics and you are most welcome to believe in them.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, one or two issues that have been raised have, unfortunately I do not have enough time to go in detail about it. Shri George Saheb, Shri P.C. Thomas Saheb and our friends had raised the issue that I have increased the import duty on latex rubber from 35 percent to 70%. But I have left the import duty on smoke sheet to 25 per cent and could not increase it to 70 percent. I cannot do it. Kumari Mamta Banerjee and other friends have also raised the question that I have reduced the duty on foreign liquors, whether it is rubber sheet or foreign liquors, we are today bound by the document. That is the document on which the then Congress Government had signed in Marakash in 1994...*(Interruptions)* Who has signed WTO agreement.

[English]

Shri Francis George, I want to tell you that the W.T.O. fixes the rate of smoke-sheet rubber at 25 percent.

The Chief Minister of Kerala, belonging to the Congress Party, has written a letter to our Minister of Commerce. I am quoting his expression. The Chief Minister has said: "The mistake of 1994 should be corrected." My colleague, Shri Maran has taken up that issue in the WTO so that they can revise the bound rate of rubber.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: What has this to do with liquor?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: You have to reduce the import duty on liquor under the WTO Agreement that you signed. I have to reduce it.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will you tell us what is the bound rate of liquor?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: It is 182 per cent. That is what I have said this year.

You should have thought at that time when you had signed WTO agreement that why we are going to accept bound rate on things like foreign liquor. We are opposing all these things in WTO. Efforts are being made by us to free ourselves and the country from it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, several questions have been raised here. It has become too late, I am not in position to give reply to all the questions. However, I would certainly like to submit that I and my officers have sincerely noted down the suggestions that have been given by the Members of our side and the opposition. Several issues related to taxes have been raised. We will discuss on tax while discussion will be held on Finance Bill, however many things have been raised and the Government will certainly ponder over those suggestions. The Government is sensitive and understand the problem and that is why we make effort to improve the over all frame work...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am concluding after saying one more thing. I had said in my budget speech that a limit of Rs. 2 lakh per year has been fixed for deposit in the relief fund of R.B.I. that means no one can deposit more than Rs. 2 lakh per year in that fund as I had information that many people are taking advantage of tax relief by depositing crores of rupees in that. We do not have problem with small investors and any such step has not been taken that discourage small investors. Those who are shedding crocodilean tear in the name of small investors are high network individuals who are getting full tax exemption in tax free instruments by depositing crores of rupees and those who are saving two to fifteen crore rupees per year are not any ordinary people of this country. However it has been informed to me that there is a separate scheme for the retiring person whether they are government servants or are in public sector, banks or local bodies or in private sector where they can deposit their money and can get tax relief and its limit is also high. Private sector may come under it and every one should get rebate. That is why the Government have decided that the retiring employees whether they are in government, public sector, banks or private sector may deposit their terminal benefit, retirement benefit in those relief bonds and there will be no limit.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very much thankful to you that you gave me time to speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put the Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 2002-2003 to vote.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

The question is:

"That the respective 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,

on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 2003 in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 28, 30, 31, 33 to 58, 60 to 92, 94, 95 and 97 to 102."

The motion was adopted.

Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 2002-2003 submitted to the vote of the House

No. and Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant 'On Account' submitted to the Vote of the House	
	1	2
	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
Ministry of Agriculture		
1. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	539,76,00,000	36,16,00,000
2. Department of Agricultural Research and Education	249,80,00,000	
3. Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying	71,70,00,000	3,89,00,000
Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries		
4. Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries	110,92,00,000	35,,00,000
Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers		
5. Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals	8,65,00,000	14,68,00,000
6. Department of Fertilisers	1949,84,00,000	84,87,00,000
Ministry of Civil Aviation		
7. Ministry of Civil Aviation	180,56,00,000	10,79,00,000
Ministry of Coal and Mines		
8. Department of Coal	77,34,00,000	16,58,00,000
9. Department of Mines	177,69,00,000	4,81,00,000
Ministry of Commerce and Industry		
10. Department of Commerce	221,08,00,000	63,83,00,000
11. Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion	59,46,00,000	
Ministry of Communications and Information Technology		
12. Department of Posts	882,98,00,000	21,43,00,000
13. Department of Telecommunications	561,65,00,000	17,00,000

505	<i>General Budget, 2002-03— General Discussion Demands for Grants on Account (General), 2002-03</i>	PHALGUNA 29, 1923 (Saka)	<i>Supplementary Demands for Grants (General), 2001-2002 and Demands for Excess Grants (General), 1998-99</i>	506
	1		2	
14.	Department of Information Technology		100,45,00,000	7,94,00,000
Ministry of Defence				
15.	Ministry of Defence		778,90,00,000	56,13,00,000
16.	Defence Pensions		1783,31,00,000	
17.	Defence Services—Army		5237,56,00,000	
18.	Defence Services—Navy		774,69,00,000	...
19.	Defence Services—Air Force		1404,18,00,000	
20.	Defence Ordnance Factories		1294,50,00,000	
21.	Capital Outlay on Defence Services			3565,99,00,000
Ministry of Disinvestment				
22.	Ministry of Disinvestment		13,92,00,000	
Department of Development of North Eastern Region				
23.	Department of Development of North Eastern Region		62,31,00,000	13,45,00,000
Ministry of Environment and Forests				
24.	Ministry of Environment and Forests		181,38,00,000	3,80,00,000
Ministry of External Affairs				
25.	Ministry of External Affairs		527,57,00,000	69,70,00,000
Ministry of Finance				
26.	Department of Economic Affairs		368,36,00,000	71,93,00,000
27.	Currency, Coinage and Stamps		149,40,00,000	117,17,00,000
28.	Payments to Financial Institutions		338,30,00,000	291,31,00,000
30.	Transfers to State and Union Territory Governments		3514,17,00,000	
31.	Loans to Government Servants, etc.			133,33,00,000
33.	Department of Expenditure		20,48,00,000	6,00,000
34.	Pensions		725,88,00,000	
35.	Indian Audit and Accounts Department		154,66,00,000	2,00,00,000
36.	Department of Revenue		168,82,00,000	1,36,00,000

	1	2
37. Direct Taxes	173,03,00,000	20,83,00,000
38. Indirect Taxes	178,25,00,000	6,68,00,000
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution		
39. Department of Consumer Affairs	34,98,00,000	7,30,00,000
40. Department of Food and Public Distribution	3570,26,00,000	43,45,00,000
Ministry of Food Processing Industries		
41. Ministry of Food Processing Industries	13,50,00,000	
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare		
42. Department of Health	417,16,00,000	47,03,00,000
43. Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy	32,23,00,000	1,25,00,000
44. Department of Family Welfare	974,97,00,000	
Ministry of Home Affairs		
45. Ministry of Home Affairs	113,07,00,000	4,04,00,000
46. Cabinet	29,43,00,000	83,00,000
47. Police	1576,29,00,000	142,23,00,000
48. Other Expenditure of the Ministry of Home Affairs	77,83,00,000	
49. Transfers to Union Territory Governments	94,15,00,000	62,85,00,000
Ministry of Human Resource Development		
50. Department of Elementary Education and Literacy	1194,20,00,000	
51. Department of Secondary Education and Higher Education	813,10,00,000	1,00,000
52. Department of Women and Child Development	596,17,00,000	
Ministry of Heavy Industry and Public Enterprises		
53. Department of Public Enterprises	2,11,00,000	
54. Department of Heavy Industry	190,10,00,000	286,80,00,000
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting		
55. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	205,76,00,000	49,84,00,000
Ministry of Labour		
56. Ministry of Labour	163,96,00,000	2,40,00,000

509	<i>General Budget, 2002-03— General Discussion Demands for Grants on Account (General), 2002-03</i>	PHALGUNA 29, 1923 (Saka)	<i>Supplementary Demands for Grants (General), 2001-2002 and Demands for Excess Grants (General), 1998-99</i>	510
	1		2	
Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs				
57.	Law and Justice		78,58,00,000	26,00,000
58.	Election Commission		1,69,00,000	
60.	Department of Company Affairs		91,10,00,000	50,00,000
Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources				
61.	Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources		82,25,00,000	21,68,00,000
Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs				
62.	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs		70,00,000	
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions				
63.	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions		34,26,00,000	2,00,000
Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas				
64.	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas		1084,91,00,000	
Ministry of Planning				
65.	Ministry of Planning		7,69,00,000	1,25,00,000
Ministry of Power				
66.	Ministry of Power		304,62,00,000	428,69,00,000
Ministry of Rural Development				
67.	Department of Rural Development		4671,57,00,000	25,00,00,000
68.	Department of Land Resources		167,30,00,000	
69.	Department of Drinking Water Supply		921,72,00,000	
Ministry of Science and Technology				
70.	Department of Science and Technology		161,20,00,000	8,78,00,000
71.	Department of Scientific and Industrial Research		172,64,00,000	85,00,000
72.	Department of Bio-technology		39,26,00,000	
Ministry of Small Scale Industries				
73.	Ministry of Small Scale Industries		66,19,00,000	
Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation				
74.	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation		635,49,00,000	2,72,00,000

	1	2
Ministry of Steel		
75. Department of Steel	11,37,00,000	2,33,00,000
Ministry of Road Transport and Highways		
76. Department of Road Transport and Highways	1029,69,00,000	1518,21,00,000
Ministry of Shipping		
77. Ministry of Shipping	69,10,00,000	58,99,00,000
Ministry of Textiles		
78. Ministry of Textiles	164,89,00,000	99,58,00,000
Ministry of Tourism and Culture		
79. Department of Tourism	24,12,00,000	18,75,00,000
80. Department of Culture	81,08,00,000	
Ministry of Tribal Affairs		
81. Ministry of Tribal Affairs	20,99,00,000	5,34,00,000
Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation		
82. Department of Urban Development	125,54,00,000	89,16,00,000
83. Public Works	112,04,00,000	48,52,00,000
84. Stationery and Printing	29,82,00,000	4,00,000
85. Department of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation	70,12,00,000	36,88,00,000
Ministry of Water Resources		
86. Ministry of Water Resources	124,25,00,000	8,84,00,000
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment		
87. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	225,92,00,000	18,89,00,000
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports		
88. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports	54,61,00,000	24,00,000
Department of Atomic Energy		
89. Atomic Energy	297,60,00,000	188,99,00,000
90. Nuclear Power Schemes	277,60,00,000	265,83,00,000
Department of Ocean Development		
91. Department of Ocean Development	33,05,00,000	17,00,000

	1	2
Department of Space		
92. Department of Space	325,24,00,000	52,16,00,000
The President, Parliament, Union Public Service Commission & the Secretariat of the Vice-President		
94. Rajya Sabha	12,49,00,000	
95. Lok Sabha	29,83,00,000	
96. Secretariat of the Vice-President	17,00,000	
Union Territories (without Legislature)		
98. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	129,76,00,000	32,33,00,000
99. Chandigarh	127,03,00,000	23,93,00,000
100. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	63,93,00,000	6,38,00,000
101. Daman and Diu	37,78,00,000	5,22,00,000
102. Lakshadweep	36,59,00,000	9,94,00,000
Total Revenue/Capital	45094,60,00,000	8247,74,00,000

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2001-2002 to vote.

The question is:

"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 of certain further sums

necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2002, in respect of the following Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1, 2, 4 to 6, 8 to 10, 12, 18, 21, 23 to 25, 27, 30, 32, 34, 37, 38, 40, 42 to 47, 50 to 53, 57, 59, 62, 64, 65, 71 to 76, 78, 80, 81, 83 to 88, 92, 93 and 96 to 100."

The motion was adopted.

Supplementary Demands for Grants—Third Batch (General) for 2001-2002 submitted to the Vote of the House

No. and Title of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant submitted to the Vote of the House	
	1	2
	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
Ministry of Agriculture		
1. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	60,03,00,000	70,58,00,000
2. Department of Agricultural Research and Education	7,04,00,000	...

515	<i>General Budget, 2002-03— General Discussion Demands for Grants on Account (General), 2002-03</i>	MARCH 20, 2002	<i>Supplementary Demands for Grants (General), 2001-2002 and Demands for Excess Grants (General), 1998-99</i>	516
	1		2	
4.	Department of Food Processing Industries		42,00,000	1,00,000
Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers				
5.	Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals		1,00,000	45,35,00,000
6.	Department of Fertilisers		356,64,00,000	20,33,00,000
Ministry of Coal				
8.	Ministry of Coal		50,39,00,000	
Ministry of Commerce and Industry				
9.	Department of Commerce		3,00,000	
10.	Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion		1,00,000	
Ministry of Communications				
12.	Department of Telecommunications		931,66,00,000	500,00,00,000
Ministry of Defence				
18.	Defence Ordnance Factories		536,91,00,000	
Ministry of Environment and Forests				
21.	Ministry of Environment and Forests		11,12,00,000	
Ministry of Finance				
23.	Department of Economic Affairs		46,34,00,000	
24.	Currency, Coinage & Stamp			1,00,000
25.	Payments to Financial Institutions		229,21,00,000	4621,60,00,000
27.	Transfers to State and Union Territory Governments		1636,29,00,000	
30.	Department of Expenditure			1,00,000
32.	Indian Audit and Accounts Department		5,24,00,000	
34.	Direct Taxes			1,00,000
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution				
37.	Department of Food and Public Distribution		3892,07,00,000	1,00,000
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare				
38.	Department of Health		60,51,00,000	
40.	Department of Family Welfare		78,82,00,000	...

517	<i>General Budget, 2002-03— General Discussion Demands for Grants on Account (General), 2002-03</i>	PHALGUNA 29, 1923 (<i>Saka</i>)	<i>Supplementary Demands for Grants (General), 2001-2002 and Demands for Excess Grants (General), 1998-99</i>	518
	1		2	
Ministry of Home Affairs				
42.	Cabinet		..	1,00,000
43.	Police		1,00,000	2,00,000
44.	Other Expenditure of the Ministry of Home Affairs		4,00,000	1,00,000
45.	Transfers to Union Territory Governments		104,74,00,000	21,80,00,000
Ministry of Human Resource Development				
46.	Department of Elementary Education and Literacy		1,00,000	
47.	Department of Secondary Education and Higher Education		5,00,000	
Ministry of Heavy Industry and Public Enterprises				
50.	Department of Heavy Industry		1,09,00,000	
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting				
51.	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			4258,08,00,000
Ministry of Information Technology				
52.	Ministry of Information Technology		72,00,00,000	
Ministry of Labour				
53.	Ministry of Labour		1,00,000	
Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs				
57.	Department of Company Affairs		1,00,000	
Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources				
59.	Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources		1,00,000	28,30,00,000
Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas				
62.	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas		9000,00,00,000	
Ministry of Power				
64.	Ministry of Power		47,73,00,000	140,43,00,000
Ministry of Rural Development				
65.	Department of Rural Development		3,00,000	
Ministry of Small Scale Industries & Agro and Rural Industries				
71.	Ministry of Small Scale Industries & Agro and Rural Industries		2,00,000	

519	<i>General Budget, 2002-03— General Discussion Demands for Grants on Account (General), 2002-03</i>	MARCH 20, 2002	<i>Supplementary Demands for Grants (General), 2001-2002 and Demands for Excess Grants (General), 1998-99</i>	520
	1		2	
Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation				
72.	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation		70,00,00,000	
Ministry of Steel				
73.	Ministry of Steel		2,65,00,000	89,44,00,000
Ministry of Road Transport and Highways				
74.	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways		2,00,000	73,52,00,000
Ministry of Shipping				
75.	Ministry of Shipping		450,50,00,000	4,00,000
Ministry of Textiles				
76.	Ministry of Textiles		3,00,000	138,83,00,000
Ministry of Tourism and Culture				
78.	Department of Culture		2,00,000	
Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation				
80.	Department of Urban Development		4,45,00,000	75,79,00,000
81.	Public Works			16,46,00,000
83.	Department of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation			14,00,00,000
Ministry of Water Resources				
84.	Ministry of Water Resources			11,73,00,000
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment				
85.	Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment		2,00,000	
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports				
86.	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports		7,14,00,000	
Department of Atomic Energy				
87.	Atomic Energy		7,86,00,000	
88.	Nuclear Power Schemes		109,61,00,000	
The President, Parliament, Union Public Service Commission & the Secretariat of the Vice-President				
92.	Rajya Sabha		11,11,00,000	
93.	Lok Sabha		27,05,00,000	...

	1	2
Union Territories (without Legislature)		
96. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	61,47,00,000	
97. Chandigarh	24,73,00,000	54,45,00,000
98. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	53,86,00,000	3,31,00,000
99. Daman and Diu	5,36,00,000	1,83,00,000
100. Lakshadweep	...	6,60,00,000
Grand Total	17964,37,00,000	10192,56,00,000

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put the Demands for Excess Grants (General) for 1998-1999 to vote.

The question is:

"That the respective excess sums not exceeding the amounts 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 grants during the year ended 31st day of March, 1999 in respect of the following Demands entered in the first column thereof against Demand Nos. 1, 5, 11, 13, 16 to 20, 25, 26, 28, 31, 34, 35, 37, 38, 41, 43, 45, 47, 52, 54, 56, 60, 63, 73, 78, 80, 81, 87, 95, 96 and 98 to 103."

The motion was adopted.

Excess Demand for Grants (General) for 1998-99 submitted to the Vote of the House

No. and Name of Demand	Amount of Demand submitted to the Vote of the House
1	2
	Rs.
I. Expenditure Met from Revenue	
1. Agriculture	3178070646
11. Department of Sugar and Edible Oils	671239867
13. Department of Commerce	277072682
16. Department of Telecommunications	3008514363
17. Ministry of Defence	650797355
18. Defence Pensions	13467942021
19. Defence Services—Army	1316813931
20. Defence Services—Navy	1432513214

1	2
25. Ministry of External Affairs	30192735
26. Department of Economic Affairs	3611009746
28. Payments to Financial Institutions	25667644785
34. Pensions	13724532713
35. Audit	185575524
37. Direct Taxes	473824923
38. Indirect Taxes	261733290
41. Department of Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy	34682815
43. Ministry of Home Affairs	127753908
45. Police	1291162469
47. Transfers to Union Territory Governments	834100000
52. Industrial Development and Industrial Policy and Promotion	520921182
54. Department of Heavy Industry	3573363103
56. Information, Films and Publicity	8763692
60. Election Commission	10257795
78. Ministry of Steel	111437037
80. Roads	5792551
81. Ports, Lighthouses and Shipping	1138453043
95. Rajya Sabha	24256656
96. Lok Sabha	110868525
98. Secretariat of Vice President	3699304
99. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	227177822
100. Chandigarh	937938422
101. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	140342287
102. Daman and Diu	83288835
103. Lakshadweep	123369521
Total-Revenue	77265106762

1	2
II. Expenditure Met from Capital	
5. Department of Chemicals & Petro-chemicals	29500000
11. Department of Sugar and Edible Oils	796957561
28. Payments to Financial Institutions	13817004738
31. Loans to Government Servants etc.	568102644
47. Transfers to Union Territory Governments	94800000
54. Department of Heavy Industry	632633250
63. Ministry of Mines	598899335
73. Department of Rural Employment & Poverty Alleviation	500000000
78. Ministry of Steel	129900000
81. Ports, Lighthouses and Shipping	378483214
87. Ministry of Water Resources	6422483
101. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	10728158
Total-Capital	17563431383
Grand-Total	94828538145

22.44 hrs.

**APPROPRIATION (VOTE ON ACCOUNT)
BILL, 2002***

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Item Nos. 25 and 26 together.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 2002-2003.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of

the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 2002-2003."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I introduce** the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 2002-2003, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India

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**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

for the services of a part of the financial year 2002-2003, 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 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 4 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 YASHWANT SINHA: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2001-2002."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I introduce** the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister may now move the motion for consideration.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): I beg to move:

"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 2001-2002, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: 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 2001-2002, 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 to 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 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 YASHWANT SINHA: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

22.46 hrs.

APPROPRIATION BILL, 2002*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): I beg to move for leave to introduce a 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 2001-2002.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums

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**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

22.48 hrs.

for those services and for that year, be taken into consideration."

APPROPRIATION (NO. 2) BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the authorisation 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, 1999 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 authorisation 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, 1999, in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I introduce** the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister may now move the motion for consideration.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the authorisation 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, 1999, 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 authorisation 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, 1999, in excess of the amounts granted

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 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 4 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 YASHWANT SINHA: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

22.50 hrs.

UTTAR PRADESH BUDGET, 2002-2003 DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT (UTTAR PRADESH), 2002-03 AND SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (UTTAR PRADESH), 2001-02

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now let us take the next item—Uttar Pradesh Budget.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Uttar Pradesh for the services of...

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 20.3.2002.

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Sir, I have a point of order...*(Interruptions)* Point of order has the precedence.

Sir, in U.P. the President's Rule is imposed. Now that proclamation has to be approved by Parliament. Parliament means the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. It cannot be passed only by Lok Sabha or only by Rajya Sabha. The hon. Minister is trying to introduce the Vote on Account and the Appropriation Bill in this House and wants to get the sanction for the expenditure. Now that has to be sanctioned only by Lok Sabha and not by Rajya Sabha. So, if the President's Rule is not approved by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, afterwards what happens to the Bill, what happens to the Budget? It would be presented to this House and it would be passed. Now this Parliament does not approve the President's Rule in U.P. but this Lok Sabha approves the Budget, this is a contradiction. So, that is why, if a situation like this arises, it would have been proper for the Government to move the Resolution for the approval of the President's Rule in U.P. first, and then to move the Bill for getting the sanction to the expenditure to be committed in U.P. That has not been done here. That is why, an anomaly will arise. A constitutional anomaly will arise and that constitutional anomaly will create the problem.

In Bommai's case, the Supreme Court has held that the House should not be dissolved before the approval of the President's Rule or approval of the action taken by the President by both the Houses. It has to be done only after that. That was done in order to avoid this kind of anomaly. But here we are in a situation in which the Budget is submitted to this House; we are expected to consider it and take a decision on it; and the President's Rule will come up in this House afterwards. Then it will go to the Rajya Sabha and it will be passed. There would be a big constitutional anomaly. That is why, I am submitting that a correct and an explicit ruling needs to be given on this so that we do not commit constitutional blunders. I seek that kind of ruling from the Chair.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whether do you have point of order on the same subject?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to associate myself with whatever Shri Shivraj Patil has said that it is constitutional matter as the President's Rule has not yet been approved by the Lok Sabha. The Vote on Account is being taken up without getting the President's Rule approved by the Lok Sabha. It is not a healthy tradition.

First I will opt for discussion and if the discussion is not held here I will go among the people.

The way President's Rule has been imposed is unconstitutional. From the Supreme Court to several political platforms in the country it has been discussed and everyone including ex-judges of Supreme Court have regarded it as unconstitutional. The President's Rule has been imposed in Uttar Pradesh however it has not been approved by the Lok Sabha and the Vote on Account has been introduced here. It is not a healthy tradition. No government functions merely by the strength of majority or the sections or sub-sections of the constitution. The morality is the supreme in the functioning of the Government. Morality is the supreme for running the government in a democratic system. The present Government are doing everything in an immoral method. So, I would like to demand that the President's Rule should be got approved by the House. Only after that the Vote on Account should be introduced.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to request you that the introduction of the Vote on Account should not be permitted unless the President's Rule is approved by the House as has been just now submitted by Patil ji. The Budget is being presented without the approval of the President's Rule by the House. The anomaly is being created. That is why I want that you should give ruling in this regard as it is essential to maintain the tradition and morality for democracy. It is undemocratic that without the permission of the House, the Lok Sabha, budget is being introduced. We all know the meaning of the introduction of budget. It will be appropriate if the President's Rule is approved by the House before the introduction of the Budget. I am not forcibly blocking it however it is the question of morality. So I would like to submit that it may be in accordance with the constitution and laws but that is not enough. Mr. Prime Minister, morality is the supreme. Morality should be at the forefront in the functioning of the government and democracy. So, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that you should give such ruling that may maintain the traditions of the country and check the destruction of democratic traditions and breaking of moral values.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you have the same question?

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): I associate myself with the views that have been expressed here.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, two issues have been raised. Hon'ble Mulayam Singh ji raised the issue related to the tradition and Shivraj Patil ji has raised the issue as to whether the present act is unconstitutional and doubts have been expressed in this regard.

When the President's Rule is imposed in any State as per the Article 356 of the Constitution, it comes into force with immediate effect. It is true that if the President's Rule is not approved by both the Houses within two months or the Government do not seek its approval by the House within two months then the President's Rule become automatically ineffective after two months. However, the President's Rule comes into force immediately after the proclamation and remain fully effective during the said two months. We all Members of Parliament know that when the President's Rule is imposed in any State, the entire administrative power of the State is transferred to the Governor of the State and the legislative powers are transferred to the Parliament, that is why we have introduced the budget in the House. We should keep in mind that the President's Rule comes into force immediately after the proclamation and remain fully effective, during two months. We should keep this in mind therefore we have brought this budget here.

Second thing is that the Vote on Account that is being introduced here is not the complete Budget of Uttar Pradesh. It is Vote on Accounts if we do not introduce the Vote on Account today which is required to be passed by the Rajya Sabha tomorrow then there will be constitutional crisis from April, 1 and as a result of this we will not be able to pay salaries to the officials there. Third during is the judgement of the Supreme Court. First of all we should understand that the judgement of the Supreme Court which has been referred here was the judgement given in Bommai case in 1994.

23.00 hrs.

Prior to that judgement Legislative Assembly have been dissolved by imposing President's Rule in the States many a times. When the issue of Bommai case has been raised, I would not like to go into the history as to who imposed the President's Rule in Bommai Case. Who-so-ever had imposed the President's Rule, but when the

Assembly was dissolved, then the issue arose that if it is denied by the House the dissolution of Assembly becomes irreversible process. I would not like to take the time of the House at 11.00 PM by reading the entire judgement in this House. After the detailed study of Bommai Case the Supreme Court gave its judgement only on this issue that if any Assembly is to be dissolved, it should not be dissolved immediately. It was stated that if the Assembly is dissolved and the President's Rule is not approved by the House then the Assembly cannot be animated. It is not applicable in the case of this budget. The future government in the state may bring changes in the budget at its will. It is only Vote on Account. For a moment suppose it is budget, then whichever Government is formed there it may introduce any kind of change in it to its wishes. It has nothing to do with the Bommai Case that was related to irreversible nature of dissolution of the Assembly. You may recall that when President's Rule was imposed in Manipur. Everyone wanted that the Assembly should be dissolved and election should be held there. Even at that time the decision about the President's Rule was taken in the sitting of the Councils of Ministers and we did not dissolve the Assembly. Once the President's Rule was passed by both the Houses, the Assembly was dissolved. We are following this rule. However, as I have said it is Vote on Account. As far the question of the President's Rule is concerned, it would be good if the Budget or the Vote on Account is passed by both the Houses of Parliament as is the rule. There is no problem in it. I would not like to further push the dispute. We all know that since the starting of the session of the House on 25 February...

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I do not have any objection if the BJP-BSP coalition Government is formed. There the bargaining is going on to become Deputy Chief Minister, Vice-President, Chief Minister and Speaker. We can also form government by way of horse trading and forming a jamboo cabinet. However, we will not do it. We will not play trick with the people of the State and the country. Mulayam Singh will not form government by way of horse trading and making jamboo ministry. Neither we will plunder Uttar Pradesh nor we will allow others to do so.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: It is non-parliamentary issue.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He thought that you are yielding, that is why he is saying.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: You are making it outside issue. The representative of the Prime Minister

[Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav]

wants to become the Deputy Chief Minister and bargaining is going on for the post of Chief Minister, Speaker and Vice-President. The Prime-Minister is resorting to give and take.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I know that there is monopoly of Mulayam Singh ji on Samajwadi party, however he wants to establish domination over other parties also. He is giving us instruction as to how should we do politics.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Why are you doing this drama. Horse trading is going on.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: We will tell the national Presidents of the parties to discuss the issue. I was telling that you will find that we have followed the tradition. Unfortunately several days of this session have passed without doing any business so we have a lot of works to do. We have not yet touched the Railway Budget. So there was no difficulty in brining proclamation earlier if it would have required. So there is no violation of laws, constitution and tradition. If we do not follow it there will be constitutional crisis in Uttar Pradesh. I request you that you should not create that constitutional crisis.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: It is not in our interest if any problem is created in Uttar Pradesh by not passing this Budget or Vote on Account.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: It is not our interest also.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: It is neither in our interest nor in their interest. That is why the Government have introduced it. However the thing is that as the hon'ble Minister has also said that it would have been better, had we first moved the proclamation for approval. They too have committed this. So I would like to submit to the Chair that the present ruling is concerned with the constitution and the business of the House. Now if you want to pass the Budget you may do it however it would have been better if the ruling is given after taking into account the discussion held so far in the House.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Since you have raised the point of order so listen to the reply also...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, if you are ready with the ruling, we are ready to receive it...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is your decision. I would not like to comment on it however I said that it would have been better had the proclamation moved for approval earlier. It is from the point of view of convention. As per the rule it is not binding for the Lok Sabha to first approve the proclamation of the President's Rule. First the proclamation should have approved then only the Vote on Account should be taken up. We all are bound by the constitution and my request is that we should remain bound by it only.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: If you are giving the ruling on it we are ready to receive it...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the State of Uttar Pradesh has been brought under President's Rule by a Proclamation issued by the President of India under article 356 of the Constitution. As required under clause (3) of article 356, a copy of the Proclamation has already been laid on the Table of the House on 19 March, 2002. Under the Proclamation it has been declared that the powers of the legislature of the State of Uttar Pradesh shall be exercisable by or under the authority of Parliament. The Proclamation which was issued on 8 March, 2002 shall cease to operate at the expiration of two months, that is, with effect from 8 May, 2002, unless it is approved by Resolutions of both the Houses or it is revoked earlier.

The Budget of the State of Uttar Pradesh has been listed for discussion and voting today. As the House is aware, the current financial year ends on 31st March, 2002. If we do not discuss and pass the Budget (Vote on Account) of the State of Uttar Pradesh before the 31st March, 2002, there may be a financial crisis in the State. There have been several instances in the past when the Budgets (Vote on Account) of the States under President's Rule were passed before the approval of the Proclamation issued by the President in respect of those States.

I, therefore, rule out the point of order.

I shall now put the Demands for Grants on Account (Uttar Pradesh) for the year 2002-2003.

The question is:

"That the respective 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 the State of Uttar Pradesh, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 2003, in respect of heads of

Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 28, 30 to 55, 58 to 73, 75 to 82 and 84 to 94."

The motion was adopted.

Demands for Grants on Account (Uttar Pradesh) for 2002-2003 submitted to the Vote of the House

No. and Title of Demand		Amount of Demand for Grant 'On Account' submitted to the Vote of the House	
1		2	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1.	Excise Department	121631000	
2.	Housing Department	118156000	
3.	Industries Department (Small Industry and Export Promotion)	195621000	36904000
4.	Industries Department (Mines and Minerals)	39985000	
5.	Industries Department (Handloom and Village Industries)	57846000	
6.	Industries Department (Handloom Industry)	138429000	
7.	Industries Department (Heavy and Medium Industries)	15000000	50002000
8.	Industries Department (Printing and Stationery)	259285000	
9.	Power Department	4486647000	2331376000
10.	Agriculture and Other Allied Departments (Horticultural & Sericulture Development)	275683000	9500000
11.	Agriculture and Other Allied Departments (Agriculture)	4229533000	1404461000
12.	Agriculture and Other Allied Departments (Land Development & Water Resource)	424220000	
13.	Agriculture and Other Allied Departments (Rural Development)	3931643000	1994201000
14.	Agriculture and Other Allied Departments (Panchayati Raj)	4087377000	
15.	Agriculture and Other Allied Departments (Animal Husbandry)	964912000	12484000
16.	Agriculture and Other Allied Departments (Dairy Development)	69238000	10650000

	1	2
17. Agriculture and Other Allied Departments (Fisheries)	131169000	
18. Agriculture and Other Allied Departments (Co-operative)	224813000	142001000
19. Personnel Department (Training and Other Expenditure)	7106000	
20. Personnel Department (Public Service Commission and Public Service Tribunal)	3873000	
21. Food and Civil Supplies Department	611718000	13870000000
22. Sports Department	67503000	15925000
23. Cane Development Department (Cane)	240543000	
24. Cane Development Department (Sugar Industry)	182262000	
25. Home Department (Jails)	545606000	44373000
26. Home Department (Police)	9912510000	230541000
27. Home Department (Civil Defence)	493747000	
28. Home Department (Political Pension and Other Expenditure)	284106000	
30. Confidential Department (Revenue Special Intelligence Directorate and Other Exp.)	5970000	
31. Medical Department (Medical Education and Training)	938088000	...
32. Medical Department (Allopathy)	3826278000	349211000
33. Medical Department (Ayurvedic and Unani)	607141000	5794000
34. Medical Department (Homoeopathy)	284081000	23050000
35. Medical Department (Family Welfare)	2201547000	30000000
36. Medical Department (Public Health)	883404000	
37. Urban Development Department	1473760000	1000
38. Civil Aviation Department	38659000	3000

	1	2
39. Language Department	15980000	
40. Planning Department	165298000	102491000
41. Election Department	206684000	
42. Judicial Department	1279746000	100002000
43. Transport Department	126747000	483000
44. Tourism Department	35641000	10607000
45. Environment Department	609752000	600000000
46. Administrative Reforms Department	4475000	
47. Technical Education Department	363498000	23637000
48. Muslim Waqf Department	732908000	30119000
49. Women & Child Welfare Department	1838071000	2000000
50. Revenue Department (District Administration)	813150000	456110000
51. Revenue Department (Relief on Account of Natural Calamities)	806753000	1000
52. Revenue Department (Board of Revenue and Other Expenditure)	2652240000	7023000
53. National Integration Department	617000	50000
54. Public Works Department (Establishment)	2253936000	
55. Public Works Department (Buildings)	179126000	45852000
58. Public Works Department (Communications)	2630393000	3319755000
59. Public Works Department (Estate Directorate)	75815000	
60. Forest Department	596269000	289001000
61. Finance Department (Debt Services and Other Expenditure)	10412642000	290500000
62. Finance Department (Superannuation Allowances and Pensions)	9290495000	
63. Finance Department (Treasury and Accounts Administration)	266310000	
64. Finance Department (State Lottery)	3913000	
65. Finance Department (Audit, Small Savings etc.)	262895000	...

1	2
66. Finance Department (Group Insurance)	3951000
67. Legislative Council Secretariat	46442000
68. Legislative Assembly Secretariat	119658000
69. Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Department (Legislature)	10000000
70. Science and Technology Department	94846000 1250000
71. Education Department (Primary Education)	19958438000 501000
72. Education Department (Secondary Education)	9997491000 56435000
73. Education Department (Higher Education)	2479843000 20000000
75. Education Department (State Council of Education, Research & Training)	217122000 9750000
76. Labour Department (Labour Welfare)	359674000
77. Labour Department (Employment)	360366000 21000
78. Secretariat Administration Department	696329000
79. Social Welfare Department (Welfare of the Handicapped & Backward Classes)	305389000 1000
80. Social Welfare Department (Social Welfare & Welfare of Scheduled Castes)	3235685000 39902000
81. Social Welfare Department (Tribal Welfare)	25880000 4300000
82. Vigilance Department	51954000
84. General Administration Department	1952000
85. Public Enterprises Department	19097000
86. Information Department	139731000 10000
87. Soldiers Welfare Department	80844000
88. Institutional Finance Department (Directorate)	6837000
89. Institutional Finance Department (Trade-Tax)	803221000 46205000
90. Institutional Finance Department (Entertainment and Betting Tax)	34274000
91. Institutional Finance Department (Stamps & Registration)	222886000

	1	2
92. Culture Department	59382000	17545000
93. Irrigation Department (Establishment)	2621211000	405366000
94. Irrigation Department (Works)	1118890000	3737484000
Total	121063837000	30186878000

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Uttar Pradesh) for 2001-2002 to vote.

The question is:

"That the 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 the State of Uttar Pradesh to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 2002 in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13 to 19, 21 to 24, 32, 36 to 38, 43, 47, 49, 50, 52, 59 to 62, 70, 71, 77, 79, 80, 84 to 86, 92 and 94."

The motion was adopted.

Supplementary Demands for Grants (Uttar Pradesh) for 2001-2002 submitted to the vote of the House

No. and Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant submitted to the Vote of the House	
	1	2
	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
2. Housing Department	1626000	3793000
3. Industries Department (Small Industry and Export Promotion)	43500000	46400000
6. Industries Department (Handloom Industry)	1000	0
7. Industries Department (Heavy and Medium Industries)	2000	1000
10. Agriculture and Other Allied Departments (Horticulture & Sericulture Development)	12947000	0
11. Agriculture and Other Allied Departments (Agriculture)	2001000	0
13. Agriculture and Other Allied Departments (Rural Development)	533530000	0
14. Agriculture and Other Allied Departments (Panchayati Raj)	9150000	0

	1		2
15.	Agriculture and Other Allied Departments (Animal Husbandry)	6575000	7060000
16.	Agriculture and Other Allied Departments (Dairy Development)	21758000	0
17.	Agriculture and Other Allied Departments (Fisheries)	1085000	0
18.	Agriculture and Other Allied Departments (Co-operative)	5424000	0
19.	Personnel Department (Training and Other Expenditure)	30861000	0
21.	Food and Civil Supplies Department	18501000	0
22.	Sports Department	850000	2324000
23.	Cane Development Department (Cane)	1850000	0
24.	Cane Development Department (Sugar Industry)	0	1459095000
32.	Medical Department (Allopathy)	2000	0
36.	Medical Department (Public Health)	2000	0
37.	Urban Development Department	7100000	0
38.	Civil Aviation Department	0	22719000
43.	Transport Department	65820000	1031000
47.	Technical Education Department	31264000	0
49.	Women & Child Welfare Department	1000	0
50.	Revenue Department (District Administration)	60000000	0
52.	Revenue Department (Board of Revenue and Other Expenditure)	41076000	0
59.	Public Works Department (Estate Directorate)	500000	0
60.	Forest Department	7315000	15658000
61.	Finance Department (Debt Services and Other Expenditure)	1422000	0
62.	Finance Department (Superannuation Allowances and Pensions)	150000	0

	1	2
70. Science and Technology Department	29400000	0
71. Education Department (Primary Education)	58400000	0
77. Labour Department (Employment)	1000	0
79. Social Welfare Department (Welfare of the Handicapped & Backward Classes)	1020000	0
80. Social Welfare Department (Social Welfare & Welfare of Scheduled Castes)	622000	0
84. General Administration Department	1000000	0
85. Public Enterprises Department	569000	0
86. Information Department	25000000	0
92. Culture Department	0	1000
94. Irrigation Department (Works)	0	70942000
Total	1020325000	1629024000

23.10 hrs.

UTTAR PRADESH APPROPRIATION (VOTE ON ACCOUNT) BILL, 2002*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up item no. 33A of Supplementary List of Business.

Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Sir, I am moving it on behalf of Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Uttar Pradesh for the services of a part of the financial year 2002-2003.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Uttar Pradesh for the services of a part of the financial year 2002-2003."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I introduce ** the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Uttar Pradesh for the services of a part of the financial year 2002-2003, be taken into consideration."

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 20.3.2002.

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Uttar Pradesh for the services of a part of the financial year 2002-2003, 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 to 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 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 YASHWANT SINHA: 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.

23.12 hrs.

UTTAR PRADESH APPROPRIATION BILL, 2002*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up item 33C.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Uttar Pradesh for the services of the financial year 2001-2002.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Uttar Pradesh for the services of the financial year 2001-2002."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I introduce ** the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Uttar Pradesh for the services of the financial year 2001-2002, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Uttar Pradesh for the services of the financial year 2001-2002, 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 YASHWANT SINHA: 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: The House now stands adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow.

23.15 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the
Clock on Thursday, March 21, 2002/
Phalguna 30, 1923 (Saka)*

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 20.3.2002.

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

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